IEEE Standards Interpretations for IEEE Std 1003.2™-1992 IEEE Standard for Information Technology--Portable Operating System Interfaces (POSIX®)-- Part 2: Shell and Utilities

Interpretation Request #92
Topic: ar **Relevant Clauses:** 6.1.1.6

It is unclear what the exact behaviour is when a file is added to an archive and only the -r option is specified in the ar utility. First, subclause 6.1.3, lines 55-57, page 662 states: -v Give verbose output. When used with the option characters -d, -r, or -x, write a detailed file-by-file description of the archive creation and maintenance activity, as described in 6.1.6.1. This seems to imply that when using the -x, -d and -r options, that the verbose output is displayed only when -v is also specified. This implication seems to be true since all the descriptions in subclause 6.1.6.1 specify the use the "-v" option except for one, on line 118, which states: If file is being added to the archive with the -r option, the standare output format shall be ... It seems odd that line 118 should be the only description in all of subclause 6.1.6.1 that does not specify the -v option. Its un-clear if the wording on line 114, which does specify the -v option, should be continued to be used on line 118. Further, except for line 118, subclause 6.1.6.1 has consistently de-scribed historical behaviour. I would like an interpretation stating that the format speci-fied on line 120 is only required when -r and -v are both specified.

Interpretation Response
The standard is unclear on this issue, and no conformance distinction can be made be-tween alternative implementations based on this. This is being referred to the sponsor.

Rationale for Interpretation
None.