

Minutes of Commonality Working Group #3 (RTA), Meeting #3
MPE Garching, 5-Nov-99
Ref: FIRST/FSC/MOM/0096

Attendees:

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Agenda

- The agenda distributed on the day before the meeting (JRR e-mail dd. 4-Nov-99; cf. Attachment 1) was agreed without changes.
- It was agreed that JRR would chair this meeting in the absence of Ana Heras.
- JRR/PE to jointly take the minutes. Draft to be distributed by JRR on the evening of the meeting, comments due by end-Monday, 8-Nov-99, final minutes (including additional distribution) by 9-Nov-99.

Test approach/installation

- The test approach taken was as explained in EW e-mail dd. 28-Oct-99. The original approach (Acceptance Test Plan) had been modified because it was felt that an existing package could not be "acceptance tested" but rather should be compared against User Requirements.

- SCOS 2000 was installed on a rented Ultra 60 (same set-up as at Terma). Rental agreement ends in December and further plans for this machine have not yet been made.
- The installation of SCOS 2000 requires particular operating system patches; an attempt to recompile in a slightly different environment failed (possibly a V0.2 problem). However, an experienced Sun administrator should be able to install SCOS 2000.
- Needs Orbix, Objectstore and a number of other licenses (cf. Action 051199/6 below).

Detailed findings

- The URD was updated in the process (numbering of requirements; cf. Attachment 2).
- During the tests a draft evaluation report (cf. Attachment 3) was produced which requires review:

Action 051199/2: All members of the RTA WG (CWG3) plus JD/ESOC to review EW's SCOS Evaluation Report and comment to EW by 22-Nov-99.

- SCOS 2000 has no MIB editor; no other editor has been evaluated.
- Onboard S/W management not supported in V0.2.
- The response time to user input needs improvement; several seconds can elapse between the push of a button and corresponding action being taken by SCOS 2000.
- Items identified in the Evaluation Report as "to be checked" will be checked by EW in preparation of the final report, if necessary with SH/Terma help.
- EW believes more freedom is needed in defining the layout of alphanumeric displays (e.g. length of parameter names, etc).
- Shutting down and restarting SCOS 2000 (including reloading the MIB) takes 30 min. If shutting down/restarting of SCOS 2000 were required to switch between different RTA modes, this would be unacceptable (currently it is foreseen to configure RTA in one of two modes: batch-type/unattended and interactive; a start-up time of half an hour is not acceptable for switching between these modes).

Action 051199/3: Each RTA representative and PE to send his "conclusions" to EW for the final chapter of the Evaluation Report by 22-Nov-99.

- JR had obtained the following information from ESOC
 - V1.0 will come out end of this year. It will contain fixes to SPRs, improvements to the man-machine interface (MMI), and support to OBSM.
 - V1.1 will come out end April next year. Apart from problem fixes it will support non-packetised TC and an I/F that allows to retrieve and process History Files directly under Excel, IDL, etc. (this is a replacement for SPEVAL).
 - From January onward (V1.0), the team will formally be separated into a maintenance and a development team.
 - In the past it had been heard that SCOS 2000 throughput was limited to TM rates of ~70 kbit/s but no details were given. ESOC said that the limiting factor on the achieving process was disk I/O (single archiving client accessing a single disk) and the actual bandwidth limit critically

- The delta-URD needs to be established by the end of the year and requires the final Evaluation Report to be available. PR/HIFI takes over custodianship for this document.

Action 051199/5: PR to confirm by 15-Nov-99 that HIFI can take over custodianship for the delta-URD.

- PR stated that ICC additions to SCOS 2000 should only use “public” SCOS I/Fs which would be maintained unchanged during further SCOS development, to prevent having to port add-ons from one version to the next. With the exception of PACS this was agreed by all as the approach to be taken; EW would like to have more freedom at a somewhat lower than the “public” I/F layer (e.g. for the definition of ANDs). It was agreed that in delta-URD discussions with ESOC/Terma we should investigate whether it is possible to make certain I/Fs “public”, which would allow us to maintain a clear distinction between the SCOS 2000 internals (which we would never touch) and ICC applications that are not affected by SCOS 2000 further development.
- Since the delta-URD would contain high-level requirements, it was agreed that each team would make provisions to support discussion and review of the delta-SRD with ESOC/Terma. Concerning the question what should be done if certain delta-URD requirements would not be accepted by ESOC, it was agreed that we would cross this bridge if we should come to it.
- Draft delta-URD to be available by 13-Dec-99, comments due within one week after publication, final release just before/after Xmas. Meeting with ESOC/Terma to discuss the delta-URD early next year.
- The question was raised whether the delta-URD should contain anything on commanding. PR stated that, following a visit to B. Melton’s EGSE-group at ESTEC, the feeling in HIFI is that SCOS 2000 is fine for commanding the instruments until this responsibility is taken over by the MOC. PE stated that 6 manmonths of support are available from B. Melton’s group next year.

Maintenance:

Action 051199/6: PE to provide a list of all licenses (incl. types: run-time/developer) needed and license costs associated with the use of SCOS 2000 by end November.

Action 051199/7: PE to obtain from ESOC a proposal for providing a hotline service, help with installation, and their policy for providing exceptional/urgent SCOS 2000 modifications/bug fixes during instrument tests; due end November.

Spill-over from SCOS 2000 into FINDAS

- It was not fully understood what was meant by this subbullet in the agenda, which had been triggered by a remark made by OHB at the Vilspa recess which had not been further discussed during that meeting.
- The storage mechanism/DB provided under SCOS 2000 should be seen as nothing but a cache which could be refreshed from FINDAS at any time.

- A WG with similar participation might be set-up next year to address instrument commanding under SCOS 2000 and to support the delta-SRD discussions and review.

Attachment 1: Meeting agenda

Attachment 2: Updated RTA URD

Attachment 3: Draft SCOS 2000 Evaluation Report