

Summary of the ESMF Change Review Board Meeting on October 25, 2010.

Attendance:

Robert Ferraro/JPL, Cecelia DeLuca/NOAA/CIRES, Alan Wallcraft/NRL SSC, Tom Black/NOAA, Tim Campbell/NRL SSC/NUOPC, Marianna Verstenstein/NCAR, Chris Hill/MIT

Agenda

The CRB covered the following topics during its meeting:

Review development status
Update development schedule

A synopsis of the discussion and decisions from the meeting is presented below. It is organized by agenda item. These notes attempt to capture the high points of the discussions, and any decisions that resulted.

Development Status Review (Cecelia DeLuca)

DeLuca reported on the status of the V5.1.0 release:

Compliance tester	done
C reference manual	done
Initial data IO implementation	done
Initial implementation of exchange grids	releasable in beta but multi-processor is buggy
Implement local conservation to improve conservative regridding	done
(future item) Updated on- line tutorial and demo	releasable but could use improvement
Communication support for data objects that contain both arbitrarily distributed and non-arbitrarily distributed dimensions	not completed
Communication support for Fields with replicated dimensions	not completed
Final sweep of bugs and feature requests for API freeze	not done
API standardization (Initial)	not really done
Make the treatment of characters consistent	not done
Implement grid connections in regridding methods	not done
Support for tripole grid shortcuts	not done
Implement multi-tile grid representation	not done

There was a discussion about whether an additional beta release should be added to the schedule, given that some of the incomplete items in V5.1.0 will require API changes. The consensus was that the public release should always be backed up by a beta release that contains all of the functionality of the public release. An additional beta release is desired so that the items currently finished can be release now, and there will still be a beta release of the incomplete items which affect the ESMF API. The next public release should be the release where the project commits to backwards compatibility in the API.

The CRB chair asked if the project was prepared to recommend new development tasks for future beta releases past the next public release. DeLuca reported that there are many items on the feature request list that the CRB could consider for future development, but the Core Team has not analyzed them for resources (workforce) required to implement each of them. There are 3 at the top of the Project's list at the moment:

- Multi-executable capability within the ESMF framework

- A component reconcile function

- The ability to express data object with attributes

- Changes to the time keeping function to reconcile clocks

CRB members decided to defer defining the next beta release past the public release until the core team was ready to recommend priorities. The core team was tasked with reviewing the feature request list, and presenting recommendations at the next CRB meeting, which will be scheduled before the Fall AGU meeting this December. The intent is to be able to announce the next development schedule by the ESMF town hall meeting which will take place at AGU.

Adjustments to the Current Schedule

The v5.1.0 release was changed to incorporate only those items noted as completed in the table above. The remaining items are broken out into a new beta release V5.1.1 scheduled for December. The Public Release V5.1.1r is moved out to March.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled to take place just before the AGU Fall Meeting in December. The CRB Chair will coordinate the meeting time with members' schedules.