

Minutes from CHPS Meeting Thursday February 19, 2009

Attendees:

ABRFC – Billy Olsen, Eric Jones, Mike Pierce, Jeff McMurphy

CNRFC – Rob Hartman

NERFC – Rob Shedd, Alison Gillis, Tom Econopouly, Ron Horwood

NWRFC – Harold Opitz, Joe Intermill

NOHRSC –

Deltares – Micha Werner (en route to CNRFC), Edwin Welles (at NERFC), Peter Gijbers (at NERFC), Mattijs Lemans (at NERFC)

OCWWS – Randy Rieman

OHD – Pedro Restrepo, Jon Roe, Joe Gofus, Chris Dietz

Pre-reading:

- Latest version of BOC II document distributed to the migration list by RobH on 2/18/09

1. Migration Training

Status reports from NERFC, NWRFC, and ABRFC:

ABRFC: Deltares reported that they accomplished everything they set out to. They found a **problem** executing one of the models in the operational system; the same error doesn't occur when running a standalone version of the system. Deltares is conducting an analysis. ABRFC reported that the scripts now work better than they did during training; Deltares has increased automation to ease the cut-n-pasting burden on the users. Installation of the enhanced scripts was accomplished via the Deltares patch mechanism. **Problem:** some symbolic links under /home didn't work correctly*, and subsequent copying of files pushed disk space usage up to > 91%. RandyR will be submitting an RC to increase the amount of available disk space. The RC must be expedited. Deltares estimates each user will require ~0.5 GB. Peter noted the presence of some old FEWS GUI directories which can be removed to save even more space.

Randy noted that the existing NAS has 10 GB space available; the new NAS will have 15 GB but that must be further increased by 10 GB. An AWIPS "MOD note" for the NAS upgrade is still underway; ABRFC is due to get their upgrade soon.

NERFC: Alison made good progress with migration of segments over the weekend. Deltares is currently on-site assisting with the system check-out and continued migrations.

NWRFC: NW has now migrated an entire forecast group (10 segments). Script improvements have significantly eased the mechanics of editing and transferring/copying files. They experienced the same symbolic links problem as did AB. Micha has received some mark-ups to the documentation distributed in KC last week; he agreed to provide

updates. Deltares distributed to NW a patch for the operational problem currently being seen at AB; NW reported that the fix appears to work.

*The group agreed that we must standardize the directory structure as soon as possible. We must also standardize on the installation process and file ownership/permissions. This must be a joint venture between Deltares and the government. RandyR agreed to gather details regarding final directory layouts at all 4 RFCs; then the government will propose a single solution, and Deltares will review. When agreed, RandyR will make all 4 RFCs consistent with the agreed solution.

Discussion ensued on whether 2 days at each RFC was enough? Some of the time has been spent correcting things that CAT-2 sites won't have to go through. On the other hand the CAT-2 sites will experience a different set of problems. Conclusion was that we should allow for 3 days anyway.

Testing of live systems also revealed a problem with the FSS sometimes "falling over" while extracting data from the database. Deltares is actively investigating.

Deltares needs to describe to OHD its software patching mechanism. OHD has questions about how to distribute (e.g.) the SNOW-17 bug fix. Deltares (Edwin) agreed to discuss this topic when he visits OHD next week (Feb 24); then Edwin will provide a written description within one week(?).

Migration/operational support: Last week RandyR agreed to set up an email `chps.support@noaa.gov`. He now only needs Peter's email address (Peter will send). Randy, Peter, and Edwin will be the recipients of all email messages sent to this address. Upon receiving a problem report, Deltares will gather the supporting information then work with Randy to find a solution. A new infolist server (`chps_ops`) will be established for RFCs (CAT initially, CAT-2 eventually) to discuss operational and migration problems; useful information shared via `chps.support@noaa.gov` will also be posted there. It would be a good idea if someone could summarize postings on the `chps_ops` list server in the form of a FAQ; the group agreed that such an FAQ should be posted on the CHPS web page (possibly also the wiki).

CAT (ultimately CAT-2) RFCs will benefit from regular conference calls to discuss migration and operational issues. RandyR agreed to lead them. **The first call will be on Thurs March 5, immediately following the CAT call at 12:30 EST.** Meetings will be at a regular time; the group will decide on initial frequency of meetings during the first call.

Action: Deltares to update the migration training documentation using hand-written mark-ups provided by NWRFC.

Action: RandyR to gather details from CAT RFCs on CHPS directory structures; then suggest a single solution for Deltares and the CAT to review, modify, and approve.

Action: RandyR to make directory structure, file ownership, and file permissions consistent with final solution at all CAT RFCs (depends on completion of previous action item).

Action: Deltares to provide written description of its software patching mechanism by March 13.

2. Archive Database

Chris summarized the events to date. She will distribute John Halquist's Feb 10 presentation to Julie Meyer in Kansas City. Chris/Harold described a proposal to prototype an intermediate archive database solution, which would involve acquiring additional funds. Although the IWT for OSIP project (07-054) has done a tremendous amount of work, the current business case won't meet hydro needs for the future. We must look 10 years or more down the road. We should perhaps be considering professional contractors who have experience with data warehousing. We must be aligned with the NOAA enterprise vision/architecture. The current suggested solutions are considered by the NWS OCIO rep to be too solution-oriented and too stovepipe in nature (ref. meeting with Donna Page, ChrisD, Harry Tabak, on Jan 30 2009). The CHPS "interim solution" is a step along the way to a final IWRSS solution. The interim solution could be easily prototyped, the proposal for which involves a slight change to the CHPS hardware configuration for one site (eg NWRFC), plus some hardware for a national location (e.g. NOHRSC). Harold agreed to send a brief written justification for the necessary extra funds to Pedro for presentation to Gary tomorrow.

Action: Chris to send JohnH's archive db slides to the chps_migration list.

Action: Harold to write a brief justification for extra archive db prototype hardware funds to Pedro by early Friday 2/20

3. National HIC meeting next week

Work Lee.

Action: none

4. Other items

the status.

Action: the group.

Note: Action items from this and all previous meetings are contained in the "ActionItems" document maintained and distributed by Chris Dietz, OHD.

Next meetings:

- National HIC meeting Weds Feb 25 – Fri Feb 27
- Regular CAT meeting on Thursday 3/5/09 at 11:00 am EST.