

Notes from CAT-II Meeting Tuesday August 11, 2009

Attendee:

APRFC Scott Lindsey
MBRFC Steve Predmore, Gregg Schalk
NCRFC Scott Dummer, Mike De Weese, Brian Connelly, Mark Ziemer
MARFC Peter Ahnert, Joe OStrowski, Patti Wnek
OHRFC Craig Hunter, Tom Adams, Joe Heim
LMRFC absent (at OHD)
SERFC John Feldt, Mark Love, Judi Bradberry
WGRFC Bob Corby, Frank Bell (Tom Donaldson absent)
CBRFC John Lhotak, Brenda Alcorn (Michelle Schmidt absent)

CAT members present:

ABRFC Billy Olsen, James Paul, Mike Boehmke, Jeff McMurphy
NERFC Rob Shedd

Also present:

Jon Roe, Chief, OHD HSEB
Chris Dietz, OHD HSEB, CHPS Project Manager
Deltares/Edwin Welles

Document reference: none

Agenda:

1. Providing access to the FEWS database
 - 1.1. Work has begun with ABRFC writing some code to access the FEWS operational database using a web service. PsqL statements can't be used because of the way data are stored in the DB (as blobs). The example is for gXSETS. Deltares is creating documentation with examples for at least one compiled language (e.g., C) and one scripting language (e.g., Python); Mike Boehmke has begun to use it but has experienced some difficulties. Ultimately this information will benefit all RFC local applications.
2. HEC-RAS task status

2.1. The RTi/Deltares contract task is now at an end. HEC has yet to deliver a final Linux version of RAS. Deltares has completed the FEWS adapter and trained HEC for software maintenance purposes. Final end-to-end acceptance testing will be conducted at the next SAT during the week of September 21 in Silver Spring. Configurations will be included from NERFC, plus one basin from NWRFC, and one “fake” structures configuration.

3. Software performance improvements status

3.1. We continue to make good improvements but are no longer seeing large impact improvements; fine tuning will likely continue as a background effort.

3.2. We're ready to take performance measurements; Deltares didn't have time while at CNRFC due to other more pressing site support issues. Instead we'll take measurements at other RFCs during upcoming site support visits; Peter Gijbbers is doing all of these. OHRFC reported hearing that performance was “quite slow” when compared with OFS. At the moment during testing we're seeing about 15 seconds in FEWS compared to 3 seconds in RFS. OHRFC said a 3-hour forecast run wouldn't be acceptable as a 15-hour run; Deltares pointed out that it isn't reasonable to extrapolate based on a scale of 5:1. In any case how could any forecast run take 3 hours? NCRFC said ResSngl and ResJ can take 2-4 hours. These Fortran models in CHPS are identical to their counterparts in NWSRFS, so we should see little slow downs.

3.3. Chris noted that “acceptable” performance is not unilaterally determined by OHD or Deltares; it's up to the CAT to decide what's acceptable and what's not.

4. Operational support information

4.1. The CAT is trying out a new Support Log to track issues. OCWWS HSD expects to have an issue tracking tool in place for the CAT-II.

5. AWIPS-II slip – impact on CHPS

5.1. AWIPS has announced a 7 month slip. This means the CAT should have finished (or mostly finished) parallel operations before going live with CHPS. Parallel operations will be underway at the CAT-II RFCs when AWIPS-II is nationally deployed.

6. Other items

6.1. HEC-RAS calibrations: OHRFC has completed approximately 2/3 of their calibrations, equivalent to ~1200 miles. They expect to complete all calibrations within the next 6 months. NCRFC is just getting started with calibrations. SERFC has not yet begun re-calibrations.

6.2. WGRFC mentioned GeoRAS capabilities are now part of HEC-RAS, so RAS can visualize and process inundation maps; will CHPS also be able to display them? Edwin will get the information and cc Mike De Weese.

