

**AERONAUTICAL TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK PANEL**

**Working Groups 1 and 2**

**Comments on ATNP Configuration Control Board  
(CCB) Configuration Management (CM)  
Procedures**

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**SUMMARY**

This paper presents comments on possible improvements to the ATNP CCB Configuration Management (CM) process based on observations of the initial weeks of its operation, and presents posting guidelines for the CM automated posting system.

## **REVISION HISTORY**

| <b>Section</b> | <b>Date</b>     | <b>Issue</b> | <b>Reason for Change</b> |
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## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>1. SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THIS PAPER</b>                           | <b>1</b> |
| 1.1 Document References   | 1        |
| 1.2 Acronyms  | 1        |
| <b>2. COMMENTS ON IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CM PROCESS</b>                | <b>1</b> |
| 2.1 Defect Report, Change Request and Change Proposal Relationships | 1        |
| 2.2 Distribution of Validation Report Configuration Items           | 2        |
| 2.3 Retrieval of VRCIs from the ATNP CCB CM System                  | 2        |
| 2.4 Distribution of VRCI Reports                                    | 2        |
| 2.5 Update of VRCI Status   | 2        |
| <b>3. POSTING GUIDELINES FOR ATN-INTERNET-CM MAILING LIST</b>       | <b>3</b> |
| 3.1 Overall Subject Line Syntax                                     | 3        |
| 3.2 DR Message Body Syntax  | 3        |
| 3.3 CR Message Body Syntax  | 3        |
| 3.4 CP Message Body Syntax  | 3        |
| 3.5 Posting of a DR/CR along with an Associated CP                  | 4        |

# Comments on ATNP Configuration Control Board (CCB) Configuration Management (CM) Procedures

## 1. Scope and Purpose of this Paper

This paper presents comments on possible improvements to the ATNP CCB Configuration Management (CM) process based on observations of the initial weeks of its operation, and presents posting guidelines for the CM automated posting system.

It is requested that the ATNP CCB and Working Group 2 review the proposals contained in this paper, and advise the Validation Archive Configuration Manager of their disposition at the earliest convenience.

### 1.1 Document References

This paper is written with reference to the current draft of the ATNP CCB CM Procedures document:

SOF/FWC/878/D0010/94 (Issue 1.1) ATNP Configuration Control Board (CCB) Configuration Management (CM) Procedures

Additional references of interest are ATNP/WG2-WP/2, and the final meeting report of the First Meeting of ATNP WG2.

### 1.2 Acronyms

|      |  |
|------|--|
| CCB  | Configuration Control Board              |
| VACM | Validation Archive Configuration Manager |
| CM   | Configuration Management                 |
| VRCI | Validation Report Configuration Item     |
| DR   | Defect Report                            |
| CR   | Change Request                           |
| CP   | Change Proposal                          |

## 2. Comments on Improvements to the CM Process

After observing the initial operation of the ATNP CCB CM process, the following comments and suggestions are offered for improvements to that process, in order to facilitate the automated processing of VRCIs, and in order to enhance the accountability of the overall CM process.

### 2.1 Defect Report, Change Request and Change Proposal Relationships

In the ATNP CCB CM Procedures document, the formats defined for the three VRCI forms include cross referencing information among DRs and CRs, and associated CPs. In order to facilitate automated processing, it is proposed that the CP reference field "**Change Proposal Reference(s):**" be removed from the DR and CR forms.

Further, it is proposed that when a CP is submitted, a mandatory reference to the associated DR or CR be included in the DR/CR reference field "**Defect Report or Change Request Reference:**",

using the precise syntax of the reference assigned to the DR or CR by the automated configuration management system. This means that for the case where a single author wishes to submit both a DR/CR and an associated CP, that author must a) first submit the DR/CR, b) wait for the response from the CM system containing the assigned reference and c) then submit the associated CP(s) containing the DR/CR reference to the **atn-internet-cm** mailing list.

## 2.2 Distribution of Validation Report Configuration Items

Based on the decisions of Working Group 2 as documented in the references to this paper, all VRCIs are currently being sent to the **atn-internet-technical** mailing list, with the two-week "VRCI decision timer" starting at the time of the electronic mailing from the CM system at CENA/Toulouse. It has been observed that in many cases, due to Internet discontinuities in various parts of the world, three or more days may elapse before the VACM is made aware of receipt problems associated with certain VRCIs on which the decision timer has already been started. Further, it has been noted that in certain cases involving non-Internet-native mail gateways (e.g. PC networks running CCMAIL, et. al.), mail may fail to be transmitted to the addressee, but no error is ever reported to the sender. In the latter case, the VACM has no way of knowing whether or not transmitted VRCIs have been received by the intended recipients.

