

ADAMS USERS GROUP MEETING
July 18, 2001

PUBLISHED AGENDA FOR THE ADAMS USER GROUP MEETING

- 1) Introductions (1:05- 1:15 p.m.)
 - Lynn Scattolini-Opening Remarks
 - Tom Smith-Moderator
- 2) General Announcements (1:15- 1:30 p.m.)
 - how the meeting will be conducted for
 - persons present
 - those on the telephone bridge
 - setting Expectations
 - discuss success criteria for the meeting
- 3) Status on ADAMS Release 3.3.2 (1:30-1:45 p.m.)
 - date to be released
 - enhancements
 - Q&A
- 4) Status on BRS and the Legacy Library (1:45-2:00 p.m.)
 - discussion of the hardware platform
 - where we stand with maintenance issues
 - status of the Legacy Library
 - discussion of problems and response time
 - anticipated release to the public
 - plans for BRS and the Legacy Library
 - Q&A

BREAK

(2:00-2:10 p.m.)

- 5) The Public Interface Prototype (2:10-2:25 p.m.)
 - what it is
 - why are we doing it
 - planned deployment
 - Q&A
- 6) Discussion of ADAMS problems (2:25-2:40 p.m.)
 - go through the matrix of known problems
 - Q&A
- 7) New Business (2:40-2:55 p.m.)
- 8) Plans for the next meeting(2:55-3:00 p.m.)
 - set a date
 - action items
 - adjourn the meeting

Meeting Minutes

The ADAMS User Group met for the first time at 1:00 p.m. on July 18, 2001 at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. Lynn B. Scattolini, Director, Information, Records, and Document Management Division, OCIO, made some opening remarks. Thomas E. Smith, Acting Chief, PDR/Library Section, OCIO, chaired the meeting. About 25 of those who responded to the *Federal Register* notice participated either in person or via a telephone bridge. The meeting followed the agenda above. A question and answer session followed. Questions were taken first from the people present, then from those on the telephone bridge. Several specialists were on hand to answer the more technical questions.

The ADAMS User Group is expected to be a permanent group. Its purpose is to improve communications between the NRC and members of the public who use ADAMS. The group presently has 41 members.

ADAMS 3.3.2

The new release of ADAMS is scheduled for July 24. (Note: The software was actually released on August 8, 2001.) It will not be released until the PDR has finished testing. This new software version will allow online ordering of paper and electronic copies of ADAMS documents. Users can set up accounts with the PDR document reproduction contractor. The release will also allow users to print TIF images by page range and to include packages in bibliographic searches. Other enhancements are noted on the three-page matrix that was distributed before the meeting by e-mail (attachment).

Questions on the new release followed. The CD-ROM pricing structure for downloading documents found in ADAMS to CD-ROM was discussed, especially packages. Many documents are separated chapter by chapter. How much will be charged for this? The current pricing structure is \$10 for the first document and additional documents are \$5 each (on the same CD-ROM). A participant observed that a lot of packages contain small attachments that aren't worth the \$5 charge for additional documents.

Clarification was sought on printing sections of TIF files in the new release. Users will be able to print a page range within a document.

There was a question about docket numbers and how they are entered into ADAMS. Why are they so long? The answer is that the 8-digit docket number format was carried over from the NUDOCs system; it follows a data standard adopted by the agency. The 8-digit convention is used by multiple IT applications. One user said that this data standard was not "user friendly."

One user said that the scrolling in ADAMS is extremely choppy and was told that this is a function of the CITRIX client.

Status of BRS and Legacy Library

BRS or the Bibliographic Retrieval System is a citation database started in the late 1970s. It contains bibliographic citations and limited full text of NRC's publicly available records up to November 1999. BRS is being used now to access legacy data until OCIO resolves performance problems with the Legacy Library in ADAMS. BRS will continue to be used until the Legacy Library

is functional. However, BRS operates on an antiquated platform. Hewlett Packard no longer makes the HP1000A minicomputer or parts for it or services the hardware. HP has agreed to extend its maintenance contract with the NRC until the end of this September. After September 30, 2001, if something happens to the HP hardware or software platform, maintenance will be done on a call-by-call basis. If HP cannot fix the problem, the PDR will go to a third-party vendor.

