

From: ibcomm@aol.com

To: david.holmberg@nist.gov; alan.vinh@nist.gov

Cc: michellearaymond@gmail.com; rexb@starbourne.com; jason.averill@nist.gov; ibcomm@aol.com; jim_wollbrinck@sjwater.com

Subject: Common Operating Picture for Buildings

Date: Mon, 10 Nov 2008 9:24 am

Hello David and all,

I think that there may be some situations where the NIST ECS is useful to your efforts in BFRL, however my point had more to do with the concept of a Common Operating Picture applied to Building Plans.

Before getting deeply involved with maps and especially Google Maps, our MapLab Project concentrated on providing techniques for spatially navigating floor plans. This can be valuable for a wide range of functions, such as space tracking, personnel locators, building network mapping and others. The major safety application, however, emerged to be the need to provide first responders, especially fire & rescue, with relevant diagrams to describe the location of key building safety elements such as stairwells, stand pipes, fire control room, sprinkler shutoff, utility connections, hazardous materials location, etc. This is where we feel we could make a contribution to your current efforts.

There are at least two major challenges:

1) There needs to be a regular update of building information to the local fire agency so that the current information will be available to responders before they arrive at the scene of the incident, and before they can access the building itself or its contents. DiDI mentioned that New York enacted Local Law 26 to insure that building owners provided an electronically readable set of plans to the public safety agencies.

2) There also needs to be a simple open format for representing building plans that can be fashioned into a low cost/no cost mechanism for delivery of these plans to fire personnel in rapid mobile form. We have spent many years exploring the use of SVG (Scalable Vector Graphics) for this purpose. Although SVG has been a WWW recommendation since 2001, there have been several impediments to its widespread adoption and use. Microsoft has yet to buy into SVG, preferring to use their proprietary VML for Internet Explorer. Adobe championed SVG for many years through the provision of ASV (Adobe SVG Viewer) plugin that allowed most browsers to display and program SVG solutions. Unfortunately, when Adobe acquired Macro Media, they dropped their enthusiasm for SVG in favor of Flash, which has an enormous penetration percentage, but still is a proprietary technology. Apple with WebKit and Safari are supporting SVG, as is FireFox, and I am sure Chrome from Google will as well. Also, SVG is incorporated into the software of many cell phones.

If these two challenges can be met, at least to some degree, then some large buildings could begin to prepare their plans in this manner to share with public safety. Many other challenges would remain to full deployment for buildings of all sizes, but at least it would be a start. We have several large facility managers in our area who are willing to participate in a pilot program to demonstrate this type of safety documentation, including the University of San Francisco and the University of Santa Clara. Both organizations have their facility plans in a good (computerized) format that would help in the preparation. I showed a few examples of USF buildings in our meeting at NIST.

I hope this helps to explain my perspective on electronic building floor plans for emergency response. I would be happy to discuss these possibilities in a conference call with the appropriate folks. I look forward to your reaction to this approach.

Best regards,

David Coggeshall
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415 387-8760
415 602-2174 cell

-----Original Message-----

From: David Holmberg <david.holmberg@nist.gov>
To: ibcomm@aol.com; alan.vinh@nist.gov
Cc: michellearaymond@gmail.com; rexb@starbourne.com; Jason D. Averill <jason.averill@nist.gov>
Sent: Fri, 7 Nov 2008 2:34 pm
Subject: Re: BFRL Workshop Follow-up

David,

Sorry--dropped the ball here. Alan and I met with Chuck Maclean and his group here and discussed how we might work together to use the Exercise Control System. One of our Building Information Exchange for First Responders project milestones is a demonstration with our local 9-1-1 center to move building alerts to them and have responders gain access back to the building. This is something like an exercise. We might use the ECS to set up and run the exercise and handle calls to simulation routines for parts of the exercise that we might need but not our main focus. Our focus would be on the alert server here and the interface to 9-1-1 and interface for responders to connect to the building. But it isn't clear that we need to use ECS versus just demonstrating that we can get an alert to the 9-1-1 center via some standard interface (the SAP), and likewise pass some token on to a responder and have the responder use that to connect back to the building. So, we left it hanging and didn't have any clear idea for how to move forward. Your thoughts are welcome.

Thanks,
David

At 11:13 AM 10/27/2008, ibcomm@aol.com wrote:

Hi Alan & David,

Thanks for the document link. I enjoyed the workshop, and especially our brainstorming session on Thursday afternoon.

We would be interested to collaborate with NIST on the floor plan display project and also to see if we can apply the Exercise Control System and Common Operating Picture to the Building domain. Do you have any thoughts on how we might proceed?

Best regards,

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-----Original Message-----

From: Alan Vinh <alan.vinh@nist.gov>

To: Scott Parker <scott.parker@ijis.org>

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Sent: Mon, 27 Oct 2008 8:32 am

Subject: Re: Workshop documents

Some people have asked if we can share the document repository link below with others that were not at our workshop.

We don't see this as a problem since we would like to spread the knowledge of our research/work. Note that there may be "drafts" and "proposals" for our efforts (from various members of our work groups) so the audience should understand that these documents are not "official" documents until they have been properly reviewed and have gone through the proper channels to be officially published.

You are welcomed to share the document repository link with other interested parties.

Regards - Alan

Alan Vinh wrote:

Thank you all for attending our workshop, it was a pleasure to meet everyone.

I have put all documents from the workshop on our NIST server. The address uses TLS so you will have to accept the NIST certificate before you can access the document repository. Here is the address:

https://cybute1.nist.gov:8443/BIEFR/WorkShop_Oct_2008/

The document "Workshop Participants.doc" sent out by Jason contains contact information and the "list_of_leaders.doc" document has the notes for our various task groups/teams. Right-click on the documents then select "Save Target As" to save them to your hard drive. If you have problems with accessing our document repository/server, please let me know if I can be of assistance.

Regards - Alan

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