ACTIF Newsletter n° 12

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Aide
à la **C**onception
de **T**ransports
Interopérables
en **F**rance

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ACTIF is 10 years old. Help for the design of interoperable transportation systems in France (French acronym ACTIF), the method and tools were used outside the country too. Numerous research projects and work groups (national and international) thinking of interoperability as "architecture" or "interoperability frameworks", ask ACTIF stakeholders what can be taken from it. The new European directive 2010/40 on ITS will probably contribute to a growing concern about interoperability among developers and system managers.

However, despite successive improvements of the model and the tool, and its high reputation on the international scene, ACTIF still encouters a lack of appropriation by people it was initially designed for, i.e. technicians from the contracting owners and their assistants from the public and private sectors, as well as maîtres d'oeuvre and systems designers.

We have been keeping on working on the language issue: working in French is necessary to take into account precisely existing French systems and the legislative and organizational contexts in which they are used. But express it in the language of our partners is also necessary. The stake to describe the existing model in a functional formalism allows the production of documents in English in a surer way. The OSCAR tool has already been revisited and you'll be able to use in a few days time the version 4, presenting two languages with a better ergonomy, that will allow you to discuss more easily with your partners abroad. It is not yet an automatic translator for all the transportation domains, but if you have got a chance to re-use the architecture built in an existing project, you will take advantage of the work already done to properly name the objects you will have to manipulate.

Hence, the project team is willing to think again the building of, and possibly to complete, the tools which constitute ACTIF. Your opinion on the means to make the whole device (method, model, and tool) more adequate to theneeds and expectations of the systems designers will be precious:

- Is it necessary to complete or modify the methodology guide ? On which points?
- What are the needs in terms of general knowledge of the domains (logic, vocabulary,…) or specific knowledge such as norms and their use, data exchanges and their structure, or standard contracts coming with examples?
- What kind of functions should be developed to provide an ergonomic designingl, that doesn't need understanding or knowledge of the whole model but allows using relevant elements in a project? What kind of results (productions) are expected by systems project managers

All these questions that the project team members ask themselves aim at a deep change of the whole ACTIF device, so as to fully answer to users' needs and possibilities.

The first step of this process is a largely spread questionnaire, which aims at understanding expectations from the systems developers and designers. Workshops will follow, the first one being scheduled on November 16 at La Défense. Changes will be integrated during 2011.

Jean-François Janin
Head of the Intelligent Transportation mission.

Application

Last ACTIF applications are dealing with :

◆ Automatic emergency calls and e-calls : NORSYS and SETEC-ITS (contractors in charge of part n°3 of the ACTIF support contract) have updated the analysis realized in 2006 on different embarked systems for automatic emergency calls within the European project E-call. This study, which focused on the functioning of 112 dial number and its connection with emergency services in different European countries, contributed to reflection on the generalization of the service (call reception and qualification l, vehicle call back, routing towards intervention services), and the normalization of data exchanges.

◆ The VIAJEO project, which regards the description of how the information service on arrival times at bus stop works. The stake is to show how a service functionally described thanks to ACTIF can be implemented both technically

and practically.

◆ The general presentation of a multimodal information system working with the last version of OSCAR, both in English and in French: this application made by the CERTU in association with JB Conseils is the starting point for a large reflection on services to be implemented in multimodal information systems. This work will in turn feed reflections on a guide for implementation of multimodal information systems.

◆ These specific architectures will be integrated as examples in the OSCAR V4 tool, which is to be published by the end of October.

The device : model, tool, and documentation

◆ **The model:** the migration of the ACTIF model towards the last version of the modeling tool MEGA (MEGA 2009) was realized by the architects of ORANGE Business Consulting. This led to complete the modeling rules and to the control of modeed objects by appropriate queries. The consulting firm NORSYS produced during the testing phase a detailed analysis of the whole model, pointing out at adaptations and corrections that should be included. These corrections will be made in October 2010, allowing thus integrate a homogenous model in the OSCAR V4 tool. They have no impacts on the represented domains.

◆ **The tool:** a new version of the OSCAR tool V4 will be published in October. This version is bilingual and offers new functions, especially for the selection of objects and the production of diagrams. Improvements are made in the printed outputs. The testing phase was realized in September.The highlighted malfunctionings were directly induced by defaults in the model (see above).

◆ **Documents** : the ACTIF team is willing to produce at the end of the year a guide for the use of ACTIF (in its current state), showing how to use ACTIF for what kind of projects. This document will be more or less the missing step between the methodological manual, which presents generalities on how to design interoperable systems, documents explaining the model and the user's manual of OSCAR.

◆ **"Help for a dreamed design"**: prerequisite works to this brainstorming started during the summer (method and specifications). As announced in the editorial, the idea is that the device helping in the design of interoperable transport systems in France meet the expectations of designers. The ACTIF team together with NORSYS and SETEC-ITS prepared a questionnaire that can be download on the website www.its-actif.org. We are expecting enough answers to allow a rapid definition of the framework in which the whole device will evolve. Workshops will be organized with systems designers. Thus, during the next formation, trainees will be invited to clearly formalize their expectations.

◆ **Tracks for improvements are alrea**dy being thought of, as for example :
- The way of underlining aspects of real time and batch mode in information systems
- Production of XML messages that can be directly implemented
- Representation of norms and standards so that to facilitate their implementation

Trainings

◆ The annual rhythm of trainings intended to transportation professionals (transportation systems project managers, representatives from the contracting owners and consultancies) is 3 per year. **The next ACTIF training is scheduled on November 25 in the SETRA offices (Bagneux)**. To register, please download the registration form on the ACTIF website www.its-actif.org and send it back to the project manager Yannick DENIS (CERTU).

Meeting ACTIF

Besides, sessions aiming at raising awareness to systems interoperability are regularly scheduled during congresses or on specific working days. Next meetings are:
- On the 25th of October, for the international congress for ITS in Busan (presentation by M.JANIN);
- On the 16th of November (afternoon), a workshop about help to ideal design is scheduled in La Défense. This workshop will be a debate articulated around themes listed on the joined questionnaire;
- On the 2nd and 3rd of February, during the ATEC-ITS France congress in Versailles, on the use of "frameworks architectures for ITS" in Europe, and on the convergence of FRAME and ACTIF. Presentation by Y.DENIS and Peter JESTY, E-frame project coordinator.

To learn more about it, please contact us, on the website www;its-actif.org
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