

SPECSINTACT Interagency Configuration,
Control and Coordinating (SI-CCCB) Meeting

July 22-23, 2004
Washington, D.C,

Attendees:

Miguel A. Morales, NASA
Bill Brodt, NASA (Washington)
Carl Kersten, NAVFAC (Norfolk)
Steven P. Freitas, USACE (Sacramento)
Jim Quinn, USACE (Huntsville)
Bill East, USACE (Chicago)
Jeff Kirby, USACE (Chicago)
Pete Rossbach, USACE (Washington)
Umesh Bhangava, Bhargava International
Pat Robinson, InDyne
Jim Whitehead, InDyne

Introduction -Miguel Morales, NASA

- Welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- Introduced Pete Rossbach, who has been assigned some of Rick Dahnke's tasks since Rick retired from the Corps of Engineers.

Status of Total Unified–Targeted Completion – Carl Kersten, NAVFAC

- Current Unified Facilities Guide Specification (UFGS) Database.- 737 Specifications
 - Unified.-174 (Representing 45% of final database)
 - ARMY Preparing Activity - 99
 - NAVY Preparing Activity - 75
- Remaining Specifications
 - “N” Specifications - 274
 - “A” Specifications - 290
- Bill Brodt suggested that possibly the Army and Navy might want to investigate having Space Gateway Support (SGS) help with the effort of unifying the Army and Navy specifications.
- Bill Brodt commended SGS on their process of conducting the gap analysis for NASA. He stated they were functioning like a “well-oiled machine.”
- Carl Kersten asked if NASA want to be included in the review process of unifying the Army and Navy Specifications.

Action: Miguel Morales will task Frank Der to provide a point of contact list of NASA personnel for inclusion in the review process of unifying the Army and Navy Specifications.

Update of Steering Group Meeting – Jim Quinn, Army

- Purpose of Corps Specifications Steering Committee (CSSC):
 - Provide policy recommendations for improving Corps of Engineers guide specifications and project specifications.
 - Analyze feedback from the Specification Users.
 - Identify and recommend new guide specifications as required.
- Two meetings are held a year.
- The June 2004 meeting included the following actions:
- Revise the governing regulation to restructure the committee (8 Division Representatives, 4 District representatives, 1 HQUSACE representative, and 1 UFGS representative retained, but one of the District Representatives would be a SpecsIntact Representative who would serve by appointment and not be subject to rotating off the committee as other District Representatives are required to do.
 - Steve Freitas was elected as the SpecsIntact Representative.
 - Freddie Rush re-elected as Chairman.
 - Doug Larson, Omaha District, was elected a District Representative
 - Decided that Corps Specifications Course did not need to be certified for Professional Development Hours (PDH), since State registration boards are satisfied with proof of attendance at such courses.
- Within the USACE Engineering and Construction Community of Practice (CoP), Specifications are now established as a sub-community of practice. CoPs are discipline groups that function as virtual teams to develop and provide policies and guidance and perform other functions common to the discipline.

SI Accomplishments/Tech Support Report – Patricia Robinson, InDyne

- SI4 Software Releases
 - Web release March 2004.
 - Web/CCB disc #63 release April 2004.
- User Tools
 - Web release of new QuickStart Guide released February 2004.
 - First Action Learning Tool under development.

- Web Site
 - 20,000+ Hits this year.
- Software Update
 - Software XML Compliant
- Priorities from last meeting were reviewed.
 1. Finish XML (completed)
 2. Develop Proposal for Counting SpecsIntact Users (completed, and will be in the September, 2004 software release)
 3. Alternate Paragraph Numbering
 4. Tables in Editor
 5. Stand Alone Submittal Register
 6. Stand Alone Editor

Technical Support Report – Patricia Robinson, InDyne

- Provided status of customer support calls for October 2003 to June 2004.
- Showed geographical areas from which support calls are received worldwide, including areas well-removed from U.S. territory.
- Provided status of UFGS reports for Construction Criteria Base (CCB) 62 and CCB 63.
- Described an issue with the UFGS database regarding the section date not being updated when the references were updated.
- Quoted numerous customers praising the technical support staff.

ACTION: A new entry will be added to the banner of each UFGS Section. Under the heading “UNIFIED FACILITIES GUIDE SPECIFICATIONS,” a new line will be added stating the date when the References were automatically updating using the UMRL”.

SI XML Master Specifications – Jim Whitehead, InDyne

- Stated that the currently released SpecsIntact software (4.1.0.615) is ready for use with SI XML format specifications.
- Stated that the next version of the SpecsIntact software will support conversion of entire Jobs and Masters from the older SI SGML format to the new SI XML format, and vice versa.
- Discussed the timing of the release of SI XML format Masters. Agreed that SI XML format Masters should not be released until all NAVFAC users have the latest version of the SpecsIntact software (4.1.0.615 or later).
- Agreed that Navy Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) delays the acquisition of new software for NAVFAC users, and that NAVFAC users would benefit from a solution that provides them with timely access to SpecsIntact and numerous other NAVFAC applications.

ACTION: The SpecsIntact team will assist in investigating whether the Citrix server product will support the SpecsIntact software for use by NAVFAC personnel.

ACTION: Steve Freitas will request to have SpecsIntact loaded on their Citrix Server to test and report the results to the SpecsIntact Team.

ACTION: If SpecsIntact cannot be adequately hosted on a Citrix server, the SpecsIntact team will investigate whether SpecsIntact can be modified to run directly from a CD, in order to eliminate the need for a desktop software installation. This CD would be targeted specifically for the standard NAVFAC Windows 2000 desktop, and would not be required to run on all Windows platforms.

