

Minutes from CHPS Meeting Thursday December 2, 2010

Attendees:

ABRFC – Billy Olsen
CNRFC – Rob Hartman
NERFC – Rob Shedd, Alison MacNeil
NWRFC – Harold Opitz, Joe Intermill
NOHRSC – [absent]
Deltares – [absent]
OCWWS HSD – Dave Riley
OHD – Pedro Restrepo, Jon Roe, Chris Brunner, Lee Cajina

Pre-reading:

- Support Log sent to chps_ops on Dec 1 by Dave Riley

1. Support Log health check

- One major issue (#421): NERFC can't install the October/CHPS BOC release because their MC keeps failing at 0635Z. This is the third day in a row, but none of the solutions have stuck. Why has it occurred with this particular release, and why not anyone else? NWRFC reported they had a problem like this which turned out to be a database vacuum/rolling barrel conflict. HSD will look into this as a possible cause. As soon as MC01 has stayed up for 26 hours NERFC can install the October/BOC release.
- The good news is that NERFC has thoroughly and successfully tested the failover of MC01 to MC00.
- CNRFC reports they're about to submit an issue concerning the RAINSNOW mod not working properly – it works but doesn't "respect the time bracket". More details to follow.
- FogBugz – no change, RFCs still can't access the server from their offices. Hotline has responded but can only confirm the problem is with NOAA Net and need to get NOAA Net engineers involved. HSD continues to push the issue.
- Old issue #415 regarding PI-service: this is still an outstanding problem at NERFC. The fix is supposed to be in the October release – issue #421 is the blocker.
- DaveR asked which automatic notifications he should set up for FogBugz when it comes back online (auto-notification is temporarily deactivated). RFCs do not want to see all email traffic for every action associated with every ticket. Suggestion: upon creation of all new issues, when every issue is closed/resolved, and when an issue is assigned to an RFC for action. RFCs can request subscriptions to individual tickets and for those will see all updates.
- The "November" release (CHPS-1.0.2) is installed and running in operations at ABRFC. NERFC is dealing with issue #421 so they can't install CHPS-1.0.2. Neither CNRFC nor NWRFC has installed it yet; they will try to install in the next couple of days and test next week. The release was supposed to be made available to the CAT-2 RFCs next Monday (12/6) but since it hasn't been properly Beta tested yet, the CAT can't approve distribution to the CAT-2s. We will hold off for another week.

Action: none.

2. FFG/FFH GoTo meeting planned

HSEB/Ai Vo sent out an email announcing a GoTo meeting on Dec 7 at 1:00PM Eastern. OHD and NERFC will co-present. The idea is to help CAT-2 RFCs understand the process and to learn about NERFC's experiences.

Action: none.

3. Calibration demo – status update

- Ai Vo began putting together a sample configuration to demonstrate FEWS calibration; however when she consulted with PeterG, he indicated that it would take quite a bit of effort to get a fully functioning demo. Peter will be on travel and unavailable for most of December, so the demo must now be delayed until January.
- The topic of Calibration in CHPS will probably come up at the HIC conference the week of January 10, 2011. We must devote some energy to the project before then.

Action: none.

4. Other items

- The first System Manager conference call (originally scheduled for November) was postponed – scheduling became too difficult due to the Thanksgiving holiday; we are now in an even more intensive leave period, so Deltares advises that the calls will begin in January.
- NWRFC is looking for guidance on distributing CHPS to the broader community, such as local Universities. This has come up several times now – for example, LMRFC received a request from Mississippi State University; and OHD received a request from RTi who wants to implement CHPS at international locations to replace NWSRFS. The distribution issue is non-trivial:
 - Interface/Web presence: a line in the FY11 budget addresses creation of a web presence, but we are all on hold until the President's budget comes down (in a reduced state) to OHD. Until then, HSEB will have to be the point of contact for CHPS distribution.
 - OHD and BPA have agreed to jointly pilot a web site; an MOU is being prepared. Earlier this year we also began work on terms and conditions of the public's access and use of such a site.
 - CHPS Components:
 1. NWS is not allowed to distribute FEWS (reserved for Deltares only).
 2. HSEB does not think it wise that we distribute RFC operational configurations or data, which are the sole property of the RFC and might be sensitive in nature.
 3. HEC might not want OHD to distribute HEC-RAS or ResSim – Chris will check.Conclusion: a distribution mechanism may have to direct collaborators to several places. This is not ideal but may be unavoidable.
 - Researchers: In January this year Deltares discussed with CUAHSI (Hooper) and OHD the notion of CUAHSI being a distribution point for CHPS “research packages”. Such packages would consist of stripped-down versions of CHPS software, limited RFC configurations, some pre-screened data, and any other necessary information presented to Universities and other researchers interested in collaborating. This task has so far gone nowhere; it will require RFC, Deltares, and OHD collaboration to create packages.
 - Training: we must include basic information on how to run CHPS in SA mode.
 - Support: what would this mean for external collaborators? We can't provide everyone with RFC-style support. It will have to be self-supporting. We need to bootstrap something that will get enough knowledge out there to build on.
 - Management and maintenance of a distribution portal will ultimately require a full-time resource.

- Where is the Development Registry? Chris will ask again when Edwin returns from Oregon.
- CNRFC is looking for some instructions and/or sample configurations to grant/deny authority for certain system users. NWRFC/Bruce did some preliminary testing and discovered some things don't work as expected. For example you can restrict the ability to approve a run but you have no control when in the topology view. Peter acknowledged there are bugs in the software. You can restrict the ability to view the manual display.
- FY11 budget: will the CAT-2 workshop be impacted by the travel restrictions? No, the 20% reduction is for non-operational travel. Gary has deemed CHPS operational so it is exempt. April turned out to be a bad month for the workshop; we are now looking at May. We must avoid the 2nd week of May (May 9-12) when the National Hydrologic Warning Council (NHWC) meets in San Diego. Location for the CAT-II workshop is still to be determined.

Action: Chris to check with HEC whether they will permit OHD to include HEC modeling software when distributing CHPS.

Next meeting: Thursday December 9.