

Summary of the ESMF Change Review Board Meeting on March 21, 2013.

Attendance:

Robert Ferraro/JPL, Cecelia DeLuca/NOAA/CIRES, Tom Black/NOAA, Scott Sandgathe/NUOPC, Tim Campbell/NRL SSC/NUOPC, Atanas Trayanov/NASA GSFC, Marianna Vertenstein/NCAR, Gerhard Theurich/ESMF Core Team, Bob Oehmke/ESMF Core Team

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)

The V6.1.0 release was announced on Nov 30, 2012. Certain attribute related tasks were not completed in time for the release, and have been deferred to a later release.

The ESMF project funding has started to change such that applications support is a growing fraction of the funding base. This will result in a reduction of the Core Team workforce available for development as workforce is re-directed to support the new applications sponsors. The recent workforce focus has been on grids and the NUOPC layer. ESMF V6.2.0 is going to define the 1st NUOPC reference implementation.

The python interface to ESMF grid remapping (ESMP) continues to grow in popularity and usage. The package is now appearing in data applications outside of the modeling community.

PIO is the basis of the current ESMF parallel I/O package, but lags behind the current PIO release. The incorporation of new releases of PIO into ESMF is labor intensive. The Core Team has developed scripts to partially automate the process, but upgrading to new releases will (for the foreseeable future) still require labor to handle naming conflicts and interface compatibility issues.

Current Schedule Review

V6.2.0 will correspond to the 1st NUOPC reference implementation. One of the tasks on the development list corresponded to an application implementation using the NUOPC layer, for the purposes of testing prior to the release. After discussion, the CRB determined that application implementation was outside of the scope of activities that the CRB would review. Instead, the appropriate task for the development schedule was restated in terms of NUOPC capabilities that need to be completed in order to designate V6.2.0 as the NUOPC reference implementation. Release of V6.2.0 will be contingent on the completion of the NUOPC requirements.

Release of the 1st NUOPC reference implementation is a high priority, so the CRB reviewed the status of tasks currently scheduled for V6.2.0. The current target date for

release is late April. The Core Team reported on the status of each task within V6.2.0. Most are on schedule – however, 3 tasks deemed to be lower priority (demo/tutorial, regrid weight diagnostics, and fields sharing for NUOPC) were deferred to V6.3.0 to preserve the April delivery target.

There were a large number of grid related tasks on the development list that have yet to be designated for an upcoming release. The grid lead developer (Oehmke) is in the critical path for most of these tasks, thus limiting the rate at which they can be completed. NASA indicated that several were on its wish list, and was asked to prioritize among those it deemed of highest value. Three grid related tasks were identified for inclusion in V6.3.0, with a tentative release in August. Two additional grid tasks were added to an incomplete definition of V6.4.0 to indicate the next highest priorities.

Some discussion took place regarding the schedule for the next Public Release, but no specific recommendation was made by the Board. The release target for V6.2.0 was set for April. The target for V6.3.0 was set for August. The updated development schedule will be posted shortly on the ESMF website.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled to take place following the release of V6.2.0. In addition to the development progress review, the Core Team will provide an informational report on the applications work that is now being funded.