1450.4 meeting minutes - 11/13/08

Attendees: Doug Sprague, Ernie Wahl, Bruce Parnas, Ajay Khoche, Jim O'Reilly

Not present:

Agenda:
- 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 86869401 for this conference (this number will change each week).
  - Press 1 to listen to the conference
  - IEEE Meeting Preamble (No discussion of proprietary information).
- Discuss logistics (call-in number, possible WebEx or other web conference facilities). As of the end of this year, Doug will be leaving the WG, and so we need to find alternatives.
  - Bruce and Ajay to explore teleconference access capabilities available from their respective companies (Advantest and Verigy). Will finalize this by mid-December.
- ITC2009. It's time we delivered something, so I'd like to submit a paper proposal for next year's conference. Submission deadline is March 7, 2009. Let's start thinking about this. Comments/thoughts?
  - All were in agreement that something should be presented. Whether it's a formal paper or a lecture-series or advanced industrial practice paper remains to be seen. This item will remain on our radar screen in the coming weeks.
  - Ajay pointed out that lecture-series papers typically don't have to be as detailed in their initial submission as formal papers, so that might be the better way to present what we're doing.
- Open issues: Discussed the need to guarantee that at least one exit port in the FlowNode's list of exit ports gets selected. This can be done either by specifying that the last exit port in the list MUST evaluate to "True" (this is how LTX Envision works, for instance), or by allowing the boolean expression in the exit port be optional (which could be considered a way of having an implied boolean expression evaluate to True). or one that evaluates to TRUE. Need to ensure that one path gets taken.
- Discuss proposal for handling of FunctionDefs and FuncExec. See "FuncExec_FunctionDefs_comparisons" document on website (under "Docs for WG meetings"). Proposal for how STIL.4 will handle this, along with some brief code examples, is included in that document.
  - Jim reviewed the mechanisms used by 5 languages (Envision, SmarTest, Stylus, ASAP, and OTPL) for specifying what actions actually occur when a Test is executed from a FlowNode. The first three have a fairly generic Test block (which has an common structure of elements regardless of the Test Method executed), and that block contains a reference to a TestMethod or TestFunction to be executed. The the last two have the "test execution method" determined by the Test type.
  - We'll support both, but still need to work out the details for how the TestFunctions can return status results and other values to the containing test, and how those returned values can be used to determine the ExecResult of the Test. Jim to finalize proposal for doing so by the first week of December.
  - Ernie has no real use for that style of programming (he'd prefer to see everything be described as a Test, rather than a lower-level function call), but is not opposed to including it, as long as others work out the details, and it doesn't interfere with the behavior of his desired model.

- Other?

- Next Meeting 11/20/08.

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