

P1450.4 meeting minutes - 01/21/04

Attendees: Dave Dowding, Don Organ, Eric Nguyen, Jim O'Reilly, Tom Micek, Doug Sprague

Not present: Jim Mosely, Ernie Wahl, Jose Santiago, Tony Taylor, Yuhai Ma

Agenda:

- Report on STC conference call.
- Talk about ideas from Tony on how establish some context for moving forward on the language syntax.
- Discussion on requesting from Inovys a starting point (Stylus) for STIL .4

SUMMARY:

STIL .4 working group web site (<http://65.119.15.228/stil.4/>) has been updated with meeting minutes from 12/16/03 (minutes from 12/17, 1/7, and 1/14 will be added shortly) and the most recent flow diagrams and powerpoint presentation (showing the start of a test program representation) from the meeting of 01/14/04.

Tom Micek: Motorola is running production on the Inovys tester. Test and product engineers who've used Inovys language (Stylus) have no complaints about the structure of the language. Motorola has a strong desire to move other test platforms to STIL (either as a native language, or via readers/writers).

STC call summary:

STC conference call (P1450.4 WG: Tony Taylor, Tom Micek, Dave Dowding, Greg Maston STC: John Peterson - Motorola, Chris Nelson - Intel, Bruce Parnas - Advantest). Intent of call was to see if there were areas of collaboration between STC and STIL.4 WG.

Bruce Parnas presented a brief overview what STC has in place for test program/test flow language. The spec is complete and will soon be moving into the approval process among STC's members. Bruce's overview was mostly a conceptual view, not details of the syntax. It looked to the attendees that there was a great degree of commonality, so collaboration did make sense. However, STC is not yet not ready to share with STIL .4 yet. They're still working out some issues among their membership regarding information sharing with the P1450.4 WG, and as a result, details couldn't be shared (at this meeting), until ground rules for STC/STIL.4 collaboration are worked out. Bruce Parnas and John Peterson from STC will work through the issues of how STC can share with STIL .4.

Tom Micek: Paul Roddy (Moto - STC Chair) is in favor of info sharing. STC will be meeting today and tomorrow (1/21/04, 1/22/04) - issue of collaboration with STIL WGs is on the agenda. Note that STC is dealing with many of the same issues as STC - for instance, representing information related to parallel (multi-site) test.

Attendees at the meeting prefer to drive towards not only the same conceptual representation, but also the same syntax (rather than having a common conceptual representation, but a different language syntax).

AI: Dave will provide updates this week via the email reflector.

Status of P1450.4 PAR

The P1450.4 PAR extension request did not get to Adam Cron (our previous sponsor), for some reason. As a result, the PAR had not been extended (due mainly - apparently - to clerical snafu. We have two options - we could request an extension (with a lifetime of 2 years) or start a new PAR (with a lifetime of 5 years). Greg Maston will (supposedly) be the new sponsor. No response yet, except the direction to keep moving forward, and the paperwork issues will be resolved. PAR will be either extended or a new one started.

Input from Tony Taylor:

Regarding the issue of re-activating the P1450.4 PAR, Tony Taylor is (apparently) more in favor of the extension, rather than a new PAR - in part to instill a sense of urgency, and get this work completed in a

timely fashion. He feels that the effort is taking too long (though there were reasons for the delay - i.e., the suspension of .4 work to allow completion of the .2 work).

To that end, Tony had also had several suggestions about how to move forward.

- Re-start use of issues/resolution list.
We've adopted this method - though we haven't done a lot with it in the past two months, as we attempt to finalize our conceptual mode. As we complete the conceptual model and move back into syntax, however, we need to reactivate the issues/resolutions list.
- Look at existing examples of STIL-like flow (i.e., Inovys Stylus, or Teseda's language) as a reference point.
 - Inovys has (tentatively) offered Stylus as a starting point
 - Teseda doesn't really have anything we can use (for test program/test flow-related issues) at this point. Since their system is currently aimed at the engineering debug/validation area, they're not focussed on test flow issues, right now).

Motion from Dave that the STIL .4 WG formally requests from Inovys a specification of their Stylus. Tom, Jim second the motion. NOTE: Inovys is in favor of this action.

Don: A couple of issues and questions, then.

- Stylus language has some significant differences to current status of WG proposals - i.e., pre/post actions, the hierarchy of flow-nodes, etc.).
- Thus, we need to consider how Stylus should be presented to WG. It might be better to approach it initially from a GUI perspective rather than the syntax perspective. Most people approach the language via the GUI flow editor, rather than from the syntax itself (i.e., the syntax is not as important as the data models). One way to educate the .4 WG about Stylus would be actually allow installation of Stylus SW (including the GUIs) on PCs of WG members. Don will explore this avenue.
- When does WG want to see this?
Open issue - but Dave feels we have perhaps 4 weeks worth of work on conceptual issues left before we move into syntax design - at which point access to the Stylus SW tools would be useful.

There was general agreement among the WG members that access to SW tools/training would be useful.

Dave: If Stylus SW tools can't be provided, could screen-shots from web-based training suffice instead?

Don: Perhaps; but if Inovys decides NOT to provide Stylus to .4 WG, the reasons for not doing so may also preclude sharing the screen images. Will start the process of obtaining clearances, etc, with Inovys to provide Stylus.

Tom Micek requested that, if the Stylus SW could be made available, it would probably useful to provide the web-based training as well. Based on past experience, the web-based training takes 2-3 hours initially.

Don will check into providing the web-based training also.

Jim: Should we be making our .4 WG minutes available on the IEEE STIL web-site? Jim to check with Greg Maston or Tony Taylor on this.

Action items:

- Provide update to STIL .4 email reflector about the status of STC/P1450.4 collaboration from above-mentioned meeting. (Dave Dowding)
- Generate formal request to Inovys to provide specs/info on Stylus language (Dave Dowding????)
- Begin process of obtaining clearance from his company (Inovys) to allow copies of the Stylus SW (and web-based training?) to STIL .4 WG members. (Don Organ)
- Check with Greg Maston and/or Tony Taylor about making minutes, etc. of STIL .4 WG available on the IEEE STIL web site. (Jim O'Reilly)