

Paper for Consideration by NIPWG

Visualization of Nautical Information (VONI) Workshop 2017

Submitted by:	University of New Hampshire (UNH)
Executive Summary:	A workshop to discuss the uses of the NIPWG product specifications
Related Documents:	Product Specifications from the NIPWG.
Related Projects:	Projects related to NIPWG Product Specifications/Data Modelling

Introduction / Background

At the NIPWG2 meeting the question was raised “once the standards are in place how will the Hydrographic Offices (HO) implement them?” The answer was silence and a shrug of the shoulders. It was then proposed by UNH to host a workshop to help each HO answer that question with confidence and direction.

Analysis / Discussion

When creating data models/product specifications that eventually lead to international standards it is imperative to have a vision of the end use of that model / specification. This vision of the end result will actually help the development in the beginning stages. Keeping an eye to the process of converting old systems to a new way of doing things while developing new models will ensure that transitions occur smoothly. What's the point of having a new improved data model that doesn't lend itself to realistic implementation due to budgets, technical knowledge or obvious benefit to the HO?

The purpose of the VONI workshop is then three-fold:

1. To create a place for the HO's to discuss their current production systems, find commonalities and share examples of known problems. It will allow HO's to group together with others who are using similar production models so solutions can be worked on jointly when implementing the standards.
2. To discuss scenarios for data use and envision how it will be portrayed. Listing various scenarios helps to keep an eye to making sure the data models can do what is desired in the way it is desired.
3. To plan how to move forward with implementations of product specifications as well as being mindful of the vision while creating the data models.

Some specific questions that will be discussed during the workshop will be:

- What set of NPUB Product Specifications are compliant with the SOLAS chapter V carriage requirement for current nautical publications:
 - Sailing Directions/Coast pilot,
 - List of Radio Signals,
 - List of Lights.
- Do the mariners need that such information is specifically portrayed on ECDIS devices?
 - If the answer is yes:
 - How will nautical information be portrayed on future ECDIS devices?
 - Is the portrayal of particular nautical information on ECDIS needed and for other nautical information not?
 - What is front bridge and what is back bridge information? Do the proposed product specifications provide a sufficient information separation to support their specific portrayal?
 - What benefits could be gained from the interoperability solutions provided by the S-100 data model? (With examples shown)
 - If the answer is no:
 - What are the mariners' expectations?
 - How will the information be provided?
 - text based?
 - chart based?

- Should the information of the various NPUB product specifications be linked together and how will that be managed?
- Is a link to other product specifications, such as weather, ice, UNCLOS, AtoN etc., needed?

Conclusions

This workshop can be a valuable tool to all parties involved. A place to discuss concerns and share current production system status, brainstorm uses for the data and viewing that data, as well as plan for successful execution within the current member states framework. Added benefits are to inspire more participation at the meetings because each participant's level of understanding will increase, which will thereby give them a vested interest in helping to guide the meetings to the vision they gain from this workshop.

Recommendations

To consider the merits of a workshop such as VONI and agree to UNH's offer to host it in 2017. Also, to combine NIPWG4 during the week of the workshop to take advantage of the member states being in the same location.

Justification and Impacts

- Saving member states time and resources by combining a workshop and meeting within the same week.
- Allowing the member states and industry to come together early on to share their vision of nautical information use.
- Giving the attendee's an understanding of the current state of each HO's production systems.
- Providing feedback to the HO's on how to transition to the S-100 standards.
- Brining more dialog to future NIPWG meetings with the visions and plans that will result from this workshop and meeting.

Action Required of NIPWG

NIPWG is invited to

- a. Note the paper,
- b. Discuss the merits and drawbacks for attending such a workshop,
- c. Take actions as appropriate.