

Minutes of COSMO TAG Meeting, 15 May 2013 (09:30 – 12:30 CET), videoconference

Participants: COSMO Software Administrators (Uli Schättler (US), Jean-Marie Bettems (JMB), Adriano Raspanti (AR)), TAG Coordinator (Massimo Milelli (MM)).

Chair: Massimo Milelli (MM)

Minutes: Massimo Milelli (MM)

Opening

The order of discussion has been changed since AR is missing in the first part of the meeting due to technical problems on his side. Therefore MM proposed to start from point 2 of the agenda and to move point 1 at the end as the last task.

2a

JMB prefers to have a single point entry for editing the WG task pages and the Model Development pages (more precisely he would appreciate having access to all the items associated with a task such as notes/description, status, technical, testing and documentation from the WG page), also because of technical problems with Internet Explorer which is the default browser at MeteoSwiss. US and MM are satisfied with the current system, which has been already modified and improved by Theodore Andreadis. It has been decided anyhow to investigate the feasibility of a convergence of the web pages in order to facilitate the documentation insertion.

ACTION: MM will ask TA if this is feasible (presumably yes) and, most important, how much work is required; in case this requires too much efforts, the actual system will be kept and maintained.

2b

MM proposes to have regular updates of the web pages, at least once a year, before the GM. JMB extends the concept and proposes a couple of updates every year (before GM and before CUS). US suggests to make the operational pages editable in order to facilitate the update. The TAG agrees.

ACTION: firstly MM will ask TA to make the operational pages editable, secondly a request will be made to the whole community to update everything before next GM (June/July).

3a

It is a common feeling that too many tasks are delegated to TAG, while only common aspects have to be discussed (something which is really spanning throughout the different software and it is of general interest). US brings the example of Messy interface: this is an aspect related to COSMO software only, therefore it should be part of the COSMO SCA work. The GRIB1/GRIB2 handling, the common libraries, are examples of interdisciplinary and transversal aspects that TAG has to tackle, while other aspects have to be coordinated at WG (or SCA) level.

MM asks to have regular TAG meetings, every two months or if needed every month. JMB thinks that meetings before the CUS, the GM and the SMC are sufficient. JMB remarks also that there are already too many meetings/videoconferences and that it would be better to have more interaction through email exchange. US and MM agree.

DECISION: a TAG videoconference will be organized in a period of time between two and four weeks before GM, CUS and SMC meetings.

6a

Since the Messy interface problem has been introduced, MM decides to jump to point 6a in order to fix it. As said in point 3a, the TAG thinks this is an item for COSMO SCA. US explains that there is already a more recent version of the interface with less "ifdefs" and a further unification of the COSMO-Tracer structure and the MESSy-Tracer structure will be investigated and implemented during June/July. These changes to the COSMO software will be only technical, therefore they will be implemented in v5.0. JMB confirms that the Messy issue is not only the number of "ifdefs" but also the duplication of the tracer interface; this should be unified asap.

ACTION: the COSMO SCA will supervise the tests of the Messy interface for its inclusion in v5.0.

4a

The TAG is happy to welcome Daniel Lüthi as the new EXTPAR manager. It is the common opinion that he has to be fully part of TAG, with all duties and rights. JMB remarks that this does not mean necessarily to make the TAG heavier and more difficult to be organized.

4b

US explained that since COSMO v5.0 and INT2LM v2.0 there will be a split of duties, with US responsible for COSMO and Uli Blahak responsible for INT2LM. Therefore Uli Blahak will be the 6th TAG member.

DECISION: all future software administrators will be part of TAG.

5a

MM proposes to have a TAG videoconference around the middle of July. JMB, AR and US agree. MM asks US to represent him during next SMC in Geneva. US will not be there either but he will attend the morning of the second day in videoconference, so that he will be able to bring the issues regarding WG6 (Science Plan proposal, GRIB2 progresses and status of web pages).

ACTION: a doodle will be prepared by MM for the definition of the precise day.

1a

US informed that the DWD plan is confirmed and the full GRIB2 support should be guaranteed in fall 2013.

1b

AR confirms that Versus is built with grib_api, so the support to GRIB2 is guaranteed, although some changes to the database structure are needed. He then asks if it is possible to write different COSMO model variables in different formats (as it is now the case at ECMWF for instance) and US confirmed. AR points out that the requested changes in the database will require extra resources that are not available at the moment. Therefore he asks US for the DWD plans with Versus, but US says he should ask Detlev Majewski. Since AR will meet DM at the end of the month, he will keep the TAG informed about these details. As a side note, JMB informs that he received a request from Roshydromet for extending the GRIB1 support in Fieldextra for EPS, since they do not intend to move their programs and procedures to GRIB2 in the near future. This illustrates the need to keep the support of both standards.

1c

US said that he is working with grib_api v1.10.4 which is a non-official release of ECMWF (the latest official release is v1.10.). JMB says that Fieldextra uses grib_api v1.10, the latest official release.

1d

US is working hard on the task and he is also implementing a web page with the documentation of grib_api, GRIB2 support, local use section and so on. This web page will be released as soon as possible (before GM).

1e

JMB points out that the coordination of the GRIB2 usage represents the highest priority in the transition process because it really involves all the different software currently in use in the Consortium. In detail:

- the coding of model name and experiment name should be finalized
- a mechanism should be defined to select new short names and to adapt the grib_api localConcepts and to keep localConcepts consistent among COSMO members and with

Fieldextra dictionary

- all local usages should be coordinated and documented.

He asks whether there will be the possibility to have local variables according to the needs of the Centres; US explains that this is possible and this process will be monitored through the dedicated web page. JMB proposes to have a small group of people responsible for all these GRIB2 coordination aspects, and mentions Herman Asensio (HA), being the contact point for DWD.

ACTIONS: the implementation of grib_api into COSMO is going on and is in good shape; a GRIB2-dedicated web page will be soon released; HA (with US) and JMB will coordinate the variable definition and the local use; AR and DM should agree on the use of Versus at DWD concerning GRIB2 support.