

SPECSINTACT Interagency Configuration, Control and Coordinating Board Meeting

May 2-3, 2001
Washington, D.C.

Attendees:

Tom Adams, InDyne
Rick Dahnke, USACE
Steven P. Freitas, USACE (Sacramento)
Ed Gallaher, NAVFAC (LANTDIV)
Thomas Hinshaw, NASA
Carl Kersten, NAVFAC
Joe Looney, NAVFAC (SouthDiv)
Miguel A. Morales, NASA
Pat Robinson, InDyne
Jim Quinn, USACE

INTRODUCTION – Miguel Morales

- Welcomed attendees.
- Discussed the workload for the SpecsIntact Team mainly focused on assisting the Army and Navy to support the new Unified Facility Guide Specification (UFGS) database released in April.

UPDATE OF UNIFIED FACILITY GUIDE SPECS (UFGS) – Carl Kersten/Jim Quinn

- UFGS system was implemented in March 2001.
- Long range plans for reducing duplication of specifications in the UFGS database is projected to take five years. This effort is scheduled to start in 2002.
 - Each specification identifies in the banner the preparing activity responsible for the specification.
 - The specifications will be distributed by the preparing activity for review.
- National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) server is hosting the UFGS web page.
 - Cumbersome to access the UFGS home page because initial entry accesses Construction Criteria Base (CCB) home page and the button to access UFGS home page is at the bottom of the page instead of the top.

- Responsible for creating PDF files from the UFGS database to post on the UFGS home page.

ACTION: Carl Kersten and Rick Dahnke will revise the procedure (Distribution Process used for Technical Component to conduct UFGS Review) and add Tom Hinshaw as the technical contact representing NASA to participate in the review of the UFGS documents.

ACTION: Tom Hinshaw will distribute the specifications to the NASA Coordinating Team members to provide comments on the UFGS documents.

ACTION: Pat Robinson will setup a teleconference in July with Rick Dahnke, Miguel Morales, Jim Quinn, Tom Hinshaw and Carl Kersten to discuss any impacts the user community is experiencing using UFGS. NASA is considering the possibility of incorporating the NASA specifications into the UFGS Master.

SI ACCOMPLISHMENTS – Patricia Robinson

- Reported six versions of the software were released since the last meeting.
- Reviewed customer comments stating their impression of the new interface and features.
- Described the new features incorporated in the software releases for the past six months.
- Described the various aids developed to assist new users and existing users.
- Reported web site statistics regarding hits to the home page and software downloads
- Reported statistics of user calls by agency and associated firms.

MARKETING – Joe Looney

- Discussed if there were future plans to market SpecsIntact to the commercial industry outside of Department of Defense (DOD).
- It was noted that we are not permitted to market SPECSINTACT to compete with the commercial industry

REVIEW CHANGE REQUESTS – Tom Adams/Patricia Robinson

- Presented for Board's consideration twenty-nine new Change Requests
- The status of the changes requests presented:
 - Accepted 16
 - Rejected 6
 - Deferred 3

- Requirement Analysis 2
- Withdrawn 2

- Change requests must be submitted two weeks prior to the SI-CCCB meeting for review.
- Change Request Evaluations (PDF)

REVIEW SUBMITTAL DISKETTE PROGRAM – Tom Adams

- Questionnaires were posted on the SpecsIntact web site and emailed to select individuals.
- A prototype was demonstrated to the board

ACTION: Proceed with the new submittal program. The original requirement for the register to be stored on one diskette is no longer a requirement.

REFERENCE PROCESSING – Jim Quinn

- Reviewed the value of adding the option to SpecsIntact to access Single Master Reference List (SMRL) along with each individual master reference list.
 - Will require three phases of updating specifications
 - Update organization titles to comply with the SMRL
 - Identify organizations and references not listed in the SMRL
 - Update reference identifiers to comply with SMRL
- Changed the name of the SMRL to Unified Master Reference List (UMRL)

TECHNICAL DISCUSSION FEEDBACK/RECOMMENDATIONS – Round Table

- Steve Freitas discussed having the software eliminate the alpha character (A and N) from the file name when a UFGS specification is added to a job.
- Discussed the section reference report produced by SpecsIntact to identify sections referenced within a specification.
- Discussed continued programming support for WordSpec.

ACTION: The burden should be on the Master Text preparer and not the software. Army will change the text in the specification to reference the section designated by a letter.

ACTION: When the 32-bit Editor is XML compliant there should no longer be a requirement to support WordSpec. Microsoft Word supports HTML and should support XML documents. The only projected changes to WordSpec will be to correct problems with Microsoft platforms for NT, Windows95, and Windows98.

CONSTRUCTION CRITERIA BASE (CCB) REVIEW – Earl Kennet

- Discussed Whole Building Design Guide (WBDG) and how it is an Internet resource to a wide range of building-related design guidance, criteria and technology. The URL to access the web page is <http://wbdg.org/>
- WBDG is a powerful interface for the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) Construction Criteria Base (CCB)
- Two new subcommittees are in the process of being formed. The new subcommittees are: Building Systems and Products for Durability (chaired by Corp of Engineers) and Building Systems and Products for Cost Effective (chaired by NIBS).
- Requested NAVFAC, Corp of Engineers, and NASA select a representative to participate on the subcommittees.
- CCB is still a separate system and distribution will remain web based and CD-ROM

DISCUSS MASTER TEXT PARAGRAPH NUMBERING – Tom Hinshaw/Tom Adams

- Tom Hinshaw stressed the requirement for SpecsIntact to have the capability of changing the specification to appear more like the industry format.
- Tom Adams presented the areas that would be impacted to implement this change and provided an estimate of the programming effort.

ACTION: Consensus was agreed on that because of the hours required to change the format to A, 1, etc. is a very low priority. In the long-term, plan to migrate to the new format used by industry. This request will be deferred until after the 32-bit editor is rewritten and other high priority items are implemented.

PRIORITIZE FUTURE DIRECTION – Miguel Morales

- The following items were prioritized by the board:
 1. Editor rewrite (32-bit, Visual C++) –10-16 months
 2. Enable Printing from new stand alone submittal register and integrate into front end – 1-3 Months
 3. Extend PDF printing capabilities to include automatic hyperlinks in tables of contents– 2-3 Months
Analyze requirements for using masters directly from the web –1 month

WRAP-UP - Miguel Morales

- The next meeting is scheduled for November 14-15 in Charleston, South Carolina.