Because of this uncertain hardware situation, it is imperative to bring up the originally planned Legacy Library. NRC has started to test the internal version of the ADAMS Legacy Library. The NRC is expected to introduce the ADAMS Legacy Library to the public late this summer. The plan is to run the two systems (BRS and the ADAMS Legacy Library) parallel for about 3 months. The question was asked, can BRS be migrated onto a new hardware platform? The questioner said searching in ADAMS is a problem. It is easier to search in BRS than in ADAMS. Users would like to continue with BRS as long as possible because results are faster in BRS.

Arnold E. Levin, Director, Applications Development Division, OCIO, then led the discussion of what users like about BRS vs. ADAMS. Members of the group liked these:

- You can narrow the search. You can do hierarchical searching. You can keep backing up and try another mechanism.
- You can search by “sets” and by fields. You can combine sets.
- You have more options in displaying records in BRS. Note: In the new ADAMS release there will be expanded report options similar to those in BRS such as custom (full record), short, skim docket, and skim report.
- Documents are entered uniformly, in the same format. Lynn Scattolini said that the contractor in the document processing center has been indexing all documents (both internally and externally generated) that are going into ADAMS. Four to five hundred documents are being entered every day. Independent quality assurance has been installed. OCIO is looking at older records in the system and correcting them. This process will take time because there are so many. Some older documents are in PARS because they were part of a retrofit project. The citations to these older documents are also in the Legacy Library.
- Truncation is available on BRS by using a slash. This is especially useful when entering authors with various spellings and forms of first and last names. The questioner was told the same truncation feature is available in ADAMS in the advance search mode using the asterisk and the operator “like”.
- OCIO has tried to match fields in BRS with fields in ADAMS. Names of fields may be different. Concern was expressed that early docket material may not be included in the Legacy Library. The questioner was informed that all bibliographic records currently in BRS will be in the ADAMS Legacy Library.

After a 10-minute break Francine F. Goldberg, Director, Web, Publishing, and Distribution Services Division, was introduced. Ms. Goldberg said that the agency is in the process of designing the public Web site. She asked for people to volunteer to test the new Web pages and the new site by sending their names and/or e-mail addresses to her at FFG@NRC.GOV. The site has no actual documents yet; only the index pages are there. Ms. Goldberg asked interested users to fill out a short questionnaire.

Public Interface Prototype (PIP)

ADAMS is a client-server system. Eventually the NRC wants to move away from this approach in favor of a Web-based interface. The NRC is currently examining a COTS software package that should be compatible with the FileNet software that is used by ADAMS. The NRC wants to put out a Web-based way to search ADAMS independent of CITRIX software. The PDR staff will be trained on this software. Since it may take a while to reach a fully Web-based version of ADAMS, putting out a prototype now will give the NRC a way of finding out what the public wants and needs in a Web-based system. The prototype (called Public Interface Prototype or PIP) is expected to be released later this year, perhaps as early as November. This prototype will not take anything away since the existing system will run in parallel. The prototype is merely search-and-retrieval software that sits on top of the software NRC has today and there will be no customization of the software. The prototype, using Convera's Retrievalware, is a way of getting NRC away from CITRIX. NRC currently uses Citrix's Internet plug-in which allows users to run sessions over the Internet to access NRC's documents. Downloading this plug-in has created problems for many users especially organizations with firewalls. Introducing PIP is a middle step to help find a product that is responsive to the public's needs.

Several questions were asked. Will the software handle the existing and future database size? The response was that this software has been on the market for many years and handles databases vastly larger than ADAMS. Another question concerned concept searching. The answer was that concept search is a feature of the software that will be used in the prototype but not in ADAMS.

