

ASCE TCCP Database Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 6, 1995, 6:00pm
Hilton Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia

Attendees: (24)

Osama Abudayyeh	North Dakota State University
Claude Bedard	Concordia University
Naim L. Bentahar	University of Maryland
Chema de la Garza	Virginia Tech.
Thomas Froese	University of British Columbia
Cris Garcia	UFF-Brazil
Jim Garrett	Carnegie Mellon University
Francois Grobler	USA-CERL
Charlie Hodge	Boyle Engineering
Craig Howard	Design Power
Yan Jin	Stanford University
Karthik Krishnamurthy	Stanford University
Bob Logcher	M.I.T.
Glenn S. Orenstein	Stone & Webster
Guru N. Rao	University of Illinois
William Rasdorf	North Carolina State University
Kent Reed	NIST
Timothy Ross	University of New Mexico
Paul Scarponcini	GDS Corp.
Yung-Ching Shen	Rensselaer Polyu. Tech.
Lisa Spainhour	FAMU/FSU
Annette Stumpf	USA-CERL
Iris Tommelein	University of Michigan
Dan Won	Sargent & Lundy

1. Overture

- i. Meeting was called to order, 6:15pm.
- ii. Introduction of attendees
- iii. Review and approval of the minutes of the 6/21/94 meeting in Washington.
The minutes were accepted by the committee.
- iv. Overview of the agenda

Discussions of the 1st congress on computing, 1994, wrap-up, and the format of 2nd congress symposium were added.

v. Closing discussion of 1st congress on computing, 1994.

W. Rasdorf discussed the panel on funding opportunities for computing research on the final day of 1994 congress. the panel was well attended and appeared to be quite successful.

The Attendance at database symposium sessions seemed higher than the average for overall congress sessions.

2. Discussion of Database Symposium at the Second Congress

i. Recognition of session chairs.

Craig Howard recognized the work of the session chairs in organizing the sessions

ii. Attendance for the symposium sessions

M2	Product Modeling for Integration and Collaboration I	30
M3	Product Modeling for Integration and Collaboration II	24
M4	Modelling of Form, Function, and Behaviour	37
T1	Integrated Object0Oriented Databases	40
T2	OODBS for Integrated Project Management	25
T3	A comparison of Extended RDBM with OODBM	25
T4	Corporate Historical Cost Databases	15

iii. Format and discussion of the symposium

The overall conference attendance was approximately 320.

No-show presenters were seen to be a problem

The quality of papers and presentations was seen to be a problem. Consideration was given to reviewing complete papers in the future. While papers are currently not reviewed, the committee has the option of reviewing them. Session chairs are encouraged to informally review papers for their sessions and to try to address any problems.

The AEC show seemed to draw many people away from Tuesday afternoon. Consideration was given to leaving an afternoon off for AEC, or to starting on Sunday.

3. Subcommittees.

It was decided to discuss all subcommittee items at the full committee rather than breaking into subcommittee groups.

i. Symposium session organization, 3rd Congress

Some sessions for the 3rd conference were proposed. These include:

- A panel discussion on information exchange alternatives (e.g., Standards & STEP, Ontologies and KIF, etc.). This will be organized by Kent Reed and William Rasdoff.
- Workflow management, Enterprise Workflow, Groupware, etc. To be organized by Jim Garrett and Yan Jin.

[HCH: I didn't get the rest of these. I can include them here if you have them...]

A complete list of proposed sessions will be prepared by Francois Grobler and distributed to the committee so that suggestions on both the session topics *and contributors to individual sessions* can be made.

ii. Nominations

Nominations were made for the following positions for a term of one year:

Chair: Craig Howard
Vice Chair: Francois Grobler
Secretary: Thomas Froese

Bob Logcher moved that the secretary pass a single vote to elect the slate, the motion was passed and the slate was elected.

iii. Appellation

Craig Howard suggested that the current name of the committee may not accurately reflect the scope of the committee's activities. Discussion regarding a new name followed, with suggestions including the following:

- Data modeling
- Databases and information modeling
- AEC Digital Library
- Data representation and management
- Databases and Information Technology
- Data Usage and Management (DUM)
- Databases and Information Management
- Keep Database

The mission statement of the committee was also reviewed. The current mission statement is as follows:

Databases in Civil Engineering: The purpose is to increase awareness within the Civil Engineering profession of the issues involved in, and the underling role of databases and information management in civil engineering.

The following new name and mission statement was proposed by Lisa Spainhour and passed unanimously

Name: Databases and Information Management

Purpose: to increase awareness of ...

[HCH: What was the exact wording???)

iv. New activities

Past activities of the committee include a very successful product modeling workshop.

Collaboration is possible with other groups on conferences and meetings, e.g., the ASME database committee.

An e-mail distribution list has been set up for the committee at ascedb@dp.com

A World Wide Web site has been established at <http://www.civil.ubc.ca/usr/asce-tccp-db/>
There isn't much here yet, but items will be added and any recommendations for the contents of this site, for pointers that should be added to related sites, any pointers to committee members home pages, or any requests for NOT putting committee member's names and e-mail addresses on the site should be sent to Thomas Froese (tfroese@civil.ubc.ca)

v. **Publications**

Annette Stumpf reported that 9 papers have been received for the Journal on Computing in Civil Engineering special issue on product and process modelling, with 3 more promised. The entire committee membership list will be used for reviewing papers.

4. Information Items

i. **Update on PDES/STEP directions.**

Kent Reed reported on PDES and STEP, Standard for the Exchange of Product Model Data. STEP was accepted as an international standard last winter and accepted in the US as a national standard as PDES. The initial standard includes (among other things) the EXPRESS language and 2 Application Protocols for primitive drafting and configuration management design. The automotive and aerospace industries are accepting STEP. Various consortia are arising: PDES incorporated in the US, etc. STEP is very much a "compromise" of many different perspectives and has suffered from "letting the perfect become the enemy of the good". One of the significant developments is the SDAI, the application interface for STEP data.

There is a STEP AEC team with four main subgroups: shipbuilding, process plant (PlantSTEP consortium in the US, Process Data Exchange Institute; interested in AP's for detailed design information), off-shore platforms, and building construction (which is gaining momentum). Current activity within AEC includes a Building Construction Core Model, Steel models, HVAC, Parametrics, Design Libraries, and Object models.

The next STEP meeting is in Washington D.C., at the end of June. The US Product Data Association is the focus for US activities.

ii. **Other activities.**

The following conferences were announced:

- 3rd Canadian Computing Conference on Computing in Civil Engineering. Montreal, Aug. 26-28, 1996. (contact Claude Bedard <bedard@cbs-arch.concordia.ca> for more information)
- CIB W78 Conference in Stanford, August, 1995. (contact Martin Fischer <fischer@cive.Stanford.EDU> for more information)
- Annette Stumpf mentioned the CII Emerging technologies research team, which is looking for input on emerging technologies, relevant experts, companies, etc.
- William Rasdorf commented that ASCE is now using a "points grading" system for evaluating committees for funding, etc. Points are awarded for writing standards, conferences, publications, etc.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday evening, June 18th, 6:00-12:00 at the 3rd congress in Anaheim, CA.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted

Thomas Froese, Secretary

Craig Howard, Chair