

SUMMARY OF THE JACoW TEAM MEETING

Portland, Oregon, 8 May 2003

J. Poole, CERN, Geneva, Switzerland

INTRODUCTION

JACoW held a workshop at the PAC'03 venue to review progress with the database project. This note is a brief summary of the main conclusions and actions requested at that meeting. Some comments and conclusions based on experience during PAC'03 are also included. All of the JACoW Team were invited to attend but unfortunately some people were unable to attend due to lack of funding. The following people were present at the workshop:

Matt Arena (FNAL)
Joe Chew (LBNL)
Jan Chrin (PSI)
Martin Comyn (TRIUMF)
Charlie Horak (ORNL)
Jeff Patton (ORNL)
Christine Petit-Jean-Genaz (CERN)
John Poole (CERN)
Toshiya Tanabe (RIKEN)
Sara Webber

Copies of the transparencies presented at the workshop are available at the JACoW website ¹.

PROGRAMME

The idea behind the meeting was to follow up on the Berkeley workshop which was held six months earlier, to review the status of the project and to make plans for the immediate future. Topics discussed in the meeting covered the following areas:

- Status of database development
- Review of experience with the PAC'03 system
- Demonstration of the JACoW system
- Status of the Institutes and Profiles databases
- Review of current difficulties
- Implementation plans

STATUS OF DB DEVELOPMENT

Matt reported that the majority of the system had been implemented, including the front-end (the user interface). The synchronisation of the conference version of the Institutes and Profiles with the central JACoW repository was an open question. The editor interfaces had not been implemented because it had been decided to wait until experience at PAC'03 could be taken into account.

He explained that the ability to change data in various tables was controlled through roles which are assigned to

the people concerned (authors can change a limited number of parameters, editors can do more and the administrator can do everything).

All of the reporting features have been grouped in a single utility now.

The whole system has been implemented using Oracle 9i and does not use Oracle Forms, so that the package is less expensive to implement.

Maintenance of the database is completely generic for all data apart from the byte codes which are used for special characters.

The file upload facility is not yet satisfactory and requires development.

EXPERIENCE WITH PAC'03 DB SYSTEM

Sara reported that the package which was used was basically an improved version of the PAC'01 system and the performance was pretty much as expected. The file upload facility worked well but is susceptible to author error - it is relatively easy to upload the meta-data and not upload any files.

During the conference it was interesting to note that it was desirable to have good communication with a database/system expert at the lab hosting the servers.

DEMONSTRATION OF THE JACoW SYSTEM

It was very useful to have the input from a number of users/experts and during the demonstration several changes/simplifications were suggested.

Matt pointed out that it is highly desirable to have a development database available as well as a 'production' version. He explained that the installation behind a firewall can make the development process quite difficult when one is working remotely.

INSTITUTES AND PROFILES

Christine gave an overview of the current status of the data which is presently stored in FileMaker. She reviewed the various uses for the data in these modules, underlining the essential functionality for deriving data for tables of contents, indexes and so on. Around 500 institutes from the EPAC list have already been inserted and verified and a similar number of author profiles from the 2500 entries in the EPAC files, have been prepared. By highlighting the difficulties encountered during the process of populating

¹<http://www.JACoW.org/JACoW/Meetings>

these files it was possible to resolve a number of conflicts and decide on modifications to the tables.

It was underlined again that it will be made clear to the authors that the use of information which they supply will be strictly limited to the JACoW conference series. Later in the year, authors whose data has been captured (from EPAC'02 and PAC'03) will be asked to verify the information via email.

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Synchronising the Databases

It was agreed that the process for synchronisation should be based on the principle that the conference DB is free running and that feedback concerning changes is given to the JACoW administrator. Once the JACoW administrator has approved changes, the loop can be closed and the information confirmed (or adjusted) in the conference database.

In the case of an undefined institute for an author trying to submit an abstract, a dummy identifier will be generated in the conference database, indicating that the information is unofficial. Emails will be sent to the JACoW and conference administrators automatically.

Synchronisation of the conference database can be done on a fixed periodicity or on demand by the conference administrator.

File Upload

Matt suggested after the meeting that the file upload should be treated as a completely independent module with a strictly defined interface to the rest of the system. In this way the file upload can be called from the user interface and will reply with success or failure completion of the upload process. This will avoid the authors forgetting or not knowing that their files have not been uploaded. It also leaves the door open to have different upload modules if a platform independent system cannot be implemented.

The possibilities for platform independent file upload modules should be investigated.

Action: Ivan, Jeff, John

Inconsistencies PAC/EPAC

The way in which sessions are identified at PAC and EPAC differs. The impact of this on the database design needs to be clarified.

Action: Christine, Matt, Sara

User Interface for Profiles

There will be a facility for users who forget their username or password which will send them an email containing the necessary information. For those users who have moved and their email address is therefore no longer valid, it will be possible to email the JACoW administrator, who

will reply to them with the appropriate details. The user screens should be simplified.

Action: Matt

Registering Authors and Co-authors

A special facility will be available for secretaries/administrators who enter information for a number of people. On completion of such an entry an email will be sent to the primary author confirming the abstract details and a copy will be sent to the secretary.

A primary author must be specified for each paper/abstract and it will not be possible to delete a primary author from a paper - only change.

An email address must be supplied for co-authors without a profile, this will trigger an email to the co-author requesting him to complete his profile.

Action: Matt

Miscellaneous Changes

Author initials should be held as an independent attribute (because they are not calculable).

Documentation for the whole system will be made available.

PAC'03 data will be added to the JACoW data.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Jun - Aug	Populate Profiles/Institutes
Jun - Sep	Complete DB implementation
Sep	Beta testing by JACoW Team
Oct - Nov	Profiles/Institutes into production
Dec	Full production for EPAC'04

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