

Minutes

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Meeting date 10 November 2021	Meeting Delft-FEWS Community Strategy Board #23		

Present

A. Tavendale / Marc Philippart / Martin Ebel / Trey Flowers / Roger de Crook / Gabriel Miller / Ben Balk / Nadine Slootjes / Marcel Ververs / Gerben Boot / Justin Robinson / Ian Clayton/ Gert-Jan Schotmeijer

Absent

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Introduction and attendance

After the welcome by Nadine, everyone introduces himself/herself to Gert-Jan Schotmeijer who joins this CSB to give a presentation about security aspects around Delft-FEWS as part of the Delft-FEWS Vision 2025 and Roadmap 2021 theme 'Security'. Gert-Jan also introduces himself.

The list of members is as follows:

Organisation	Represented by
Bureau of Meteorology in Australia	Justin Robinson
Dutch Waterboards	Roger de Crook
Federal Office for the ENvironment Switzerland	Martin Ebel
Rijkswaterstaat in the Netherlands	Marc Philippart
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Amy Tavendale
National Weather Service (USA)	Trey Flowers
Environment Agency (UK)	Ian Clayton / Peter Connolly
Tennessee Valley Authority	Gabe Miller
Deltares-USA	Ben Balk
Deltares NL	Nadine Slootjes, Marcel Ververs, Gerben Boot, Ilonka ten Broeke

Actions and minutes previous meeting

Remark: the italics parts in these minutes will not be shared.

Marcel is approaching several procurement departments for clients who will go to new S&M contracts to shape the details.

Marcel gives an update on the action item with respect to the use of old forecasts. The update is that training materials are available. However, this information is not yet on the WIKI so an update is required. This action is planned.

Marc asks when the Delft-FEWS public wiki will be available again. According to the presentation by Gerben (User Days part 1, 8th of Nov) it will be week 46. Gerben answers that this the 'current' estimate. Delft-FEWS PM will chase the Deltares IT department.

Note: the WIKI has been up again since Wed the 17th of Nov (week 46)

Martin mentions that he is happy with CSB space on the portal. Nadine makes an additional remark and reminds all members to send their bio (if not done already)

There are no further remarks or questions about the previous meeting minutes.

Security

Gert-Jan Schotmeijer gives a presentation on the security aspects around Delft-FEWS and how this is picked up/progressed as part of the Delft-FEWS Vision 2025 and this year's Roadmap.

The slides of this presentation are attached.

After the presentation, the following questions were raised, and answers provided.

Question - Roger: An audit trail on OS level, why not on the Delft-FEWS level?

Answer – Gert-Jan: It does not always make sense to do that on Delft-FEWS level, OS level is more logical, and it can hook-up to existing OS logging mechanisms.

Question – Justin: Are these documents available yet? Actually, when and what parts?

Answer – Gert-Jan: Not yet. Documents 1-2-3 will be shared with our clients only. 4 will be public with a 'but'...(with respect to the red crosses: these are on the Roadmap 2022)

Question – Gabe Miller. When will these documents be available? We are currently going through security, which means they will be handy to have a.s.a.p.

Answer – Gert-Jan: This year (2021) a draft version will be available.

Taylor-made documents

Question – Ian Clayton: How do these documents relate to the cloud & hosting -security? What's the level?

Answer – Gert-Jan: These documents contain additional/complimentary settings and measures to existing measures of the IT/Infra. The documents/developments are typically Delft-FEWS related. The underlying infra may have other/additional rules specified.

Question - Roger: How well will the audit trail be attributed? How/when/by whom someone is changing something. About the actual 'the what has been changed'...

Answer – Gert-Jan: On the lowest level to start with: "something has been changed" to higher levels which are more concrete on the what-side. This has to be evaluated at OS level. From the Delft-FEWS perspective we are more in control of the typical audit messages.

Question - Roger: For the PI Webservice we want to limit the amount of request within certain time (threshold set, e.g. 500/minute). If, at a certain moment, a lot of components start accessing (and a lot of logging is generated) this might be a 'trigger' for an alarm.

Answer – Gert-Jan: Yes, this is taken into account.

To conclude, Amy expresses her appreciation with the review of security aspects of Delft-FEWS and shares some of SEPA's experiences of the ransomware attack on Christmas eve 2020 and its aftermath.

As a closing remark CSB jointly decided to keep the topic of **security** on the CSB-agenda for next time(s)...

Alerting

Justin has prepared a presentation about the ASAP project and shared it with the group. This Australian Safety and Alerting Program is a program of work designed to help people make better decisions and take action when it matters. It is not just about technology, but also about the integration of customer knowledge and getting the right information to prompt the right

response. The system is making use of the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) for exchange of data from FEWS to the State Emergency Services

Marc: By which other applications are the CAP files picked up? --> Is it an open standard that can be picked up by any other application?

Justin: Yes, anyone can pick up these files produced in CAP format.

Amy: How transferrable is it to other applications?

Justin: It is standard FEWS functionality and can be used by others, also thresholds functionality is standard.

Roger: Waterboards don't have strong relation with stakeholders. How do we improve that and how can we learn from you? Justin answers that it is a little bit in the nature of their organisation.

Amy: Do you have any issues with the threshold events being created? The Answer from Justin is that the functionality is not widely spread yet, only for a few catchments, so impact at the moment is limited.

Ian shares a presentation about Emergency Alerting. The presentation is about the Mobile Technology the Environment Agency is using to deal with dissemination of their Emergency Alerts. This system is only used for severity alerts (risk to life) from rivers and sea, so in the last stage of the Flood Alerting process.

There is no automatic connection with Delft-FEWS, but the forecasts from FEWS are used as input. The Environment agency is also opting for an alerting service for sending alerts for issues with forecasting system on different levels. This is a piece of development work for the coming year together with Deltares and JBA.

Gabe: TVA has developed something to monitor the different components of the system (including the data feeds, the scheduled tasks and all FEWS components). He quickly gives an overview of what they have developed by sharing his screen.

Ian: Does it also include e-mail alerting? Answer Gabe: Yes

Nadine: All this knowledge sharing stresses that the Community of Practice is really useful, but how do we continue to share this useful knowledge? This is a nice topic for one of the next meetings.

Action Deltares: Add Peter Connolly (and Ian if not in list already) to the list of CSB participants and remove Stefan Laeger from this list.

Community (Nadine/Ilonka)

Action		Due by		Status
21.1	Get in touch with procurement from different organisations	Deltares	June 2021	Ongoing
22.1	Provide information on the wiki on how to use old forecasts in your forecasting process	Deltares	Dec 2021	Open
23.1	Heads-up on when the Delft-FEWS security documents are ready.	Deltares	Jan 2022	Open
23.2	Add Pete Connolly to list of participants CSB and remove Stefan Laeger	Deltares	Mar 2022	Closed