Minutes from CHPS Meeting Thursday February 17, 2011

Attendees:
ABRFC – Eric Jones, Jeff McMurphy, Mike Pierce
CNRFC – Pete Fickenscher
NERFC – David Vallee
NWRFC – Harold Opitz, Joe Intermill
NOHRSC – John Halquist
Deltares – Edwin Welles
OCWWS HSD HSB – Randy Rieman, Dave Riley
OHD –Chris Brunner, Lee Cajina

Pre-reading:
  o   Support Log sent to chps_ops on Feb 10 by Dave Riley

1. Support Log health check

    Chris announced HSD has 'officially' taken over leadership responsibility for CHPS Operational
    Support.

    Review of management structure:
    • Tom Graziano is Chief, Hydrologic Services Division (OCWWS HSD).
    • Mark Glaudemans is Chief, Hydrologic Support Branch (OCWWS HSD HSB); Mark
      reports to Tom.
    • Randy Rieman is team leader for CHPS Operational Support; Randy reports to MarkG.
    • Dave Riley, and Xiaobiao Fan work on RandyR's team and also report to MarkG. Two new
      Len Tech contractors will soon work on Randy's team (contract awarded; kickoff meeting
      held this morning).

    The HSD CHPS team now has 5 people; these 5 are supplemented by HSEB developers when
    needed, and also by Deltares.

    The CHPS support team is also responsible for supporting AWIPS-II activities as well as the
    NWSTC, which recently purchased a full Online CHPS system (6 servers) and now requires various
    forms of support. Randy spent a week installing the system there. So far AWIPS-II testing has
    involved DR testing, but involvement is expected to increase over the coming months. Chris and
    Mark have talked about the potential conflict for CHPS, specifically Chris's concern that the CAT
    and CAT-II offices were put on hold while some NWSTC tasks were completed. Chris isn't sure if
    this is a mandate from HSD management. The CAT observes that HSB resources are already very
    thin; in April/May/June the other CAT-II offices will begin to gear up and we can't afford for them
    to. Chris has informed MarkG of the operational support assessment coming up in April.

    The group suggested setting up a separate conference call with TomG to discuss this issue and come
    to a resolution.

    Side question: is ofsde in AWIPS-II? Joe Gofus was assigned an action to look into this; but he has
    since retired. Chris will revive the question. A related question is how the special 'CHPS' version of
    ofsde will get into the AWIPS-II baseline. Most of the CAT RFCs use John Halquist's SHEF to PI-
    XML converter; this is also used at BPA which is testing a recent fix.

    Status of RedHat upgrade to 5.5:

Randy has now tested the yum server, but wants to add a step to download Clonezilla and create an image of the old system in case an RFC experiences a problem during the upgrade. Randy will write the instructions. He will then get with ChrisM at CNRFC to test on their chps 7/8/9 (non-operational suite). Then the CATs will upgrade, followed by the CAT-IIs. Everything will end up at RedHat 5.5, which is the AWIPS-II release. NWRFC believes this upgrade will address issue #428.

Randy also wants to upgrade Postgres to 8.4 but in a staged manner – 8.2 to 8.3, wait ~6 months, then 8.3 to 8.4. Version 9 is available but is in Beta release. 8.3 provides a much improved version of the auto vacuum process.

Firebird is embedded in FEWS; updates come via the FEWS releases.

Support Log status:

Dave has added a due date column, and has begun the process of contacting RFCs when the issues have passed their due date (there are 25 now).

Is NWRFC's ssarreg issue on the log? There was some confusion because DaveR believed the email was a continuation of a conversation between JoeI and Andre. With a few exceptions Deltares no longer responds to chps_ops emails addressed to them by name – everything goes through HSD. DaveR will assign a log number to the ssarreg issue.

DaveR will be contacting Rick at NWRFC about #385 and #428.

FogBugZ:

All 4 CATs can access the server now. Next: DaveR will put together a short/1-page write-up on how to access it, what the conventions are, and some simple usage instructions. This will be completed by COB tomorrow.

The CATs will test it first, to shake out any problems. During this phase HSD will continue to use the Support Log for CAT-II issues. When the time comes the CAT-IIs will need training. Entries will be posted to chps_ops automatically even after FogBugZ is introduced.

DaveR doesn't plan to copy over the current "FIXED to be tested" items from the Support Log. He will scan through to see if any helpful information can be gleaned and captured via FogBugZ wiki entries.

Action: Chris to set up conference call with the CAT and Tom Graziano to discuss operational support for CHPS.
Action: Chris to follow up on ofsde-for-CHPS and availability for AWIPS-II.
Action: DaveR to provide a short write-up on using FogBugZ by COB 2/18.

2. Other

Next CHPS Release:

HSEB is planning for the next release, which contains a handful of OHD issues and a HEC-RAS adapter fix. Should HSEB wait for FEWS build 28924 (the patch being tested at NERFC)? Edwin confirmed this build impacts just the FEWS GUI, so it's safe for OHD to test their software with the previous official build (28264).

DavidV doesn't know if RobS has installed the patch. ABRFC wants the patch too for the UnitHG mod – they are holding off entering analogue events until they have the patch. Edwin will find out from RobS the status of the patch.

Given the OHD release contains items that don't impact the CAT RFCs, should we still Beta test at the CAT RFCs before any other RFCs? Yes we must Beta test at the CATs because they're all operational now. NWRFC is also interested in the HEC-RAS update.

HSEB will first test the CHPS release on the NHOR using OCs (or SAs) copied from the 4 CATs. Deltares can assist with FEWS testing if needed.

OHD will include WGRFC in Beta testing because they are stopped in their tracks without a fix for the ResJ issue. Note that WGRFC is about to host the Advanced Config training class (w/c Feb 28); management may prefer to test the Beta software before then, although it isn't a prerequisite for the class.

The CATs will Beta test for 2 weeks before the release goes to the remaining RFCs.

ResSim: NWRFC wants to know if they can use ResSim? Chris will ask HEC whether all NWS offices have permission to use this development (unofficial) version.

Performance:
Edwin confirmed that NWRFC's performance issues (approved forecast back-logs) are on the list to be addressed in the June release of FEWS.

NWRFC is curious to know why their local data stores seem to grow but they never get smaller. They grow to the mid-4GB range then upwards, but by Saturday are under 1GB again. The rate of growth appears steady – up to 10GB within about 3½ days. When it reaches 10GB they delete the local database. This happens with every user. Their expiry time is set to 2 days. NWRFC runs ESP daily. Performance seems better when the database is small. Perhaps something isn't getting 'rolling-barreled'; or perhaps the freed space in the DB needs to be aggregated.

A related issue described in Support Log #437 (PI-service). DaveR will open a separate log number for this issue until we can confirm it's related.

Have other offices noticed the same thing? CNRFC has found a large effect of ESP runs on database size. They also have a 2-day expiry setting.

Edwin will gather more info and then look into possible approaches.

Clarification from last week: does the dev registry list include the TSCHANGE/revise technique item? Yes. Edwin's next step is to discuss the list with Deltares-NL and when agreement has been reached Edwin will send out a detailed and complete list of build contents.

NOHRSC now has the database from RandyR but they are working out some issues.

Action: Edwin to find out from RobS the status of the patch (28294) installation and testing.
Action: Chris to check with HEC if all NWS RFCs are permitted to use the development version of ResSim
Action: Edwin to get more information on growing size of local databases.

Next meeting: Thursday February 24, 2011.