



Support for IP based telecommunications added to the next phase of CSTA

Services for Computer Supported Telecommunications Applications (CSTA)

ECMA TC32-TG11 plan to add support for IP based telecommunications to phase IV of CSTA and commenced work in this area at their first meeting of 1999. It is anticipated that this will involve adding new services, and enhancing existing services, to support IP based telecommunications.

ECMA anticipates the need to work closely with other standards bodies and fora so that CSTA applications can also encompass IP based telecommunications, in both hybrid and stand-alone networks.

An initial investigation was conducted at the Nice (Feb 99) meeting of TG11 which focused on architectures rather than protocols. "Typical" high-level CSTA and H.323 system architectures were aligned so as to create a telecommunications system that supports the CSTA protocol and whose underlying "switching subdomain" was H.323. An example call flow based on a simple scenario (first-party MakeCall) was constructed from this architecture. This exercise allowed TG11 to become familiar with the H.323 protocol(s), to verify the working hypothesis that CSTA functionality needs to exist in (or at) the H.323 Gatekeeper and H.323 Terminal components, and to begin to derive requirements for interoperability of CSTA and H.323.

To date only one simple scenario has been studied. It will be necessary to work through many more flows with different H.323 system configurations to derive a complete set of requirements and a solid CSTA architecture - but we now have an effective procedure for making progress on this work item, which will be explored further at our next meeting (April 19-23 in Palo Alto).