

Minutes from CHPS Meeting Thursday April 8, 2010

Attendees:

ABRFC – Billy Olsen, Mike Pierce, Eric Jones
CNRFC – Rob Hartman
NERFC – Ron Horwood
NWRFC – Harold Opitz, Joe Intermill
NOHRSC – John Halquist
Deltares – Edwin Welles
OCWWS HSD – Xiaobiao Fan
OHD – Pedro Restrepo, Chris Dietz

Pre-reading:

- Support Log distributed via chps_ops on April 7, 2010

1. Health check on Support Log (major issues, show stoppers)

No new critical items for any of the RFCs.

Edwin said he and Peter have now reviewed the March build. This build will address performance (state updates slowing down with time, synchronization of large amounts of data) and the first piece of a fix for the mods synchronization issue. Deltares is currently working on the assumption that the IFD freezing problem is related to the database being overwhelmed, and they are treating it as though it's related to performance.

Deltares will attach test procedures to the release for the CATs to use.

Chris noted that chps_ops has been fairly quiet; however now CAT issues have been moved away from chps_ops list to the nws.chps_support email she has no insight into whether things are going well or going poorly; if any CAT has concerns they must make her aware. Another disadvantage of using the email instead of infolist is that the information is not distributed, and knowledge is not shared among CATs or CAT-IIs. However all issues raised via nws.chps_support will appear in the Support Log.

Regarding the Operational Support plan Chris said she, Mark Glaudemans and RandyR met with Michael Kane to address the feedback from the CAT. Michael will update the plan and distribute another version soon.

We are making good progress training HSEB developers to prepare them for operational support duties. However there seems to be a lack of (current) RFC issues to tackle. Meanwhile HSEB has finished with the SAT test procedure reviews. One homework assignment for some developers is to see if HSEB can recreate the GRIB2 problem. Other developers are working on creating an ofstest equivalent for CHPS.

Action: none.

2. Retention of states

Edwin said that storage of multiple states is cluttering up the database and negatively impacting performance. Engineers at Deltares would like to reduce the length of time states are held. Parameters which are used to create the states and “dead” states which will never be used again are unnecessarily stored multiple times. Deltares would like to shorten the expiry times on states

to 10 days (currently set to 100 days). For clarification this means states from previous updateStates runs which are stored in the database will disappear after 10 days. There will be no impact on operations, except perhaps under an unusual/unique combination of circumstances. The result will be a significant improvement in performance. The performance issue has been noted at CN and NW, but not at NE or AB; unfortunately the only way to test this is to implement the solution. This does involve a software change, but not a huge one. It will be provided as a patch before the June release. Deltares will watch the systems for about 2 weeks after the installation. The RFCs will also need to clean up their databases – Deltares will create and provide the necessary procedures.

Deltares hasn't yet implemented the change. Edwin reported that the design review looks good. He will alert the CATs if Deltares decides not to move forward with the design.

If this doesn't significantly improve performance Deltares will have to come up with another solution.

Also FYI... another update in the June release is that FEWS will stop runs sooner when they error out.

Action: none.

3. Other items

ABRFC's application chps_gxsets reads rating curves from the config files. In a recent CHPS release the forecaster can now change the rating curves from the IFD, which bypasses the config file. When will Deltares add rating curve access to the PI service? Andre has confirmed that it is not possible yet. Edwin said Deltares will make this change along with the state update change in item #2 above.

NERFC asked when will their directory structure be updated? Without Randy at the meeting we couldn't say. Testing is underway at CNRFC. Chris will check with Randy.

FYI... RTi will present their TSTool via GoToMeeting later today. Chris will forward details to the CAT if anyone is interested in attending; also forward presentation slides (if any).

The recent IFD meeting went well. The group discussed status icons for the IFD - how to assess the status of a run based on local versus central execution. The other major highlight was **an agreement to decouple system time and T0**. In NWSRFS T0 is automatically updated at the synoptic times; now this has to be done manually or set at system startup.

Action: Chris to check with Randy on the status of directory structure changes for NERFC and ABRFC.

Action: Chris to forward GoToMeeting information to the CAT for RTi's TSTool seminar today and distribute any slides.

Next meeting: Chris will be gone for the next 3 CAT calls. She will arrange for alternative coverage. Next meeting will be on Thursday April 15, 2010.