P1450.4 meeting minutes - 01/24/07

Attendees: Doug Sprague, Jim O'Reilly, Ajay Koche, Brian Johnson, Ernie Wahl,

Not present: Bruce Parnas, Jose Santiago, Greg Maston, Tony Taylor, Carol Dowding, Daniel Fan, Yuhai Ma, Bob Roberts, Oscar Rodrigues, Jim Mosley, SB Thum

Agenda/Summary:

- P**reamble:**
  - Record Meeting (*2)
    - To listen to the meeting recording, do the following:
      - Call the (US) dial-in numbers 1-877-421-0003 (toll free) or 1-770-615-1374 (toll)
      - Enter the passcode code 747464
      - Once dialed in with the proper access code, enter *3 (star 3)
      - Then enter the file number 46245001 for this conference (this number will change each week).
      - Press 1 to listen to the conference.
  - IEEE Meeting Preamble (No discussion of proprietary information)

- **Discussion about variable scoping rules (an offshoot of the discussion about TestBase)**
  - Inheritance issues – do Variables within a TestMethod become part of another TestMethod which inherits from the first TestMethod?
    - Jim – the intent was that this would be the behavior.
    - However, it might be wiser to specify that the Variables within a TestMethod are NOT visible in other TestMethods which derive from the base TestMethod. This will prevent situations where changes in variable values in the derived TestMethod will break the behavior that was inherited from the base TestMethod. For instance, if any of the actions blocks (Pre-actions, Post-Actions, PassActions, or FailActions) are NOT specified in the derived TestMethod, they are inherited from the base TestMethod, and as such, may depend on the variable values set in the base TestMethod.
    - Another solution might be to specify variables as private (invisible to derived TestMethods) or protected (visible to derived TestMethods). That way, the TestMethod designer could specify which variables are intended to be accessible from TestMethods derived from a particular TestMethod, which are intended to be invisible to derived TestMethods, and which are globally accessible.
  - Ernie stated that, for him, it would make more sense to have TestBase variables be part of the TestBase parameters list, rather than local variables that happen to be globally-readable. That way, using the existing directionality attributes for Parameters (In, Out, and InOut), one could control the level of access.
  - Using access-control attributes such as private/protected for Variables blocks (or individual variables within a block) might be another way to accomplish the same thing.

- **Review new dot 4 conceptual diagram**
  - What do the arrows pointing from TestInstances and TestFunctionDefs to the EntryPoints represent?
    - This simply represents the idea that the EntryPoints refer to TestInstances or TestFunctionDefs. Therefore, it probably makes sense to have the arrows point the other direction.
  - The arrows pointing from TestMethod and TestFlow to TestInstances are intended to indicate that, as type definitions, TestMethod and TestFlow MUST be instantiated into TestInstances in order to be used.

Next meeting:

- Next Meeting 01/30/2007.

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