

Minutes from CHPS Meeting Thursday October 22, 2009

Attendees:

ABRFC – (absent)
CNRFC – (absent)
NERFC – Rob Shedd
NWRFC – Joe Intermill
NOHRSC – John Halquist
Deltares – Edwin Welles
OCWWS – Randy Rieman
OHD – Chris Dietz

Pre-reading:

- Development candidates for the next release of CHPS - email from Edwin Welles, subject “Development List -- version: Oct 18” distributed to the chps_migration info list on Oct 18.

1. Review Support Log

One major blocking issue: amalgamate.

Peter is aggressively conducting an analysis to find out why performance is so bad. General advice is to *not* start amalgamate; however NERFC has been running it since last Friday yet hasn't really noticed any dramatic slow-downs - not sure why. Edwin will have Peter give specific direction to NERFC about their running of amalgamate.

Recent installation:

- Despite all the traffic on the chps_ops list, this upgrade was no more chaotic than previous ones. The schedule was fairly tight given the deadline for training. The database cleanup instructions turned out to be a little too aggressive.
- Some other issues arose during the IFD training, some of them critical for parallel operations (sacbasef, sacco, ssarreg mods and editing some existing mods don't work correctly). These were tested during SAT – suggests different version was installed than originally tested and “accepted” during SAT.
- NWRFC expressed great appreciation for Peter and Randy's proactive identification of problems on their system.
- The recent upgrade (right before training) was a little “nerve wracking”.
- RFCs need the latest migration scripts which address the IFD.

Next release of the system will be a maintenance release. It will be installed and verified on the NHOR before being released to CATs in the usual fashion – distribution via an FTP site, with instructions and remote support (Randy/Peter may want to coordinate their own schedules with RFCs).

Action: Deltares (Peter) to contact NERFC about running amalgamate.

2. Review/discussion of last week's IFD training

NWRFC reported that the quality of training was outstanding. Presentations were excellent and exercises went well. The inability to use some mods on Day 2 was disappointing; also some displays had not been configured ahead of time.

Chris is concerned that training will be forgotten very quickly without some operational reason to use the system. NWRFC staff is expected to “play” with the system; most usage will revolve around creating/fine-tuning configurations. They will aim for November to begin operational use, but they require a resolution of outstanding issues before being able to move forward. NERFC are also still focused on configuration tasks and need the other critical issues resolved. They are also aiming for November to begin operational use of CHPS.

NWRFC said the “November” release of the system – expected to contain the bulk of the remaining IFD features - will not require any formal training for their staff; we can provide a remote briefing (e.g. webinar) to describe the new features and fixes; then the focal points can present the material to the rest of the staff. This presentation must also address configuration changes. Again, the staff can only use the release in operations if the critical “blocking” issues have been resolved.

Comparison of 1-day training given twice (e.g. at NERFC) versus 2-day training given once (e.g. at ABRFC): Edwin felt the amount of information shared in 2 days was equal to the amount shared in 1 day. He felt it advantageous to be able to spend more individual time with staff (smaller groups) during the 1-day class. He concluded that the 1-day approach was very effective. However he pointed out that he might have been unduly influenced by the poor system performance experienced at ABRFC.

Action: None.

3. Data transfer via NOHRSC

John Halquist is waiting for data from the RFCs! ABRFC is sending data; NERFC will hold off until next week; NWRFC had a few questions but is ready; they will try sending all data under the /import directory to see what the impact is on bandwidth. John requests that RFCs try to prevent duplicate file deliveries.

The CATs are currently using their own mechanisms to deliver data to NOHRSC; OHD might have to revive their script to deliver data to NOHRSC in a consistent fashion. If a national script is desired, OHD will be obliged to go through LDAD.

Action: None

4. XEFS testing – plans

Chris reported that some RFCs plans to test XEFS on CHPS might complicate the activities to optimize and baseline system performance. NWRFC will be testing with XEFS in collaboration with DJ. NERFC doesn't plan to do much with XEFS but will be setting up some ensembles.

As an aside, NERFC got short term ensembles working correctly running the SREF. Surprisingly(?) it took less time in CHPS than the equivalent functionality in NWSRFS; possibly because of the absence of additional processing required to massage and reformat the data.

Another aside regarding performance..... Peter/Randy discovered that NWRFC had some file/directory structures that were not the same as at other RFCs. They are working to get them back to standard. Communication is key:

- Mark at NWRFC needs to understand why some configuration decisions were necessary
- Deltares/OCWWS HSD need to listen to any new ideas from the RFC's system administrator

Randy agreed to set up a meeting with Mark and Peter to exchange information as soon as the amalgamate issue has died down. We may adopt Mark's ideas and apply them to all RFCs.

Action: Randy to schedule a meeting with Peter and Mark to discuss the rationale behind system configurations and listen to new ideas from Mark.

5. Other

Need everyone's presentations for the wiki from the CAT and CAT-II workshops. Rob Shedd has already placed his there.

WaterML status? CUAHSI continues to express interest but doesn't deliver anything concrete. The Australians are now interested in participating. Meanwhile Deltares will specify an XML format for local apps to write to. When CUAHSI finalizes their schema RFCs can decide whether/how to adapt. NWRFC will wait for Deltares to specify the format, then adapt its current local application. Edwin will provide the documented interface to NWRFC; the corresponding rating curve import module will be included in the November release of FEWS.

Development spreadsheet (see pre-reading): this represents a summary of Edwin's notes from various trips and meetings. The IFD enhancements/fixes from Andre are included. Edwin is looking for input from the RFCs to determine if the list is complete; the next step is to prioritize. Some additional things came out of IFD training. Joe Intermill is independently creating a list of IFD items that is fairly comprehensive; he will add his list to Edwin's spreadsheet and prioritize each item. Edwin will distribute the spreadsheet with instructions to the CAT with an explanation of the priority scheme. We will try to get all CAT responses in time for discussion at the next CAT call.

What is the process for further IFD development? Andre said the IFD team should feel free to send any problems directly to Andre when they discover them. We should continue to hold meetings as before (led by Andre), and download and review demo versions. We'll use the development spreadsheet to capture items as we proceed.

NWRFC received a phone call from APRFC asking how to resolve errors when running the migration script. This was a very old version of the script. Joe Intermill recommends the CAT RFCs think about what their CAT-II RFCs can be doing to occupy themselves until they have the right tools to migrate. They can be "nice to have" rather than "critical" tasks. Example: clean up the station names/formats in the station files. Joe Intermill will put together a list. A separate list was provided at the buddy visit.

Action: Deltares (Edwin) to provide a document of the XML format for ingesting rating curves into FEWS; Deltares will also write a corresponding rating curve import module for FEWS.

Action: Joe Intermill to forward the list of suggested cleanup tasks for Buddy RFCs.

Action: Joe Intermill will add his items to Edwin's development spreadsheet, insert NWRFC prioritization, and distribute to the CAT for review.

Next meeting: Thursday October 29.