DEFECT REPORT FORM

1. Defect Report Number: 287

   Title: bitStringMatch Rule and traling zeros

2. Source: UK

3. Addressed to:

4. (a)

   (b)

5. Date Circulated by WG Secretariat:

6. Deadline for Response from Editor:

7. Defect Report Concerning:

   ITU-T X.520 (1997) | ISO/IEC 9594-6: 1998 & ITU-T X.520 (2001) | ISO/IEC 9594-6: 2001 (to be published)

8. Qualifier: (e.g. error, omission, clarification required)

   Clarification

9. References in Document: (e.g. page, clause/section, figure, and/or table numbers)

   Clause 6.2.4

10. Nature of Defect: (complete, concise explanation of the perceived problem)

    When the bitStringMatch rule is used to compare BIT STRING values whose type is defined with a NamedBitList, it treats trailing zero bits as significant. Clause 21.7 of X.680:1997 permits ASN.1 encoders and decoders to add or remove trailing zero bits from BIT STRING values where the type definition has a NamedBitList. This means that attribute values and presented values of such a type can have varying numbers of trailing zero bits. This can cause the bitStringMatch rule to give unpredictable results.

11. Solution Proposed by the Source: (optional)

    In the 3rd edition and 4th edition texts, in clause 6.2.4, add the following sentence to the end of the last paragraph.

    If the attribute syntax is defined with a NamedBitList, trailing zero bits in the attribute value and presented value are ignored.

12 Editor's Response:

Accepted (however, note that the ASN.1 encoding of bit strings and its effect on extensibility is a contentious issue for the Directory Group)