

P1450.4 meeting minutes - 01/17/07

Attendees: Doug Sprague, Jim O'Reilly, Bruce Parnas, Jose Santiago, Ernie Wahl

Not present: Greg Maston, Brian Johnson, Ajay Koche, Tony Taylor, Carol Dowding, Daniel Fan, Yuhai Ma, Bob Roberts, Oscar Rodrigues, Jim Mosley, SB Thum

Agenda/Summary:

- **Preamble:**
 - Record Meeting (*2)
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 - Once dialed in with the proper access code, enter *3 (star 3)
 - Then enter the file number 09939501 for this conference (this number will change each week).
 - Press 1 to listen to the conference.
 - IEEE Meeting Preamble (No discussion of proprietary information)
- **Required elements of TestBase**
 - Discussion about the proposed required elements of TestBase. There was no objection to the proposed elements. There was, however, much discussion and difference of opinion regarding the implementation and mechanisms.
 - Jose – is there a benefit to the variables in TestBaseVars being typed vs. untyped. Examine potential conflicts between Variables (as introduced in .1) and the Variable keyword within Spec/Category block of .0? In the latter, the Variable keyword does not explicitly have a type – it's implicitly either a time expression or a voltage/current expression.
 - How are conversions between various real_types handled? (i.e., conversion to/from Real to other real_types, such as Voltage, Time, etc.)? Need to look at how other parts of STIL handle this issue.
 - Ernie – can we introduce as a type NbrWithUnits to help address the above?
 - Ernie – Need to include variables that are truly local to a block, as opposed to being instantiated within a block but visible (with proper scoping notation) from the outside. Can we introduce a private attribute for variables block instantiation? Would it be possible to define the Variables block inside another block (which would amount to both a definition and an implicit instantiation)?
 - Action item. Jim/Doug (and others?) to investigate and develop a proposal which would allow for the desired scoping of variables.
 - It's desired to have some sort of access control attribute, so that some variables within a block are private to that block (that is, not visible outside the scope of the block), while other variables can be visible to other blocks (both above and below the block in question in the hierarchy).
 - If variables ARE made visible outside the block, do we need read-visibility, write-visibility, or both?
 - For variables instantiated within a block, visibility of those variables outside the block is needed so that, for example, elements of TestBase, such as FailFlag or Result, can be read and used for decision-making in levels above the block in question.

Next meeting:

- Next Meeting 01/24/2007.

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>