1450.4 meeting minutes – 04/27/11

Attendees: Ernie Wahl, Ajay Khoche
Not present: Paul Reuter, Oleg Erlich, Jim O'Reilly, Markus Seuring

Agenda:

- IEEE Meeting Preamble (No discussion of proprietary information).
- Discuss changing day of week for WG meeting (teleconference)
- Continue work on section 7.6 "Variables and Expressions".

Summary:

- line 1630: Recommend addition of text:
  - "unless they've been defined as quoted identifiers in the context of other STIL extension blocks and used in a STIL.4 context that requires a type other than String"
- line 1701 - 1720: Recommend acceptance of example code
- line 1728, Table 3: Recommend PatWindow be struck
- line 1728, Table 3: SigGroup, NOTE: do we need local +- ops, pass by value or allow as variable ?
  - Recommend NO, create another SigGrp in SignalGroups block if necessary
- line 1771: recommend statement
  - NOTE: STIL.4 currently has no way to execute a user-defined DCSequence therefore a native library test is required to execute it.
- line 1776: open issue: can we assume or specify that every PatternBurst and pattern will be loaded onto a tester in its entirety, i.e., not just the Start to Stop vectors ? If that's the case, Start and Stop locations temporarily overridden by a test will be easy to explain and comprehend. From STIL.0:

```
PatternBurst PAT_BURST_NAME {
  Start PAT_LABEL;
  Stop PAT_LABEL;
  PatList {
    PAT_NAME_OR_BURST_NAME {
      Start PAT_LABEL;
      Stop PAT_LABEL;
    }
  }
}
```

Issue is still open and being discussed. Jim's comments:

every tester I've ever worked with would load the patterns into pattern memory in their entirety (determined by the number of vectors in a pattern when you compile them). From there, start/stop locations can be changed so that only portions of a pattern are executed. So I think it's safe for us to assume that such behavior as described above is acceptable.

Further, it's common to specify a list of patterns to load as the program is being loaded. In some testers, pattern loading is done either at the time the program is loaded, or when the program is initialized via a separate flow or EntryPoint. For instance, the Schlumberger ASAP SW had both "Load" and "Initialize" entry points (flows) - the vectors were typically loaded during the Initialize flow. (I think we used to have an explicit Initialize EntryPoint, but dropped it when we realized that not all testers had the same structure, and if you wanted to use such an EntryPoint, you could create a user-defined one (On <USER_KEYWORD> execute_stmt)

I'd like to avoid for now any consideration of pattern memory management - to me, that's more of a run-time (phase 2) issue - and I think if we impose the constraint that any pattern loaded will be loaded in its entirety, then start/stop locations can be specified (and changed) as needed, without affecting the CONTENTS of a pattern loaded into memory - all we're doing is executing a subsection of that pattern.

Actions:

- All WG members: Consider open issue mentioned above (line 1776) re: assumptions about pattern loading and start/stop locations. Be prepared to offer opinions and proposed solutions.

Reference documents (If logged into your google account, can edit. If not, can only view.)

- http://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=0AoKiPr1I9LY9dF95dkhSTVVqOU5GbWJyWFNhY0JPX0E&hl=en
- Namespace resolution examples document: http://docs.google.com/Doc?docid=0AYKiPr1I9LY9ZGY4dmNjNTNfMGZkOGJ2bmZy&hl=en
- Scratchpad spreadsheet: https://spreadsheets0.google.com/ccc?key=tQ93VDnAZ-Cl9RFKpPrPDzw&authkey=COzyro8K&hl=en&authkey=COzyro8K#gid=0
- Scratchpad "Word" doc: https://docs1.google.com/document/d/1zVu2M8nTJsrm0nFbBhiuM8-YRt4ErYqdy_uSa3x3_T4/edit?authkey=CLrgwrsG#

Next meeting: 05/04/11

For reference STIL .4 information can be found at the IEEE STIL website: http://grouper.ieee.org/groups/1450/ (select the P1450.4 link from the table) or use the direct link http://grouper.ieee.org/groups/1450/dot4/index.html