

ECMA-4, Flow Charts

SCOPE

A Technical Committee of ECMA met for the first time in 1960, to prepare a standard for Flow Charts.

Today flow charts are in wide use for the diagrammatic representation of processes. They consist of symbols with appropriate text, and connecting lines. Such a representation can be followed more easily than a narrative description chiefly because of its two- dimensional structure. It also simplifies checking for completeness and logical consistency.

The Standard for Flow Charts presented here is not intended as a primer in flow charting, but is designed to ensure the general intelligibility of the diagrammatic part of flow charts. Note that the diagrammatic part has no meaning by itself until supplemented by the insertion of appropriate text into the symbols" and that this text will not be standardized. The standard is not rigid in that some freedom of adaption is permitted under certain circumstances. The proposed graphical forms of the symbols were chosen bearing in mind the following objectives:

The number of basic graphical forms should be small. The symbols should be easily drawn "freehand" by means of template or by any automatic processes. Those symbols which may contain a varying amount of text should be easily adaptable in size.