P1450.4 meeting minutes - 12/13/06

Attendees: Doug Sprague, Jim O'Reilly, Brian Johnson, Bruce Parnas, Ernie Wahl, Ajay Koche, Jose Santiago

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

Agenda/Summary:
- Preamble:
    - 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 78357501 for this conference (this number will change each week).
            - Press 1 to listen to the conference.
    - IEEE Meeting Preamble (No discussion of proprietary information)
- Status on update of PAR for new 1450.4 ownership (Doug)
    - PAR update submitted to IEEE office.
- Status on new members for WG (Jim)
    - Contacted Inovys. They're interested in having someone participate, but don't yet know who it will be. Expect to have individual(s) identified after Jan. 1, 2007.
    - TSSI has identified a representative (Brian Johnson). Brian has joined our WG meetings starting on 12/13/06. Welcome, Brian!
- TestBase & Defaults Discussion (Jim/Doug)
    - We agree on the need to provide a common framework for TestMethods
    - The issue is how to provide it.
        - Why would you want to use inheritance?
            - If not, can't count on expected behavior of test (don't know if common expected elements are present).
            - Tools can be more complicated if Inherit is not explicit.
    - Inheritance required
        - Yes – Ernie, Brian
        - No (but HIGHLY recommend) – Jim, Jose, Doug, Ajay, Bruce
    - To summarize the agreement we reached during the call (paraphrasing Ernie's notes, sent via the email reflector on Friday, December 15, 2006 10:52:47 AM, EST):
        - We need a common framework for all TestMethods (referred to as TestBase)
        - Data elements of TestBase are yet to be agreed upon.
        - There are two ways to provide the common framework
            - Via inheritance. The common framework TestBase is defined syntactically as an abstract TestMethod. All other TestMethods are directly or indirectly derived from TestBase.
            - Explicitly. If the user chooses NOT to use inheritance, ALL TestMethods must explicitly include the full set of elements which would have been provided by TestBase. Further, if TestBase is updated, those TestMethods must then also be updated as well.
        - We can use the term *inherit* to describe the relationship between base and derived TestMethod and the syntax requires it explicitly where inheritance occurs. If inheritance is NOT used, then the *inherit* statement will not appear in the TestMethod declaration.
        - STIL.4 implementations are not required to use OOP or inheritance but must be functionally equivalent.

- See the notes and example provided by Ernie (InheritanceAndSyntax.doc, sent via email to the reflector as mentioned above) and Jim (InheritanceAndSyntax_JO_update.pdf, attached to the email with these meeting notes).
- Phase 1/Phase 2 discussion. Resolved last week (meeting on 12/06/06). Consensus is that we're developing a "phase 2" language (i.e., one that provides enough support that it can be used as a runtime language, rather than just a translation language).
  - We need to specifically enumerate what constructs will be provided, and at least as importantly, what will NOT be provided.

Next meeting:
- Next Meeting 01/03/2007 (No meetings planned for 12/20 or 12/27).

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