7. Next CAT-II conference call: Tuesday 25 August 2009.

Action Number/Item	Who	Notes
C2-03102009-01: Capture changes to BOC-II from this meeting; distribute updated version of BOC-II document	Rob Hartman	Closed (updated version emailed on 3/10/09 to cat_2 infolist)
C2-03102009-02: Distribute “matrix” from the OHD (“national”) Forcings Team, which describes CAT strategy/requirements for transition to CHPS in the absence of NWSRFS pre-processors	Harold Opitz	Closed (matrix emailed on 3/10/09 to cat_2 infolist)
C2-03102009-03: Each CAT-II RFC to prepare initial version of their entry for the Forcings “matrix”	CAT-II attendees	Closed (all responses received via email by 3/24/09)
C2-03102009-04: Get statement from Deltares whether FEWS has capability to identify sensitive/proprietary data that must be excluded from external reports (BOC requirement)	Harold Opitz	Closed (email sent by Chris on 3/24/09 to cat_2 infolist).
C2-03102009-05: Distribute notes from this meeting to the cat_2 infolist	Chris Dietz	Closed (emailed on 3/10/09 to cat_2 infolist)
C2-03172009-01: Distribute notes from this meeting to the cat_2 infolist	Chris Dietz	Closed (emailed on 3/20/09 to cat_2 infolist)
C2-03242009-01: distribute to all of the CAT-IIs instructions (also script?) originally developed by Joe Ostrowski for the purpose of identifying NWSRFS operations in active use	Chris Dietz	Closed (emailed on 3/25/09 to cat_2 infolist)
C2-03242009-02: review list of operations to make sure they’re accurate; please notify RobH if any critical operations are missing	All CAT-IIs	Closed (emails received)
C2-03242009-03: review list of operations in BOC-II doc to make sure it matches the original script output we gathered	Chris Dietz	Closed (emails received)
C2-03242009-04: update (correct, complete) the Software Migration Mapping document; distribute the updated version to the cat_2 infolist	Deltares/Edwin Welles	Open.

Action Number/Item	Who	Notes
C2-03242009-05: Compile and distribute to the CAT-II a matrix showing every RFC's response for AI # C2-03102009-03	OHD/TBD	Closed. Sent via email by Mark Glaudemans to cat_2 infolist on 3/27/2009
C2-03242009-06: Time series output from HL-RDHM must ingestible into CHPS; HSMB will define a format (e.g., SHEF) for said HL-RDHM output and change the HL-RDHM software accordingly	OHD/HSMB	Open. Geoff Bonnin is looking into this.
C2-03242009-07: For agenda April 7 meeting: report from NERFC on their investigation into a replacement HWG process.	Rob Shedd	Closed. Presented as part of the 4/9/09 monthly briefing.
C2-040720090-01: Find out status of Baseflow implementation in OHD (incl MODs)	Chris Dietz	Closed. Now irrelevant, since no RFC uses BASEFLOW.
C2-040720090-02: Check to see if cat_2 infolist is working correctly. NCRFC reports not receiving some mailings.	Chris Dietz	Closed per email from Mike DeWeese on 4/22/09.
C2-041420090-01: Send out an email on preparing for CHPS prototype hardware IP addresses	Randy Rieman	Open
C2-041420090-02: Send out documentation to cat_2 infolist on ER approach/procedures for RFC site backup	George McKillop	Closed by email to cat_2 infolist on 4/20/09.
C2-041420090-03: Send list of Techniques used to Chris (including esp)	CAT-II	Closed (OBE).
C2-041420090-04: Let Chris know if you use IHABBS and if so, which version	CAT-II	Closed 4/29/09
C2-04212009-01: Forward to the cat_2 list documentation on DailyQC's algorithm to fill in missing station data.	Mark Glaudemans	Closed 7/30/09 via email
C2-04212009-02: Come up with an alternative mechanism to define Techniques that are in operational use at all RFCs; solicit results from all RFCs	Deltares/Edwin, Joe Ostrowski	Closed. Report provided at meeting on 4/21/09

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C2-04282009-01: Draft a list of Techniques and distribute to CAT-II	Deltares/Edwin	Closed. List created 5/13/09
C2-04282009-02: Review and provide feedback on list of Techniques from AI # C2-04282009-01	CAT-II	Open. List sent to CAT but did not send yet to CAT-II
C2-04282009-03: Determine a single XML format for describing rating tables for ingest into CHPS; send examples using the agreed format to Deltares/Edwin	Harold, Mike DeWeese	Open.
C2-04282009-04: Distribute functional requirements document for USGS rating tables retrieval and processing.	Dave Reed	Closed. Forwarded to the cat_2 infolist on 4/28/09
C2-04282009-05: Come up with a proposal for ingesting NOHRSC SMWE data into CHPS to meet OHRFC's requirement	CAT	Open
C2-04282009-06: Add to the next CAT call agenda an item to discuss a national approach for alternative to IHABBS as a basin delineation and UHG development tool.	Chris	Open. Due date 4/30/09
C2-08112009-01: Determine if FEWS can display HEC-RAS/geoRAS generated inundation maps; send information to WGRFC and NCRFC (MikeD)	Deltares/Edwin	Open