Alternate Paragraph Numbering – Jim Whitehead, InDyne

- Described two separate but related alternate paragraph numbering goals:
 - Provide alternative paragraph numbering styles to promote wider and more flexible SpecsIntact use and encourage new uses for SpecsIntact/UFGS.
 - Renumber itemized paragraphs to facilitate specification editing.
- Made the following observations:
 - Stated that alternative paragraph numbering using new paragraph tags would require extensive effort, and would allow:
 - ❖ Potentially multiple paragraph numbering formats.
 - ❖ Automatic renumbering on the fly while editing.
 - ❖ Successively indented margins.
 - ❖ Conversion from existing PRT/SPT paragraphs.
 - ❖ Use of both old and new tags simultaneously, but not within a single Job or Master.
- Implementing new renumberable itemized paragraphs using new numbered item tags would require a modest effort and would support:
 - Automatic renumbering on the fly.
 - Old and new tags in the same Job/Master and in the same Section simultaneously.
 - Semi-automatic conversion from ITM/LST tags, although this would not be necessary or recommended.
- For both goals, using new tags would be easier and more flexible than existing paragraph/item tags.
- A major development and specification conversion effort would be required to replace existing PRT/SPT tags with new numbered paragraph tags
- Recommended further analysis to determine requirements and benefits for alternate paragraph numbering formats.

Action: SpecsIntact will query users via its web site to determine whether they want to see SpecsIntact support alternate paragraph numbering formats before it provides better table handling.

Discussion of Web-Enabled Version of SI – Jim Whitehead, InDyne

- Provided possible justifications for web-enabling SpecsIntact
- Discussed several possible capabilities for a web-enabled version of SpecsIntact, including:
 - Viewing Sections in Masters/Jobs.
 - Extended PDF publishing capabilities.
 - Viewing and managing SpecsIntact projects via the internet.
 - Editing/processing projects via the internet.
- Stated that security will be an important consideration in any web version of SpecsIntact.
- Stated that displaying SpecsIntact Sections in a browser will become much easier once they are released in XML format.
- Recommended further analysis to determine requirements for a web-based version of SpecsIntact.

Review Change Requests - Pat Robinson, InDyne

- A total of 14 change request were reviewed. Below is a summary of the results of the change requests reviewed:
 - Accepted - 8
 - Rejected - 4
 - Deferred – 2

Discussion – Conversion to Masterformat 2004 – Round Table

- Discussed waiting until all agencies join Unified Facilities Guide Specifications (UFGS) – National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) and Veterans Administration (VA).
- The major impact of converting the databases will be Divisions 15 and 16.
- Tentative schedule to have the software updated with the new format by April, 2005.
- Tentative schedule to have the databases converted to the new format by the last quarter of 2005.
- Mr. Quinn estimated that it would be a month effort to convert the Army Specifications.
- It was stated that MASTERSPEC® and Building Systems Design (BSD) were going to support only six-digit Section numbers, with no support for a period and two additional digits for local Masters.
- Proposed limiting SpecsIntact software support for MasterFormat 2004 to six characters (numeric/alpha).

ACTION: Carl Kersten will verify with Ted Smith, ARCOM, who is the publisher of MASTERSPEC® as to whether MASTERSPEC® will use the 2 digits after the decimal.

Design Build – Steve Freitas, USACE

- Stated he has been receiving numerous calls from contractors doing Design Build using SpecsIntact.
- Stated we need to modify the software to assist the contractors.
- Where a "G" submittal tag follows a submittal item, it indicates Government approval for that item. The contractors and Resident Engineers want to have an "A" as an alternate submittal tag.
- Propose allowing a "G" or an "A" submittal tag. Steve will contact Haskell Barker to determine the requirements for Resident Management System (RMS).

ACTION: Steve will coordinate changing the approval submittal tag to G or A with Haskell Barker and then submit a change request to change the software.

Whole Building Design Guide (WBDG) Product Data– Earl Kennett

- Presented an update on the WBDG "ProductGuide" tool.
 - The ProductGuide would enable WBDG users to link directly to manufacturers' sites that contain information about the company, its products that comply with federal standards and criteria (starting with UFGS), and contact information.
 - Projected to sell the Product Data in October 2004 for \$700 per product line.
 - It was presented to McGraw-Hill to be part of the Sweets product.
 - Bill Brodt recommended that Frank Der disseminate the WBDG site link to the SpecsIntact Managers for distribution to their Architectural and Engineering Firms.
 - Bill Brodt recommended that Earl Kennett present the WBDG at the NASA Facilities Conference along with SpecsIntact.

ACTION: Bill Brodt will request that Frank Der send an email to the SpecsIntact Managers with the WBDG site link to distribute to their architectural and engineering firms.

ACTION: Bill Brodt arrange for the WBDG and SpecsIntact to be exhibitors at the NASA Facilities Conference.

ProjNet/Criteria Management System – Bill East

- ProjNet is a suite of tools supporting Government standardization efforts.
- The applications are:

- Criteria Management System (CMS)
- Criteria Change Request (CCR)
- Standards and Criteria Program (SCP)
- Design Review and Checking System (DrChecks)
- Design Quality Lessons Learned repository (DQLL)
- The primary applications are DrChecks and the Design Quality Lessons Learned repository (DQLL).

Priority of Work – Round Table

1. Complete SpecsIntact version to run directly from CD
2. Survey user community (add question to download form, and send out an email to registered users) to find out which SpecsIntact modification should be a higher priority: 1) support for alternate paragraph numbering; or 2) improved table.
3. Analyze requirements for and implement new CSI MasterFormat 2004
4. Analyze requirements for alternate paragraph numbering (pending results of survey)
5. Implement improved table editing in SpecsIntact
6. Complete Submittal Tracker (stand-alone).
7. Complete stand-alone version of SI Editor

Wrap-Up

The next meeting will be held at Kennedy Space Center January 25-26, 2005.