

Minutes

TC 1.5 Emerging Applications Subcommittee

Sunday, June 29, 1997

ASHRAE 1997 Annual Meeting, Boston, MA

The inaugural meeting of Emerging Applications Subcommittee was called to order at 3:35 PM by Rob Briggs. There were 15 in attendance at the beginning of the meeting and 20 who signed the attendance roster.

[The Emerging Applications Subcommittee has replaced the Computer-Aided Design and Knowledge-Based Systems Subcommittees and has inherited oversight of in-progress activities from those subcommittees.]

Following introductions, we conducted a general discussion of the scope, purpose, and role of the new subcommittee using the one-page proposed charter and scope document as a point of departure. That document was prepared at the Winter meeting in Philadelphia by an ad hoc committee and circulated in advance with the agenda for this meeting.

The ensuing discussion appeared to validate the role outlined in the draft charter and scope document. There appeared to be a consensus that having a subcommittee whose purpose is to educate the ASHRAE membership about emerging computer technologies and to accelerate the use of those technologies by the ASHRAE and the industry is both a useful role and one to which subcommittee members were interested in contributing. This topic did not lead to discussion of specific new or emerging technologies to add to the current statement of areas of interest of the subcommittee. However, it did lead to a discussion of new focus areas for programs and research.

- The first focus area was programs that survey available technologies. Rather than exploring cutting-edge technologies for computer experts, the idea was to help the general ASHRAE membership keep up with what is available and better understand how they can make use of it. This discussion led to a proposed seminar for the San Francisco meeting with a working title of “Emerging Applications: From PID to Fuzzy Logic and Beyond...” Benjamin Sun agreed to organize the session and several others in attendance agreed to participate as speakers.

The perennial problem of presenting information about computer tools at ASHRAE meetings while avoiding commercialism was discussed. The idea of including a look at math toolkit programs (such as Mathcad, Ease, and TK Solver) in the above proposed seminar with a possible title of “Are you still using spreadsheets?” was discussed but tabled due to commercialism-related concerns.

- The second focus area was actions that TC 1.5 could take to help ASHRAE streamline and expedite its internal processes using computer technologies. The dominant feeling of the subcommittee was that available technologies (e.g., the Internet), could be better harnessed by ASHRAE to improve the timeliness and quality of ASHRAE products. Members felt that it would be helpful for TC 1.5 to propose research projects that would examine opportunities for deploying computer-based systems and demonstrating pilot solutions. These discussions lead to two new one-page research topic descriptions, which were written immediately following the meeting and taken to the Research Subcommittee meeting for inclusion in the research plan. The research topics involve on-line development and review of ASHRAE standards and an electronic review process for technical papers.

Existing program and research proposals from the KBS and CAD subcommittees were not discussed, although these were addressed later in the Program and Research Subcommittee meetings. All of the

liaisons reports that were on the agenda for this meeting were deferred to the TC 1.5 meeting Monday night.

Under New Business, the issue was raised of whether TC 1.5 should develop a web site. There appeared to be considerable interest in this idea. In the interest of time, discussion was deferred until members had an opportunity to discuss the subject informally among themselves and then address a proposal to the appropriate 1.5 subcommittee.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS [*Mick—for inclusion in the master list*]

Rob Briggs - Submit minutes for Boston Emerging Applications Subcommittee Meeting - July 1997

Benjamin Sun - Submit package to ASHRAE [*or Program Chair?*] for seminar for San Francisco meeting with a working title “Emerging Applications: From PID to Fuzzy Logic and Beyond...” - August 1997

Rob Briggs - Submit agenda for San Francisco Emerging Applications Subcommittee Meeting - January 1998