

Minutes from CHPS Meeting Thursday February 4, 2010

Attendees:

ABRFC – Billy Olsen, Eric Jones, Jeff McMurphy
CNRFC – (absent)
NERFC – Rob Shedd, Ron Horwood
NWRFC – Joe Intermill
NOHRSC – John Halquist
Deltares – Edwin Welles
OCWWS – Xiaobiao Fan
OHD – Pedro Restrepo, Jon Roe, Chris Dietz

Pre-reading:

- Support Log distributed on Feb 3

1. Health check on Support Log

Note the color scheme: red entries are ones that are new/changed since the last version.

NERFC has noticed a couple of issues but they're not sure if the fixes were supposed to be in this version or not. Specifically:

- Sacco mods still not working
- Editing start date of mods still not working. Valid time is ok, End time is ok. But when they try to edit Start time it doesn't take. ABRFC and NWRFC will test there to see if they get the same behaviour. Rob suggested trying sacbasef or ignore-ts.

NWRFC has noticed the following:

- Rainsnow mod behaves erratically. Snow sometimes turns to rain, and rain sometimes turns to snow. It isn't consistent. ABRFC said they'd run a test to see how it behaves there. NERFC, which only uses it occasionally, ran a test in real-time and said it doesn't seem to have the same impact there.
- TSADD – there some confusion about how FEWS determines which units (display units or general units) are used to create and apply mods. They can't tell if it's a configuration issue or a bug. Edwin will contact Andre to see if he can clarify.
- Ref the ESP thread on the list. How will CHPS take the calibration MAT/MAPs and meld them into the operational forecast system? Edwin said the goal is to recreate what esp does now. NWRFC should run esp with the configuration info from Willem (which will only give climatology); then Peter will issue instructions how to blend into the operational forecast using a blend transformation. In RFS everything runs in local time. For the future do we want to stay in local time? XEFS has to run in Z time. Perhaps the solution is to run some "pre-processor". This needs a longer in-depth conversation outside this meeting. JohnH pointed out the link to AOR – leave the existing data as it is, but perhaps change for the future.

Action: none

2. Performance discussion

Now that the new release has been in place for a few days, is the performance still as good as first noted? Yes, from all. NWRFC reported that it takes 22 minutes to do an update states for the

entire RFC (time taken before the update is unknown). This is regarded as acceptable, because it will only be run once a day and can easily be done on a cron. More importantly though is that the IFD re-runs are “much faster” with the January patch. NWRFC is also considering making some other improvements – e.g. looking to streamline configuration files – to squeeze out even better performance. This is going beyond the straight migration from RFS.

Chris reported that OHD is still working on the thread-safe fixes to their code, and are making slow progress. They have pulled in some extra help (Chip Gobs) and haven't yet reached the point of contacting Deltares-NL. Lee's group is still targeting the fixes for the March release.

Action: none.

3. Other

- JohnH is traveling to Delft next week and would like information on getting between Deltares and the hotel. Edwin will provide.
- Edwin presented a proposal from Deltares regarding the mods valid date/T0 issue. Issue: with the way FEWS works, as T0 advances mods become invalid. T0 acts differently than the last comp date in RFS because of the FEWS design to facilitate hindcasting. If T0 were held steady you wouldn't be able to see the future obs as they come in. The proposal is to implement a “grace period” on the valid date (T0 + x hours) so it will behave just like RFS. In fact it is expected to provide greater flexibility than RFS. For example, perhaps you're in a storm and you don't want your mods to expire – you could hold them. Deltares will go ahead and implement the grace period; then demonstrate that a grace period of 0 makes the system behave like RFS. If that does not work well we must open a discussion on how to change the design.
- Joel said the new sarrreg interface is “pretty cool” and NWRFC really likes it. They have a couple of minor suggestions which they'll send to Edwin.
- RobS wanted to know when to expect the Graphics Generator. Jon said the final phase 1 delivery will be in a couple of weeks.
- Eric wanted to know the status of the icon issue – this is where the icons don't behave as expected. Sometimes they're valid for 18 hours, sometimes 24 hours, sometimes less. Edwin suggested Eric talk to Peter at the migration class next week. This is also captured as #143 in the Support Log.
- ABRFC also wants to know about the Mod Note for their 2nd set of hardware. The people processing the Mod Note appears to be different from the people who process the RC. The RC has gone through (installations are authorized) but the Mod Note seems to be lost in the HQ black hole. Randy did say he would forward an advance copy to the CAT but apparently ABRFC didn't get one. Joel said he'd ask Bruce if he has a copy at NWRFC and if so will forward to Jeff.
- Any updates on banishing FTP in SR? It came out of the recent C&A exercises, and SR (Paul Kirkwood) continues to push it through for SR. ABRFC gave Paul a list of FTP recipients a week and a half ago; the list is being reviewed. JohnH isn't sure if it'll impact NOHRSC because they're outside the AWIPS firewall. However if necessary they may need to move to the more secure anonymous FTP, as NCEP has. ABRFC recommends all RFCs think about changing over now rather than waiting until told. Nothing from ER yet, but it's sure to come eventually.
- System Manager's class for the CAT-II is looming quickly – it's scheduled for April. We've discussed a few options. Should it be at one central location? NWRFC has volunteered to host. It could also be at a CAT-II RFC – last year Deltares didn't take advantage of the dual

- system at CNRFC as expected, so is there a need to conduct it at a CAT site with dual systems? Should it be split across 2 classes – eg. one in the west one in the east? Edwin has to check with Deltares people for availability; a difficulty is that others at Deltares already have their schedules fully booked. One of the comments last year was that the lectures were too high level; also the class was supposed to be a little more one-on-one but the CATs ended up sending 2 people to the class for only 1 trainer. Do the buddies need to participate? NERFC has not accounted for this on their calendar. However Frederik isn't familiar with the NWS/AWIPS configuration and might find such buddy expertise useful. Perhaps it could be just Frederik and RandyR. JohnH noted that the staff at NCRFC weren't involved in the software installation (whereas the CATs were involved in their own) – Randy did it alone to save time. We missed a teaching opportunity. Also note that the System Manager's document hasn't been updated since last year; Edwin reported that Frederik is working on it now. Edwin and Chris have already begun an in-depth dialogue on this topic and will pick it up in the next few days with the goal of coming up with a more cohesive proposal next week.
- Edwin mentioned a recent conversation with Jim Poole at NWSTC regarding Deltares potentially providing FEWS software training classes. Edwin will provide Chris with more information because it is relevant to the CHPS project training plan, which Chris is working on. Apparently Teresa Murphy has also arranged to visit NERFC in April to take a look at their CHPS.

Action: Edwin to provide JohnH with info re. traveling between Deltares and the hotel.

Action: JoeI to try to track down a copy of the Mod Note for chps3/4/5 and send to ABRFC.

Next meeting: Thursday February 9, 2010