Minutes from CHPS Meeting Thursday June 3, 2010

Attendees:
ABRFC – Billy Olsen
CNRFC – Rob Hartman, Chris Mayo
NERFC – Rob Shedd
NWRFC – Joe Intermill
NOHRSC – John Halquist
Deltares – Edwin Welles
OCWWS HSD – Randy Rieman, Dave Riley
OHD – Jon Roe, Chris Dietz

Pre-reading:
  o   Support Log distributed via chps_ops on June 2, 2010
  o   Development Registry distributed via chps_migration on June 2, 2010

1. Health check on Support Log (major issues, show stoppers)

    No new major issues/show stoppers.
    Dave Riley mentioned that item #250 (PI service won't stay up) is now closed.

    Action: none.

2. June release testing

    Beta release will be delivered next Tues June 8 to NE, NW as planned.

    NWRFC: How long will install take? Deltares said it will be faster than the last release. There are
    some configuration changes. Rick will be in Advanced Config training but will stay longer
    outside training if needed to get the installation done.

    The goal of Beta testing is for the RFCs to run through the regression test document, but do
    "hooligan" testing as well. It should take no more than 16 person hours. Purpose is to locate the
    problems in the software as early as possible so they can be fixed. Deltares would like daily
    feedback if possible containing a summary of problems found.

    NE said their testers will be in training next week. Edwin said he's able to run through the tests so
    anyone can do it at NE (does not need to be their most experienced staff).

    NE and NW will receive the test document on Tuesday with the release. Some of the tests will be
    done on the SA, majority will be on live system.

    The June release will be distributed to the CAT-IIs only when the CATs are comfortable that it
    should go out. It makes sense to hold off release until after the Boulder workshop (i.e. distribute
    the week of June 28).

    Action: NERFC and NWRFC provide Deltares with daily summaries of problems found in the
    June release once they begin testing.

3. SHEF-to-PI-XML conversion

John Halquist reported a few new issues as follows:

- SHEF comments – SHEF parser software maintains quoted comments only; although no one seems to use that feature (none are used in the samples sent to John). John is waiting for a reply from Peter about use of null fields in pi-xml – i.e., <comment>""</comment>. Since the parser creates a null comment field John is recreating the equivalent. John has not tried ingesting into FEWS yet; he's been focusing on the schema. He will try and see what happens.
- Many products provided to John do not contain creation dates; since the parser would set the date to 0, John is translating this as-is into XML. Is this problematic? RobH pointed out that creation date for observations is meaningless so no date is required – that's why it's missing. FEWS expects creation dates on all data. Observations should default to system time; forecasts without a creation time should generate an error. John will look closer.
- Parameters.xml files don't seem to be standard across offices – are they meant to be? We need to have a conversation about which files should be national/standardized. E.g., syncProfiles should be. Obviously it's easier on the maintainers if files are standardized. Local TS codes can and do differ – the standards are a bit loose and open to interpretation. We can't change that. All ABRFC messages are decoded except for some that got 0 creation dates. Edwin pointed out that perhaps the approach should be to use the FEWS import process to convert to internal parameter codes instead. Problem is that pi-xml knows nothing about parameter codes so it would need to be changed. Edwin agreed to talk to Peter and get back to John.

John said he will be in Silver Spring for the OGC meeting the week of June 14. John and Jon Roe will coordinate sessions.

FYI the archive prototype system components are now being received. There is a delay to the file server part but the rest are here. John requests assistance with building a new CHPS configuration; Randy Rieman offered to help. In John's case there is no AWIPS presence.

Action: RandyR to help JohnH set up a CHPS configuration for the prototype archive system.

4. Development Registry

Does the latest version accurately represent all input?

Of interest ABRFC seems to list 15 items which are not their highest priority, yet they are BOC requirements…. CNRFC noted there are differences between BOC-I and BOC-II. CNRFC said we must prioritize the CAT above the CAT-II.

Edwin's primary concern is that we must leave enough room in the schedule to address resource intensive BOC-II items as early as possible and avoid uncovering them too late. There are 16 BOC-I items. Things that are Unavoidable include the API for Graphics Generator (clarification: this is not THE API discussed by Chris with Simone in April; it is just a small subset which will allow the Graphics Generator to work). Does Deltares have the capacity to get everything done? Yes, Deltares has developers assigned to this project; it might be possible to "steal" a few extra if needed. Deltares can complete BOC-I and Unavoidable items for the September release. They would also like to build in enough room so they can scramble to address last minute "must haves" for the CATs. To that end Deltares would like to start with the 16 BOC-I/Unavoidable items identified in the registry and re-visit the next set on the list at the end of June. At that time we can discuss with the CAT whether any items need re-prioritizing.

What about the Support Log items? Edwin will go through the Support Log list and update entries with known release information. Some are already in the June release; some can be targeted for September. Deltares does not have the capacity to deal with "irritations". The risk associated with including as many small items is that developers will be over-committed, will rush to finish the task, and will produce lower quality code.

We have a column called "Blocker" but it hasn't been used for a long time. The CATs need to go through the current Support Log items and identify blockers.

NWRFC again reminded the group that item # 81 (Extend Batch run procedures to the "Live System") is related to the COE connection and could require some development work by Deltares if the VNC solution doesn't pan out. (NWRFC is still working with the COE to set up VNC and will know something "soon").

Action: Edwin to go through Support Log and assign projected release numbers to items where already known.
Action: CATs to go through Support Log and identify Blocker items ASAP.

5. Other items

    i.   FY11 AHPS budget planning cycle has begun. Chris is again the Software Refresh (CHPS) Core Goal leader. She is on the hook to provide status information to Don Cline by 9 July. The process this year will be slightly different but it isn't yet clear how.
    ii. Jon Roe reported from an AWIPS management oversight team meeting that the published schedule has changed. Field OT&E (FOTE) is Feb-June 2011; Deployment is July-December 2011. Those dates assume a best case scenario where 2170 DRs will be worked off in the next few months. There will be a 9.2.8 "catastrophic" release which will address the RFS problems seen in 9.2; it is due out in mid-July. NHOR doesn't yet have AWIPS-II – it's one of the last systems scheduled to go to A-II. It won't be a problem for CHPS.
    iii. Joe Intermill said he heard nothing from Peter about additional setup for the Advanced Configuration class next week. Joe has 7 oXygen user IDs set up; he has received no license from ABRFC but that shouldn't be a problem. Eric, Mike, and Jeff are all on leave at the moment.

         Action: none.

Next meeting: Thursday June 10, 2010.