Minutes from CHPS Meeting Thursday January 28, 2010

Attendees:
ABRFC – Eric Jones, Jeff McMurphy
CNRFC – Rob Hartman, Pete Fickenscher
NERFC – Rob Shedd, Alison MacNeil, Ron Horwood
NWRFC – Harold Opitz, Joe Intermill
NOHRSC – John Halquist
Deltares – Edwin Welles
OCWWS – Xiaobiao Fan
OHD – Jon Roe, Chris Dietz

Pre-reading:
- none

1. Health check on Support Log

    The patch (maintenance release) is expected by the end of this month – if not by COB Friday then over the weekend. Definitely before Feb 1.

    NWRFC reported they are still having issues with uploading configurations through the Configuration Manager (CM). The can upload individual files but not mass quantities of files. PeterG and Rick are jointly addressing this off-list.

    Action: none

2. Performance discussion

    On Monday Edwin distributed a performance document (the one authored by Micha). Edwin had prepared and distributed a different document last year. The two documents will be merged. Deltares will add a test for multiple/simultaneous forecasters as requested by Chris. The approach is as follows:
    - CAT reviews the performance document and provides initial comments by the Feb 4 CAT call.
    - Deltares then runs the tests in Delft.
    - Meanwhile the CATs should aim to run the tests at their own RFCs before Feb 28. Report back any additional tests you think of as they go along. Additional tests can be done later; goal is to get as many of the initial tests completed first so Deltares can begin to analyse the results.
    - RFCs maintain its unique information locally, but please publish frequently somewhere public – Deltares suggests the wiki. It is important that the CATs communicate as much information as possible. Please capture any changes you make to the procedures (e.g. different forecast group, or use of QTE not QPE).
    - Deltares will pull all the information together, analyze the information both across all RFCs (where common) and for individual offices, and will work on solutions.

    CNRFC says they will need to load the patch first. They also think end of February is a bit ambitious. Edwin noted when he ran the Standalone (SA) tests using the Dec SAT build it took him half a day.

For sure Edwin needs to know if there are any major/important tests missing before the end of next week; Deltares would like to get as much resulting development work into the March release. **If information comes in too slowly Deltares can't guarantee getting necessary fixes into the March release.**

Some tests in the performance document may not apply to all offices. Start testing as soon as you have loaded the January patch.

RFCs should provide the number of days and number of ensemble members when they conduct ensemble tests. Some RFCs will need to add unique tests/data– for example ABRFC doesn't use SREF but they do run a 0-QPF ensemble. FEWS processing of SREF is done differently, so make sure the nature of the ensemble run is clear.

Does the CAT agree with this approach? Yes.

It's ok to upload results even if you've only conducted 4 tests.

Are any tests better to start with than others? The live tests are very important (and the most interesting for Deltares!) but they take the longest. In some ways it's better to start with the SA tests just to get practiced; but the SA tests are the least important.

Action: CATs to tell Edwin by Thurs Feb 4 what tests are missing from the performance document. [From Chris: silence will be interpreted to mean CATs have reviewed the document and do not notice any missing tests.]
Action: CATs to begin running tests contained in the performance document; capture their findings and changes as tests are run, and post the document to the wiki as they gather new information. Target completion: Feb 28.

3. Other

   - Edwin said he plans to meet with Steve Schotz on Friday. [From Chris: Steve is the "AWIPS-II Extended Portfolio Manager", who oversees several projects - one of which is CHPS. Steve works in OS&T PPD.]
   - RobS reported on a recent gathering of ER DOHs, where they all spent a day looking at CHPS, what to expect from the migration process, discussing migration plans. Are there any CAT-II site support visits planned? Edwin noted that user training will provide an opportunity for site support. RobS foresees a need for some kind of site support in May-June. What kind of help would they need? They won't need as much as the CAT had because so many wrinkles have been ironed out. However after February and the initial focus on migration fundamentals, they will soon move to the next level - plot configurations. There is nothing on the calendar to provide support for that. Another question: NWRFC has received requests for assistance with importing grids. Is it time to allocate CAT/buddy resources to that? Only if you have spare capacity; grid import is nice to have but not essential at this early stage. From a project perspective the performance topic is a higher priority. Data ingest will be addressed during Migration Training. Deltares encourages the CATs to advise their buddies to ask these kinds of questions during the Feb training.
   - Request: can we get the Support Log distributed on Weds not Thurs? The RFCs need time to conduct a review before the CAT call. Xiaobiao said he will do that beginning next week.
   - NWRFC wants to know what is the goal of Ai Vo's recent email on Calibration? Chris reported that the purpose is to capture all requests as a means to make sure we haven't missed

anything major. A design document is in the works. The design document will capture a vision for Calibration in a CHPS context. The trawl for thoughts/requests/ideas is part of the software engineering process and is just a minor part of the document. There's more to come. JohnH would like a copy of the document, as it will impact archive requirements.

- JohnH noted he hadn't had any responses from HSMB regarding his upcoming kickoff meeting on RFC Archive. Chris said she would follow up w/Geoff. The goal of this initial meeting is to gather any mid-to-long term archive requirement so we don't shoot ourselves in the foot. We already know enough about archive needs today. If CAT members have any thought/requirements/input please submit them to John.
- Chris asked about merging the chps_migration infolist (for CAT only) with the cat_2 list (for CAT-IIs). In the past it was important to keep them separate, but what about now? Although there are some benefits, it could be difficult controlling confusion that will inevitably arise when CAT topics arise out of context. This will make all our jobs more complicated and require more time than we might have. One suggestion might be to leverage the subject line – such as "FOR CAT ONLY" - but that seems a bit unwieldy and risks causing even more confusion. On balance, Chris concluded that it's probably easiest to leave things as they are for the time being.
- There's a CAT-II call next Tuesday. Will any CATs be able to attend? NE, AB, and NW all reported they could. APRFC has submitted several topics to be addressed at the call.
- There's some confusion about the CHPS session on the HIC agenda. JohnH said he signed up to describe the RFC Archive work but it's morphed into a Service Backup & Continuity of Operations session. JonR pointed to a 45 minute CHPS Update presentation but what would we say for that amount of time – it would be too repetitive. NERFC tracked down David Vallee who joined the conversation. We agreed that JohnH would focus on backup from an archive perspective. John will be traveling to Delft for conversations with Deltares the week after next; he'll then be in a better position to discuss some design thoughts. Aside: there is $50K in the FY10 CHPS budget for some prototype hardware. Meanwhile OHD agreed to facilitate a discussion on Service Backup using Edwin's recent presentation material. Although CHPS (FEWS) might be able to provide some useful components of a Service Backup solution, it certainly can't address the bigger picture. We also agreed to devote the 45 minute CHPS Update session to 30 minutes of CAT RFC progress and latest experiences, plus a 15 minute update from Gary/TomG/Jon regarding the CHPS operational support strategy.
- Reminder: please be considerate when traveling for CHPS this year. This is a tight year; CHPS has consumed an unusually large portion of the entire budget, putting a strain on all other areas. PPC is working with Chris to analyze travel costs.

Action: Chris to talk to Geoff about HSMB's lack of response to NOHRSC's request for an Archive meeting.
Action: CATs to submit any input for mid/long-term archive requirements and needs to JohnH.

Next meeting: Thursday February 2, 2010