OPEN NAVIGATION SURFACE WORKING GROUP

TELECONFERENCE SUMMARY

2006-02-14
Hosted by SAIC Teleconferences

DRAFT VERSION
2006-02-14

1   Introduction

This document details the result of the teleconference held at 1000EST on 2006-02-14 to follow up action items subsequent to the Candidate Release (CR) of the Open Navigation Surface (ONS) Project (the CR was posted 2006-02-08), and plan for new developments during the intermediate period between CR and Full Release (FR). The meeting was kindly hosted by Shannon Byrne using the Science Applications International Corporation's teleconference facility. The summary of all meetings and teleconferences of the Open Navigation Surface Working Group (ONSWG) can be obtained from the project's web-site, http://www.opennavsurf.org. For a list of participants, see section 0.

   In the following, names people with action items are shown in **BOLD SMALL CAPS**; expected deadline release dates are shown in red. Sizes of variables are indicated by 'U' for unsigned, 'S' for signed, 'F' for floating-point, and a size in bits (e.g., U8 is an eight bit unsigned integer, F64 is a 64-bit (double precision) floating-point number). Data sizes are given in bytes (B) with the usual convention that the SI multipliers are taken to mean multiples of 2^{10}B (i.e., 1kB = 2^{10}B = 1024B). The acronym 'CR' means 'Candidate Release' (i.e., a release of the library for comments) and 'FR' means 'Full Release' (i.e., release V1.0 of the library).

2   Summary of Discussion

2.1   Candidate Release Issues

2.1.1   Conversion of CVS Repository to SubVersion

The new SubVersion repository system has now been installed at CCOM and is ready for conversion of the CVS repository. The group discussed the benefits of retaining the revision history of the current source base on conversion, but agreed that since the source is currently pre-release there is not much cause to do so given that it will cause significant complexity in the conversion.

   Since there is some further work to be done in the CR source (q.v.), it was agreed that we should declare a moratorium on CVS commits as of 1800EST on 2006-02-16 to allow the conversion to take place 2006-02-17. This process will be book-ended by e-mail to the development list (Action: **CALDER**); Paton to test conversion mechanism and provide guidelines (Action: **PATON**).

2.1.2   Release mechanics

The release mechanics for the CR appear to be adequate. The download system allows for some basic information to be gathered about the downloader, and then automatically starts to download the appropriate package. The only remaining issue is to ensure that the disclaimer on the download page is acceptable to everyone (not all members received the e-mail describing this). (Action: **ALL**)

2.1.3   Build System

There is a residual issue with the build system for Linux installations, where the makefiles require some components from the qmake system which are not always available everywhere. This can be resolved with some extra files, and will be resolved today (2006-02-14) (Action: **PATON**). This will necessitate a new version of the CR, since it makes the build possible, but this should wait until the build is tested separately. Fabre to test the build, and then advise Calder when it is ready for re-packaging. (Action: **FABRE**). Calder to repackage and rebuild website (Action: **CALDER**).

2.1.4   Example Program Development

The group discussed the example programs available in the distribution, and it was felt that it would be beneficial to update them to increase the exposure of the library in them. In particular, the code to read and write BAG files was discussed, and should be improved to develop such elements as the tracking list and metadata. (Action: **PATON**).

2.2 Documentation

2.2.1 Code API Documentation

The group discussed the problem of API documentation, and the level at which this should be done for the FR. It was agreed that some API documentation was required, but that maintaining a separate document would not be helpful due to the 'double book-keeping' that this would require. A use of the `bag.h` file as a source was suggested, but some extra information would probably be required. As an alternative, Doxygen was proposed (Paton) and discussed. This allows the source code to have tags inserted which doxygen can then extract and re -format into a number of different forms including HTML, PDF and LaTeX. This would allow the appropriate level of documentation, but might possibly mean as much effort ab initio as writing another document. The long-term cost is probably smaller, however, and it was agreed that this method should be investigated further (Action: **MOGGERT**).

An alternative of `enscript` (Fabre) was suggested, but this was agreed to be probably more of a pretty-printer, rather than a documentation system, and would not satisfy the requirements for API description. Another suggestion (McDonald) was that a collection of call sequences presented in a document would be useful, but this was agreed to be unnecessary if the example programs are suitably developed.

2.2.2 BAG File Specification Document

The BAG File Specification Document was built during the first ONSWG meeting in 2004, but has not been updated since then. The group discussed the requirements for having a formal specification of the contents of the BAG and agreed that this was still necessary, and therefore that the FSD should be updated. However, since it is a significant time since the FSD was last dusted off, the participants were not ready to discuss the matter, and agreed that it would be a more appropriate use of time to have the FSD read over the course of the following week, and then follow up in discussion starting 2006-02-20. A discussion document will be required (Action: **CALDER**).

2.3 Other business

A question was brought forward (Byrne) that it might be useful to encourage a little more outreach for the project during the comments period so that as many wrinkles as possible can be shaken out. The group agreed that this might be done by careful e-mails to the participants of the list who are not actively involved in development (Action: **CALDER**), and by an e-mail to the general distribution list (Action: **CALDER**). One participant group that is not represented is the US Army Corps of Engineers, who are sometimes difficult to pin down because of the distributed structure of their organization. However, the group has some contacts, and agreed that they would attempt to find a suitable contact (Action: **PATON**, **FABRE**).

3 Summary of Action Items and Dates

The following actions and dates were agreed:

Person	Actions(s)	Section	Date
All	Review FSD for revision and update	2.2.2	2006-02-20
Calder	Coordinate conversion of CVS to SubVersion repositories	2.1.1	2006-02-17
	Rebuild CR after Linux makefile upgrade and re-distribute	2.1.3	2006-02-16
	Provide discussion document for FSD update	2.2.2	2006-02-20
	E-Mail non-development participants to encourage CR test	2.3	2006-02-17
	E-Mail general list with CR download availability	2.3	2006-02-17
Fabre	Test Linux makefiles in CR and confirm build when done	2.1.3	2006-02-16
	Contact USACOE; identify participants	2.3	ASAP
Moggert	Investigate and report on use of doxygen for API documentation	2.2.1	ASAP
Paton	Test conversion of CVS to SubVersion and provide guidelines	2.1.1	2006-02-17
	Update makefiles in CR to allow build-out from source in Linux	2.1.3	2006-02-14
	Upgrade read/write examples with more of API	2.1.4	FR
	Contact USACOE; identify participants	2.3	ASAP

The release dates agreed previously are:
- Comments: 2006-03-03
- Full: 2006-03-31

4   Participants

Lee Alexander (CCOM/JHC)
Shannon Byrne (SAIC Newport)
Brian Calder (CCOM/JHC)
Dave Fabre (NAVOCEANO)
Wade Ladner (NAVOCEANO)
Webb McDonald (SAIC Newport)
Friedhelm Moggert (7Cs)
Steve Nosalik (NAVOCEANO)
Mark Paton (IVS Ltd)
Steve Sramek (NAVOCEANO)