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Practical aspects of the handling of 3GPP Work Program

Introduction

For the previous Release, the Work Program could not be managed with an acceptable level of accuracy. Several reasons have been identified: lack of clear tools, lack of resources causing a lack of involvement, too many changes compared to GSM R98, too many WIs, etc.

For R00, there has been already one huge improvement with the proposal of classifying the WIs into Features, Building Blocks and Work Tasks, each Feature and all its related BB and WT being monitored by an S2 IGC.

For the time being, all the proposed F, BB, WT have been collected in a Word document (the "overview" document). This paper has some obvious limitations, mainly linked to the increasing complexity of the document degrading its readability. The present proposal is trying to identify the tools which will enable to have a nice interface, providing only the useful information to the chairmen of the different WGs (so they can complete their part of the work on time) and helping the IGC convenors in keeping track of the progress on their WIs.

Three major points to be solved have been identified:

1. Provide a complete and clear characterisation of a WI
2. Define the requirements of the tool(s)
3. Define the information maintenance process

These points are developed below.

Main aspects to be solved

2.1 Complete characterisation of a WI

For the purpose of Work Program management, there is a need to define a WI by a set of attributes. They are almost all defined in the Work Item coversheet presented at one of the TSG plenaries (SA, T, RAN or CN) at the WI approval. However, there are no one-to-one relationships between the attributes defined in this proposal and the ones of the WI coversheet: some parts of the WI coversheet are useless for Work Program Management (e.g. the "MMI aspects"), and some others, useful for the Work Program Management, can by nature not be found in the coversheet (typically the status of the WI).

The following section defined all the necessary attributes of a WI for the purpose of Work Program Management.

The notation is:

NAME OF THE ATTRIBUTE { *possible value 1¹; possible value 2; ...; possible value n* }

¹ a possible value is either defined by some explanatory text or it has to have the specified exact format. In the later case, it is put in square brackets. E.g. {"R00"; "R01"} means the value has to be R00 or R01, unlike {a string of 8 characters}. The possible values are exclusive, unless contrary stated.

Definition of the object "WI" as used by Work Program Management

ACRONYM: {an alphanumerical string of 8 characters max.}

Note: The ACRONYM is a key to refer to a WI, so all the ACRONYMs should be different. Each time a reference to another WI is made, this is done by putting its ACRONYM.

TITLE: {an alphanumerical string of 255 characters max.}

RELEASE: {"R99"; "R00"; "R01"; "R02"; ...}

CLASS OF THE WI: {"F"; "BB"; "WT"}

NOTE: In the following, "a F" means a WI of Class "F", "a BB" means a WI of Class "BB" and "a WT" means a WI of Class "WT".

PARENT WI(S): {"-"; 1 to N WIs}

NOTE: "-" corresponds to the case of a F.

A BB can only have PARENT WI(S) of Class "F".

A WT can have PARENT WI(S) of Class "BB" or "F".

MONITORING IGC: {"BaAS"; "QoS"; "CCaR"; "Cod"; "Mes"; "Ter"; "SP"; "Sec"; "BCaM"; "Test"; "Loc"; "Gal" }

NOTE: The classical case is to have all the children BBs and great-children WTs of a given F under the same IGC than the F.

COMPLETION DATE: {"-"; a date in the format DD/MM/YYYY}

NOTE: "-" is a possible value only for a F with at least one child BB or for a BB with at least one child WT ².

The consistency checking of completion dates might be only manual.

RESPONSIBLE WG: {"-"; one WG}

NOTE: A WG is identified by "SA1" to "SA5"; "CN1" to "CN5"; "T1" to "T3"; "RAN1" to "RAN4"

NOTE: "-" is a possible value only for a F with at least one child BB or for a BB with at least one child WT.

² clearly, this means that if the WI is not the last step in the tree, it can rely on what is defined for his "children" WIs. E.g. the completion date of a given BB can be considered as the latest completion date of all the WT composing it.

STATUS: {"-"; "Ongoing"; "Completed"; "Withdrawn"}

NOTE: The consistency checking of the status might be only manual.

NOTE: "-" is a possible value only for a F with at least one child BB or for a BB with at least one child WT.

IMPACT ON TS AND TR: {"-"; *list of impacted TS and TR*}

NOTE: All the TSs and TRs impacted by the WI are listed here. They can be existing documents or new documents.

NOTE: "-" is a possible value only for a F with at least one child BB or for a BB with at least one child WT.

COVERSHEET IN: {SA, CN, T or RAN tdoc number containing the latest available coversheet}

WI RAPPORTEUR NAME: {an alphabetical string of 100 characters max.}

WI RAPPORTEUR CONTACT: {an alphanumerical string of 100 characters max.}

COMMENTS: {an alphanumerical string of 64000 characters max.}

NOTE: It might also be a 1:N relation to individual dated comments.

2.2 Definition of the requirements of the tool(s)

All the WIs as defined above are stored in an Access database, handled by the IGC convenors, potentially visible to other delegates. This forms the database, which is different from the output visualisation, described here.

To all the delegates and chairmen, the main interface of our work is a graphic visualisation that can be chosen as having one of the two following forms:

VIEW 1: The first possible view is a table, showing any set of attributes defining the WI (if the user selects to see all the WIs of class "F", "BB" and "WT", chooses to see the "monitoring IGC" and to hide all the other fields like "WI RAPPORTEUR", he will obtain the present overview document).

VIEW 2: The second possible view is a "PERT" view, i.e. a graph composed of a set of horizontal segments of lines, each one representing a Work Task. They are grouped by features and building blocks on the vertical axis. The horizontal axis is time. Beside each segment, the name of the responsible WG can be seen. Not all the attributes are visible in this view.

For both views, a filter can be applied to choose to see only the WIs:

- of a given (set of) class(es) (i.e. view Features and/or Building Blocks and/or Work Tasks) and/or
- belonging to a given (set of) Release(s) and/or
- involving a given (set of) WG(s) and/or
- to be completed before a given date and/or
- impacting a given (set of) TS/TR and/or
- with a given status (completed/ongoing/withdrawn) and/or
- monitored by a given (set of) IGC(s) and/or
- children / great children of a given (set of) WI(s)

With this tool, it is not necessary to maintain a Project Plan per feature, as done per IGC for R99.

2.3 Definition of the information maintenance process

Each IGC convenor has to update regularly (at some dates fixed by the "IGC overall" convenor, typically after each TSG plenaries) the part of the database containing all the WIs under his IGC monitoring area.

The rules to define which IGC has to incorporate and then monitor a newly approved WI are the following:

- If the new WI is a feature, the "IGC overall" convenor designates a responsible IGC
- If the new WI is child of a single WI or of different WIs monitored by a single IGC, the new WI is monitored by the same IGC as his parent(s)
- If the new WI is child of WIs monitored by different IGCs, the IGC convenors monitoring the parents WIs should directly talk together to designate one of the involved IGC as being the responsible one.

Once the IGC convenor has updated all the attributes of all his WIs, he should send his part of the database to the "IGC overall" convenor, who will integrate all the parts.