

Minutes from CHPS Meeting Thursday January 22, 2009

Attendees:

ABRFC – Billy Olsen, Mike Pierce
CNRFC – Rob Hartman, Art Henkel, Pete Fickenscher, Scott Staggs
NERFC – Rob Shedd
NWRFC – Joe Intermill
NOHRSC – John Halquist
Deltares – Karel Heynert, Peter Gijbers (at NOHRSC with John)
OCWWS –
OHD – Pedro Restrepo, Joe Gofus, Chris Dietz

Pre-reading:

- Revised agenda for Preparation Workshop #3, distributed by Karel to Migration list on 1/22/09
- Deltares status update distributed by Karel to Migration list on 1/22/09

1. Deltares status update

Current status: some good progress over the past week but still not quite there.

Time series operations [para 1(i)]– all issues resolved.

OHD model operations [para 1(ii)]- some non-major issues still to work through. Of particular note, a perceived problem with the FEWS database described last time was not in fact the cause of the problem, and the issue has been resolved.

I/O & RRS [para 1(iii)] – no significant issues remain.

E2E testing [para 1(iv)] – Deltares still seeing differences between NWSRFS and FEWS outputs. Karel had hoped to report they were almost at the end of the fixes, but unfortunately they're not at that point. This causes concern. JoeG posed the question whether Deltares is using input coming from RRS or if they're using canned data? Unknown; Karel will get an answer tomorrow (Fri) and respond to Joe. He noted that it's easy to run the tests but hard to track down the differences. Deltares believes the problem lies in the migration scripts. However converting the configurations manually is not really a viable option. Deltares just needs time to locate the problem. They now have all possible people dedicated to this task, and there is one more complete day for them to work on it. We'll know more by the end of Friday.

Software development [para 2(iii)] – now have RMA's feedback (RMA is HEC's contractor) but Deltares hasn't had time to work on it. Regarding the adapter software acceptance tests, Deltares suggested that they delay the testing until the week after the migration training – it is not on the critical path for training or to begin migration.

Clarification: during the week after migration training (w/c Feb 16; but since 2/16 is a federal holiday the work week commences on Feb 17) the plan is for Deltares to visit the CAT sites to make sure each RFC can successfully migrate a configuration offline and then upload it into the operational system. Suggested schedule:

Tues 2/17 & Weds 2/18: Micha and Willem at NWRFC; Peter and Mattijs at ABRFC

Thurs 2/19 & Fri 2/20: Micha and Willem at CNRFC; Peter and Mattijs at NERFC
Deltares should allow for lengthy travel time between ABRFC and NERFC, as flights are not direct.

RobH pointed out that RandyR has not done the software installation at CNRFC; Chris agreed to follow up with Randy as soon as he returns (he is currently out of the office due to a family emergency). The installation must be complete by 2/19 at the absolute latest.

Ensembles [para 2(iv)] - no progress. Deltares is making some changes required for basic ensembles (this is not XEFS). Requirement is that the configurations don't require changes when ensembles capability implemented. Not BOC, so not a big issue that software isn't ready.

Configuration support tools [para 2(vi)] – paragraph should read January 23, not February 23.

FEWS enhancements [para 2(vii)] – this refers to new features in the MC to ease the process of troubleshooting from a distance (NL). RandyR's team will be doing most of the operational troubleshooting, but there will be times when Deltares will need to provide help. Original proposal was to make the MC software upgrades the week following migration training; Deltares suggests this is too risk-prone, and recommends we wait for the April release instead. This means accepting the much smaller risk that Randy's team won't be able to handle all problems which arise. Pedro agreed that this made sense.

John noted references to both “April '09 release” and update of the software at the end of March '09 – are these different? They are the same. The software will be released in March; acceptance testing will occur the week following each workshop – in this case, w/c April 6. Karel agreed to use the term “April '09 release” in future to avoid confusion.

When can we expect to see a software version with all the OHD models and adapter? This version (standalone) will be used during migration training. Subsequent installation at RFCs will be a simple copy of relevant files.

The bottom line question: does Deltares believe the migration training will still occur on schedule? In principle it is still possible; however Karel is very nervous about it. He will know more by the end of tomorrow, and we plan to discuss during the workshop. Also: what happens if we don't make the date – where and when would be the alternative? Chris will develop a “plan B”.

Hardware at the NWSTC: when Chris arranged the training class with Dave Cokely, the agreement included use of the Linux-based workstations available at the NWSTC. Will Python be pre-loaded? Unknown. Deltares agreed to provide Chris with a list of assumptions made about the environment; Chris will run these past Dave Cokely. There will be no live data feed. RFCs must remember to bring with them all available license keys for oXygen.

Action: Karel to find out if E2E tests at Deltares involve data coming through the RRS or if it's canned data.

Action: Chris to follow up with RandyR on setting a date for FEWS software installation for CNRFC.

Action: Deltares (Karel?) to provide a list of COTS/TPS needed for a standalone FEWS to run at the NWSTC for training.

Action: Chris to check with the NWSTC whether the items in above action are available on the Linux boxes.

Action: Chris to find out what possibilities for alternative location/dates might be for migration training, should Feb 9 training at NWSTC not be realized.

2. Agenda for Prep Workshop #3 discussion

PeterG is at NOHRSC today, discussing among other things an approach for the CHPS archive database. Of concern is how to reconcile the requirements being gathered via OSIP project 07-054 (RFC Archive tech refresh) and what we might need for CHPS. Based on a reading of documents acquired from Julie Meyer, there appears to be little appreciation for how the new generation of systems (CHPS as well as AWIPS-II) will change the concept of operations. One exception might be Verification, as Julie Demargne has an in-depth understanding of its operational concepts.

John suggested Chris forward the OSIP documents to the rest of the CAT in preparation for our CHPS archive database discussion next week. These include the "survey results", the conops, and the technical requirements – not all are available from the OSIP web site.

Action: Chris to forward copy of conops, technical requirements, and "survey results" for 07-054 (archive db) to the members of the CAT. Due date: 1/23/09.

3. Other items

Status on AI 011509-03 (description of dwoper-blend functionality)? JoeI wasn't sure, he'll check with Harold when he gets in later.

Status on AI 011509-01 (RFC service backup on HIC agenda)? Perhaps this was actually the archive database topic? RobH will ensure both topics are on the agenda.

Final schedule for HEC-RAS training? Unknown – think the basic training might be the week of April 16; also believe the latest idea is for Seann's team to travel to NWRFC and NERFC (separately) to conduct advanced training. Chris will find out from Seann.

JoeI asked if Karel could give some idea about what migration topics might involve. Karel said he will discuss with Micha tomorrow and provide a summary during the workshop next week.

John is looking for details on the CHPS prototype hardware. Larry Cedrone's original RFQ, the Purchase Order don't provide enough information. Specifically John would like to know more about the database server, such as the final amount of memory, disk space, no. of controllers, etc. Billy and RobH agreed to look for a detailed description of hardware delivered to their RFCs (e.g., packing list); Chris to see if Larry Cedrone has something similar.

Action: Chris to get latest details on HEC-RAS training from Seann.

Action: Deltares/Karel to provide an outline/list/description of topics to be covered during migration training.

Action: RobH and Billy to see if they have a detailed description of the CHPS prototype hardware delivered to their RFCs; if so forward to John Halquist.

Action: Chris to see if Larry Cedrone has a detailed description of the CHPS prototype hardware delivered to the CAT RFCs; if so forward to John Halquist.

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

Next meeting: no meeting next week (CHPS preparation workshop); next meeting probably Thursday 2/5/09 at 11:00 am EST.