Mr. Levin mentioned that the proposed prototype works very well with Internet Explorer but there were some issues with Netscape. Mr. Levin asked the audience about their feelings toward Netscape and Internet Explorer and which browser(s) they currently used or preferred. The responses varied. Some people said they have a problem changing from Explorer to Netscape. Some find it difficult to continue with Netscape. One person indicated that they preferred not to use Internet Explorer. If the prototype meets basic requirements established by the PDR staff, the NRC will deploy the prototype sometime in late November. NRC is putting this prototype out with the understanding that it is just that, a prototype, not the final product, and NRC will welcome users' comments, ideas, and suggestions.

A review and discussion of the matrix of ADAMS problems reported by the public followed (see attached matrix). There are problems that NRC cannot fix because they are problems with how the commercial- off-the-shelf (COTS) software works. In some cases NRC will provide feedback on these problems to the vendor.

One participant said he'd like to see a fuller screen view in ADAMS; it only opens as large as the window. He was told that he could fix this by going to the PERR page and under the launch options go to the second line and click on Not Sure Which to Use or go directly to: http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/browserhelp.html#_1_5 and mid-way down the screen are instructions for controlling screen size.

After discussing the problems, Ms. Scattolini mentioned that the PDR is undertaking performance testing of PARS using test scripts, with diagnostic software tools capturing data. NRC is committed to changing what it can to improve ADAMS performance and encourages the public to continue to report any performance problems.

A user had trouble printing TIF files. It was recommended that he use a Microsoft viewer. Release 3.3 incorporates the Wang viewer.

A user on the telephone bridge had the problem of being constantly knocked out of ADAMS. She was told that this is a CITRIX communication line problem rather than an ADAMS problem. One issue could be line quality. Another problem mentioned by a caller on the telephone bridge is that CITRIX supports only certain printers and the list of supported Citrix printers is outdated. Will there be an update to this list in ADAMS? The answer was: not in this current release but there are ways to fix this problem. Mr. Levin said that there is a one-to-one relationship between printer and driver. NRC can support only a limited number of drivers. NRC has to determine which ones we want to support. Someone in the audience said that the list of supported printer drivers is not updated as new printers are available for purchase. Discussion ensued over whether the issue would go away if the NRC no longer uses CITRIX. The deployment of the PIP may be one possible solution to this problem.

Next meeting

October 17 was decided to be the most suitable date for the next meeting of the ADAMS Users Group. The first meeting began at 1 p.m. so that west coast people could participate, and 1 p.m. seemed to be a good time for the users. The question was asked is it possible to have video-conferencing or video-streaming? A survey of those in attendance indicated that most users could not use those capabilities. What about microphones for people speaking? This may be possible for the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Action items from the 7/18/2001 meeting

Action items are listed as they came up during the meeting.

- Review the pricing structure for the reproduction contractor to download documents to CD-ROM.
- Address whether or how support can be provided to the public during hours when the PDR is not open, particularly to report a problem regarding getting into the database.
- How does one determine the actual date of a document's public release if it or profile data describing the document have been corrected in ADAMS?
- Address how to add a new printer to the list of printers supported by CITRIX.
- Members of the ADAMS Users Group should make up the agenda for all future meetings. The purpose of the group is to help the users, so the meeting should cover topics of interest to them. A few weeks before the next meeting, users should be sent an e-mail asking for topics to be discussed. The topics received will be compiled and the list (and agenda) will be sent to the members of the users group.
- All members should be e-mailed a list of members' names, company affiliation, e-mail addresses, and/or telephone numbers and their answers to the questions and "How much

do you use ADAMS and what for?”. E-mail addresses provide more anonymity. A chat room would offer timeliness.

- A demonstration of the Public Interface Prototype (PIP) should be arranged.

Attachment

List of Known ADAMS Problems