For internal list management reasons, a second mailing list has been created that contains only the names of the CCB members. To minimize the exposure to the apparently unavoidable Internet delivery assurance problems noted in the previous paragraph, it is proposed that VRCIs continue to be distributed to the **atn-internet-technical** mailing list and in addition to the newly-created CCB-only mailing list. However, it is proposed that accountability for decision-timing purposes only be maintained with only with respect to the CCB mailing list. In the case of the CCB list, if transmission errors are received by the VACM, then the VACM will attempt re-delivery to the reported failed addressees at least one time. If failures continue, this fact will be reported to the CCB chairman for his decision on the action to be taken. No such recovery will be attempted on error reports received regarding the the **atn-internet-technical** mailing list. Additionally, for accountability reasons, all such activity will be logged.

## 2.3 Retrieval of VRCIs from the ATNP CCB CM System

As noted in the following sections, all VRCIs are archived in the ATNP CCB CM system "**manix.cenatls.cena.dgac.fr**", located at Internet IP address "**143.196.1.34**", under the "**vrci**" directory tree. Thus, VRCIs can be retrieved by **ftp** from the CM system as described in the ATNP CCB CM Procedures document, and as noted later in this document.

## 2.4 Distribution of VRCI Reports

In order to advise CCB members of the linkage among VRCIs managed by the ATNP CCB VACM, it is proposed that a report of VRCI status and relationships be created periodically by the VACM, and be distributed to the CCB members using the CCB-only mailing list discussed previously in this paper. This report would also be archived on the ATNP CCB CM system for **ftp** retrieval by interested parties.

## 2.5 Update of VRCI Status

It is assumed that the VACM will be notified of required VRCI status updates by the CCB Chairman. Following this notification, when a WG/2 or CCB decision updates the status of a VRCI, it is proposed that the VACM will redistribute the respective VRCI using the provisions of the reference documents, and in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.2 of this document. The updated VRCI will then be archived in the ATNP CCB CM system, replacing the previously archived version of that VRCI.

## 3. Posting Guidelines for atn-internet-cm Mailing List

Messages posted to the ATNP CCB CM system via this mailing list are automatically processed using the **procmail(1)** utility under UNIX. This utility allows automatic filtering and processing of incoming mail messages.

### 3.1 Overall Subject Line Syntax

Activation of the CM system processing is performed by posting a message to the **atn-internet-cm** list using a particular subject line. In the current version, three processing primitives exist:

```
DR submission:      Subject:      DR ../.../.. .*
CR submission:      Subject:      CR ../.../.. .*
CP submission:      Subject:      CP ../.../.. .*
```

*Note: In the syntax above, . means: any character, \* means 1 or more character.*

If the message subject syntax does not match one of the above primitive, this message does not appropriately activate processing, and the incoming message will be discarded. For this reason, syntax rules must be followed carefully.

Examples:

```
DR 13/01/95 (This is a correct DR submission)
DR 13/1/95  (This submission is not correct) (replace /1/ by /01/)
DR 130195   (This submission is not correct) (replace 01 by /01/)
```

### 3.2 DR Message Body Syntax

For a DR submission the message body must at least contain the following lines:

```
^Defect Report Reference
^Status
```

If the DR submission is performed successfully, a message is sent to the **atn-internet-ccb** mailing list with the following subject line: **YYMMnnnn.DR SUBMITTED** and the DR body is stored on the validation archive in directory **vrci/DR**, with file name **YYMMnnnn.DR**.

*Note: In the syntax used in this paper, ^ means: beginning of line.*

### 3.3 CR Message Body Syntax

For a CR submission the message body must at least contain the following lines:

```
^Change Request Reference
^Status
```

If the CR submission is performed successfully, a message is sent to the **atn-internet-ccb** mailing list with the following subject line: **YYMMnnnn.CR SUBMITTED** and the DR body is stored on the validation archive in directory **vrci/CR**, with file name **YYMMnnnn.CR**.

### 3.4 CP Message Body Syntax

For a CP submission the message body shall at least contain the following lines:

```
^Change Proposal Reference
^Status
```

If the CP submission is performed successfully, a message is sent to the **atn-internet-ccb** mailing list with the following subject line: **YYMMnnnn.CP SUBMITTED** and the CP body is stored on the validation archive in directory **vrci/CP**, with file name **YYMMnnnn.CP**.

### **3.5 Posting of a DR/CR along with an Associated CP**

For a DR + CP posting, one post shall be performed for the DR first and then one post for the CP. The reason for posting the DR submission first is to allow receipt of the DR reference to be included in the CP message body before posting it.