

Minutes from CHPS Meeting Thursday August 6, 2009

Attendees:

ABRFC – Billy Olsen, Eric Jones, Mike Pierce
CNRFC – Scott Staggs
NERFC – Ed Capone, Alison Gillis, Tom Econopouly
NWRFC – Harold Opitz
NOHRSC – John Halquist
Deltares – Edwin Welles
OCWWS – Randy Rieman
OHD – Pedro Restrepo, Jon Roe, Chris Dietz

Pre-reading:

- Support log distributed on 8/5/09 by Edwin Welles via email to the chps_ops infolist, subject “Logging Support Requests”.

1. Steps to improve Deltares migration/operational support

John Halquist noted that he didn’t receive a copy of the spreadsheet. Edwin sent the Log to the chps_ops infolist; however JohnH isn’t subscribed to chps_ops. RandyR (list admin) will add him. Edwin will also send the Log to the chps_migration list.

Under the contract between OHD and Deltares, Deltares provides support for the CAT during migration; the NWS is expected to pick up support for the CAT-II. The mechanisms we introduce for the CATs will be used for the CAT-II. We must get our support mechanisms perfected before the CAT-II begins its migration phase.

Edwin has introduced a new Support Log (Excel spreadsheet – see pre-reading). This log is intended to help Deltares keep track of all support requests. Deltares will meet internally every Tuesday to discuss status of items in the log; Edwin will then update the log and distribute it to the chps_ops list every Wednesday. The CAT will conduct an overview every Thursday, flagging items which need more attention. Chris acknowledged that this duplicates effort, as RandyR also leads a support call every other Thursday; but for now the CAT needs better visibility into the quality of support. When things settle down we can revert back to normal.

Chris requested some cosmetic changes to the spreadsheet (e.g., add information showing the release in which a fix will appear; add auto sort on the columns). “Blocker” means the issue is blocking progress to the next phase of operations and hence the CHPS schedule for that site – currently parallel operations for the CAT. It might also be helpful to include information regarding how a problem was resolved. Alison confirmed that the 2 NERFC items (ResSngl for WERN3, and WYMM1 scheduled workflow) are now Closed.

The release process described on the second worksheet in the file conflicts with a draft document “CHPS Release Process” previously sent to Chris by PeterG. Deltares needs to decide which one is will prevail.

RandyR will publish this Log on the RFC web page; the webmaster (Melody Magnus) can respond very quickly to updates – which Edwin pointed out can be at least daily. Whenever a new log is posted to the web page, Randy (or other) will send an email to the chps_ops list.

The CAT generally thinks this Log and its tracking is a good next step.

Why did NERFC’s issue take so long to get fixed? When Frederik logged into NERFC from CNRFC last week he figured out the solution almost immediately.

- Edwin pointed out that Peter and Micha had been investigating the problem but were on the wrong path.
- Remote access to an RFC from Deltares (specifically in NL) is limited and slow. Peter, however, will be able to go directly to the NHOR room and log in remotely to an RFC from there.
- Peter has been travelling constantly over the Summer and has had too much work on his plate.

Edwin needs information concerning which release the CAT offices are running (FEWS software, OHD software, and migration script). For FEWS software, RFCs can use the “Help -> About” menu option. The CATs agreed to get this information to Edwin. Deltares wants to ensure that the RFCs are running the correct version (the same version, unless a patch is being tested) at any given time; this information is often key to resolving issues.

Action: RandyR to subscribe John Halquist to the chps_ops infolist.

Action: Edwin to send the Support Log to the chps_migration infolist

Action: CATs to send current software version info to Edwin

2. Health check from CATs (status)

ABRFC reported that their current issue (Aug 5/configuration not uploading) is a show-stopper. Otherwise migrations are done and working well in standalone mode. As an aside, AB is waiting for a response from Jon on the database access question for g-XSETS; Jon is waiting for a response from Edwin, who is waiting for info from NL. In general local apps should not do direct PSQL queries because they don’t work with this FEWS database.

NERFC reported they’re still on track – the only thing holding them up is HEC-RAS. Chris said she and Jon will meet with RTi and Deltares this afternoon and will report back. [See item 4 below.]

NWRFC is also waiting for HEC-RAS (lower Columbia); otherwise they too are migrated, and almost on schedule. They are shooting for October to begin parallel operations but may not start until November - they have some preparation/training to conduct first.

CNRFC had no issues to report.

Action: none.

3. Progress re. NERFC action to “facilitate consistent look and feel” for IFD configuration

This item refers to a discussion at one of the CAT workshops concerning the vast configurability of the IFD. At the time the CAT felt it would be too overwhelming for CAT-II RFCs to configure everything themselves. Also, it might not be prudent to have 13 different configurations. So at the time the CAT had agreed we should come up with some initial suggested configurations, along the lines of ‘templates’. The term ‘standard’ was avoided so we had come up with ‘consistent look and feel’ instead. NERFC had volunteered to provide such a template.

Since no one other than Chris seemed to recall this discussion we agreed to defer this item until Rob Shedd returns.

Action: none.

4. Plans for getting HEC-RAS up and running at NE, NW

Chris wants to make sure all players know what they’re expected to accomplish in order to get HEC-RAS operational in CHPS at NERFC and NWRFC. A meeting with RTi/Deltares and OHD is scheduled for this afternoon.

NERFC has all its calibrations complete. Configurations are also mostly complete but Ed would like review/assistance from Seann.

NWRFC has finished calibration and has the initial FEWS configuration for the lower Columbia prepared by Seann’s group; they are just starting on the other areas. The lower Columbia configuration will be added to the SAT. Harold has assigned 2 additional people to the HEC-RAS task. They’re expecting some assistance in the form of training and configurations.

Action: none.

5. Other

- Jon reported that AWIPS OB9.3 no longer exists. There will be little impact on CHPS, other than eliminating the need for CAT RFCs to deal with AWIPS and CHPS simultaneously (a good thing). It might help the CAT-IIIs in the same way. For hydro in general, it means we’ll likely see many ATANs in place. The group recommended “bundling” functionality into ATANs to limit the complications/confusion. With OB9.3 gone it will now be 2 years before any sites will see new software in the AWIPS

baseline. One HydroGen DR was in OB9.3 – OHD is looking into getting it accepted into OB9.2 instead.

- NWRFC reported they're running MPE operationally now as of this morning; it's working fairly well. They appreciate Paul Tilles's work to get them to this point. All MPE changes (including the latest few added to the list) are expected to be in OB9.2. NW has some concern that future changes to MPE (via AWIPS) may take a long time to get into operations. We are likely to see more MPE changes for the CAT-II.
- Status re. Xinerama and the 3-headed workstation: Jon attended a meeting with AWIPS on this topic after the last CAT call. He reported that the discussion focused on Warngen. Jon did make the point that the RFCs need the ability to use 3 screens but AWIPS said CHPS is not an existing requirement. AWIPS will not guarantee the ability to configure 3 screens in the future. Apparently Xinerama is not an accepted solution for AWIPS, but may be re-considered in the future. It was noted that our 3-head configuration is not included in any ATAN; Chris will be sure to include it in any future updates to the CHPS ATAN.
- When Peter arrives at NERFC which version of the new software will he bring with him? NE reminded Edwin that their site support visit was delayed to give Deltares time to implement a fix for them. Edwin agreed to check with Peter.

Action: Edwin to find out from Peter (and report back to NERFC) which version of the software will be installed during the NERFC site support visit in a few weeks.

Next meeting: Thursday August 13, 2009 at 11:00 am EDT.