

CSTARS User Group Meeting

January 8, 2004

ATTENDEES

Crystal Davis, Dan Alexander, Frank Krampa, Jacqueline Wilson, Anita Middleton, Jan Dodi, John Abbott, Pat Grimes, Sandy, Brenda, Dennis Morris, Penny Parker, Chuck Hughes, Ed R, Clark, Judy, Nancy Barrere, Jacob, Chris Nolte, Tom Cochran, Yancey Stern, Kevin Crowley, Mike Williams, Mark Galletta

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Next CSTARS Users Group will be 2/5 at Census. Jackie will be hosting.
- Confusion with information about CSTARS being sent out via Acquisition list serve. From this point on, CSTARS information will be sent out via list serve.

5.8 IMPLEMENTATION

5.8 implementation status:

- Still on schedule. Training DBs at NOAA and OS+ have 5.8 installed on them. Kevin asked for team leads to notify him of when they're done testing. Kevin asking for testing to be wrapped up by Monday, January 11th.
- Puddy issue raised. Puddy is shareware used to implement secure channel encryption. Overlaps use of Secret Agent. Kevin will be spending time in the next week with CACI to resolve issue. Currently Puddy is the only way to access updated files
- 5.8 only allows 2 digit PIID. NIST wants to wait until the next version of CSTARS which will allow 3 digit PIID.
- Jan states that moving to 5.8 will resolve a number of end-user issues.
- Jackie raised issue of where her group needed to call OCS to hear that CSTARS hadn't been loaded properly. Jackie said her group had a really tough time understanding the status of CSTARS.
- NOAA, NIST, CASD, Census, CAS have been able to begin testing 5.8; The coordination effort between NIST C* and NIST CAMS has made the testing effort more complex.
- Kevin asked that any issues that are found be forwarded to him and he'll forward all issues to the users group.

FPDS-NG STATUS

- GCE had an Organizational Hierarchy problem
- Yancey took a couple of the CBTs, but they're not easy to read. Yancey will put in a request to put in bubbles or definitions. Release notes claim that the fixes are there and Yancey has stated that the fixes aren't actually there.
- Yancey stated that the help for FPDS-NG gives you what you need. He asked if it would be helpful if he pulled together the help information into a

more readable format. Chuck Hughes has started an effort of pulling help information into a readable document. He will complete this effort instead of Yancey.

- **ACTION** Yancey will work with Policy to update chapter.
- Yancey asked what else is needed from him. Jan Dodi asked to be able to see 2003 data. **ACTION** Yancey will follow up on a date of when this will be fixed.
- Jackie brought up that some people are not getting credit for 2003 awards. Yancey will look into this issue as well. **ACTION** Yancey will look into all issues himself.
- Jackie asked if there's anything her group needs to do. Jan said that 279s and 281s will need to be updated, outside of 12 data elements once FPDS-NG is ready. Jan is putting in data manually via the web site. Data will then be updated and synched up with CSTARS once it's ready.
- Dan said 12 data elements are from CCR and asked if everyone is adding it manually. NIST is not- they've decided to wait until 5.8a.
- Chuck Hughes requested permission to run an ad hoc query to remove duplicate or bad vendor records. **ACTION** NOAA will proceed with writing this query and testing it in the training database.

CCR

- www.egov.gsa is a good information source for CCR
- Jackie asked for clarification on CCR hold up. Kevin stated that 5.8 will be rolled out and he'll know next week if the automated functionality will be part of the release.

CSTARS HOST SITE COST STUDY

- IMSG provided the draft of the cost study. Kevin stated that OCS costs are on a downward trend and estimates have exceeded the host costs.
- Kevin stated that Remote access will be decided on a bureau-by-bureau basis. Whether remote access for telecommuting purposes will be approved is a different issue and something that Kevin can not answer.

CFS/CSTARS INTERFACE

- Tom reported that budget increase was requested and was declined on 12/19. Tom reported that money will be found and efforts are continuing to move forward. Chris Nolte reported that statement of objectives went out today 01/08/04.
- Otto Wolfe supports the effort and has asked Mike Sade and Jim Taylor to find dollars.

DATA WAREHOUSE

- Yancey reported that we've begun cleaning up and enhancing data warehouse data. CACI is working on issues.
- CACI can't touch SAS software, which prevents them from fixing all problems.
- Time-out issue when pulling large query has been addressed by increasing time before time-out message. Now, the query just stops processing. Performance issue has become biggest issue.
- CLINs may be turned on to clean up vendor data and reorganizing hierarchy data.
- Yancey would also like to clean up select variables. SAS software is picking up too many items as data elements.
- SAS believes performance issue will be resolved by upgrade.
- Interface funding issue could impact data warehouse.
- Jan asked that vendors be streamlined by Duns instead of by TIN.

DISASTER RECOVERY

- Pam Harper is out on maternity leave through March. Back-up has been hired, Debra Stevenson.

FORMATTING ISSUE ENHANCEMENT FORM SUBMITTED

- Mark Galletta stated that issue of too little space on top and bottom margins is fixed in MS Word.

FILL-INS, TYPOS

- NOAA has submitted typo issues in CAR to CACI and Crystal asked all other fill-in, typo issues be sent to her.
- CACI stated that the next update will be provided 1/15. Some issues are not in synch with CAR clauses on web site and he's asked for clarification. Crystal stated that typos will be run through Nancy in the Policy office. Nancy asked that issue be raised at meeting between CASD and CAPPs.
- Kevin believes that the latest CAR had been implemented on 12/29. Pat stated that her group has not received a CAR update. Crystal will send the latest email to Pat. CAR clauses need to be updated into database.

USER MANUALS

- 5.6 user manual has been received but wasn't distributed at some places because it's not up to date. Release notes can be appended to 5.6 user manual for an 'updated' user manual.

BUREAU COMMENTS

- NIST requested a copy of the '03 data file from Yancey once he receives it from GCE. **ACTION** Yancey will provide once received.
- Mark reported that 1/25 looks like the date for 5.8a. **ACTION**
- Crystal requested a release schedule from CACI and Mark agreed.

- Web-based CSTARTS doesn't have exactly the same functionality as CSTARTS. It will be in production with another client in the next couple of meetings.

Done