

Minutes from CHPS Meeting Thursday July 22, 2010

Attendees:

ABRFC – Billy Olsen, Mike Pierce
CNRFC – Scott Staggs, Pete Fickensher
NERFC – Rob Shedd
NWRFC – Harold Opitz, Joe Intermill
NOHRSC – (absent)
Deltares – Peter Gijsbers
OCWWS HSD – Randy Rieman, Dave Riley, Xiaobiao Fan
OHD – Chris Dietz

Pre-reading:

- Support Log distributed via chps_ops on July 21, 2010
- Development Registry distributed by Peter via chps_migration on July 22, 2010.

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

Chris notes only 2 show-stoppers are on the list:

- #238 – CNRFC – ResSim. We're making progress but working with HEC is slow. ResSim will be in the September release.
- #276 – NERFC - SAC states not updating in modifier window. This has been around for some time but may not be a blocker per se. Deltares believes the software is working as designed and that it has always worked in the same way. The SACCO mod function works fine under some circumstances, but the behavior is undesirable in others. NERFC says it's an annoyance more than a show stopper; but there is some risk that forecasters could make a mistake. The alternative implementations are mutually incompatible; so it boils down to a design decision. The CAT agreed to spend some time exercising the capability to get more experience so they can do a more in-depth assessment and see if it can be resolved through training or other means. If not, they'll pull together the IFD team and make a design decision; at that time the IFD team will also consider other SACCO mods-related items on the Development Registry.

NERFC:

#269 - A fix for HEC-RAS states-saving is a blocker. HEC-RAS incorrectly starts with cold states. Matthijs has started working on the task this week (he has been otherwise occupied till now). The adapter shouldn't need changes. RMA (HEC's contractor) now owns the adapter.

RobS recently sent an email on performance issues since the installation of Java v21. Peter said it requires a lot more information in order to troubleshoot. The first step is to see if it can be reproduced on NHOR; then Deltares will look to see if it can be reproduced in Delft. Rob reported about 1 second for a model to run (good), but then 3-4 seconds to get the graphics updated (not good). Before the July patch this problem was only on the OC but not the SA; now they're seeing it on the SA for the first time. The system monitor is not running; they cleaned out local data stores. Peter will get more details from Rob. Meanwhile ABRFC is also seeing the slowdown but only when the System Monitor is up. As a general request Peter asked that RFCs provide more detail in the chps_ops emails. A recent good example: the PI service issue.

ABRFC:

We have loaded the July FEWS patch. However we're not seeing the thresholds fixes. NE and NW initially reported they could see the thresholds fixes fine but after a quick check NE reported they can see colors for thresholds (now configurable), but they can't see different colors for different thresholds as requested. Apparently OHD tested this in Silver Spring and passed the test. Chris will find out who ran the test and see if they can provide some information.

NWRFC:

What is the status of the PI_service crashing issue? There were a couple of shortcomings in the pi_services.sh script, for which recommendations have been made. The conversation about developing a PI_service for the Corps interface is slightly different. NW plans to test the interface with USACE in Seattle next Weds. A workaround exists but it's not ideal and is less secure than the VNC option.

Update from DaveR: he has entered new Issue #287 ABRFC not seeing thresholds; new Issue #288 NE not able to set colors to thresholds; and new Issue #289 Slow re-drawing of the plot displays since patch installed.

Action: NERFC and NWRFC to discuss the usability of the SACCO mods interface and determine the best course of action (design change vs. other non-software solution).

Action: Chris to find out who tested threshold colors in OHD and get more info to Peter/ABRFC/NERFC.

2. September release

Status from Deltares: a few BOC/BOC-II items are still outstanding

- 4 blending techniques are done and in testing. REGULATE will be done by OHD and is underway.
- API-CONT mods – this turned out to be primarily configuration changes without the need for software. NERFC asked if it could be handed over to MARFC ahead of schedule so they can get started on it. Chris warned that in doing so we risk having to support MARFC earlier than expected; NERFC agreed to try and provide the necessary support.
- FFG/gFFG – the Deltares pieces are done. In OHD the code is ongoing and will be done on time; also the OHD migration scripts are underway.
- A couple of items that were on our Development Registry will be included in the September release as a result of other FEWS projects. These are “Add Mods Date offset back into ModifierTypes.xml” (#33), and modify undocked window (#58??).
- #77 ResSim – working on it now
- Graphics Generator – Andre is still working with Hank and is close to completion of all required software
- Documentation #84-87 – Peter has reviewed the transformations document and is almost done. It's currently “hidden” on the wiki and will be opened up for review by RFCs soon. Deltares distributed an IFD document with the patch – RFCs should review. There are likely some grammatical mistakes. “MC documentation” is covered by the System Administrator documents – Deltares needs to know is anything else needed?
- #90 SHEF ingest – this is the JohnH task. John reported last time that it's done but needs more testing.

Peter assumes that Performance is the highest priority – issues are being addressed via addressing the role of cache files, the displays freezing, reducing the number of states kept in the database,

etc. What is the priority of QPSHIFT and QCSHIFT? None of the CAT RFCs use these; Deltares concludes that these are BOC-II requirements and can be deferred to a later release.

There is not much room left in the September release. Based on the discussions today there's a possibility Deltares might have to address the SACCO mods issue; this would consume most of the spare resources.

Action: none.

3. Any other items?

- ABRFC received a question from SERFC about scheduling Advanced Configuration Training in Sept/Oct. Chris thinks they must mean User Training – the advanced config class isn't until next year after they've used their CHPS systems for a while. Chris also noted that WGRFC has asked to push their User Training out till January – this should be fine as it helps Deltares with scheduling. There's no point training an RFC until they're ready.
- Chris would like to talk with the CAT (CHPS core goal team) about the FY11 budget before the HIC meeting. CHPS is still the highest priority; that is not negotiable. The HIC conference has an entire afternoon dedicated to priorities. This year the archive project won't need hardware, just some contractor support (per a conversation between Chris and Andy Rost). Chris has suggested a ROM for CHPS in FY11; it's expected to be lower than other years in part because we don't need to buy any more hardware. Harold suggested we dedicate a CAT call to the budget discussion.
- FYI... NWRFC is likely to go operational on August 19. Until then they will shake down the system and gain some experience with the Corps interface. The Corps temporary solution is workable, reliable, and does not impact performance. The NW staff will emulate what they do with NWSRFS today. In the meantime NW will conduct a complete hydrologic validation to make sure all configurations are OK.
- Chris mentioned the recent OSIP status update where Tim Hopkins said the notion of a national center hardware solution for the RFCs was just a thought, not a commitment. At the January CAT workshop Tim said that his intention is to simplify hardware baselines by having two: one for WFOs; and one for national centers/RFCs. Tim also noted that NCEP has committed to paying for the delta between NCEP's current WFO-based hardware solution and whatever the final solution becomes. If the equivalent delta for RFCs is huge AWIPS will want Hydro to pay; otherwise if not huge AWIPS can pay. We should allow for this in our CHPS budget discussions. Chris has heard talk of keeping CHPS completely out of the AWIPS baseline – hardware and software. Software is easy/straightforward; but hardware is potentially very costly and may not be the right thing to do. The CAT should ask Don Cline for more info at the HIC meeting.

Action: Chris to schedule a CHPS FY11 budget conference call before the HIC meeting.

Next meeting: Thursday July 29, 2010