Master Console, *SMC*
Héctor J. Pagán Marrero
John F. Kennedy Space Center
Major: Computer Engineering
*KSC-FO* Fall 2013
Date: 21 11 2013
Table of Contents
Master Console, SMC ............................................................................................................................... 3
Nomenclature .................................................................................................................................................. 3
Abstract .......................................................................................................................................................... 3
I. Introduction .................................................................................................................................................. 4
II. Body ............................................................................................................................................................ 4
   A. Security Training ...................................................................................................................................... 4
   B. Accounts Setup ...................................................................................................................................... 5
   C. Documents ............................................................................................................................................. 5
   D. Tool trainings .......................................................................................................................................... 5
   E. Team meetings ....................................................................................................................................... 5
   F. Firing Room 1 (FR1) Consoles Health and Status Display ................................................................. 6
   G. EIC Display Pad B ................................................................................................................................... 6
III. Conclusion ................................................................................................................................................ 6
Appendix .......................................................................................................................................................... 7
   Firing Room 1 Consoles Health and Status Displays ............................................................................ 7
   EIC Displays ............................................................................................................................................... 10
References ..................................................................................................................................................... 15
Master Console, SMC

Héctor J. Pagán Marrero
Inter American University of Puerto Rico Bayamon Campus, Bayamón P.R.

Abstract

The Master Console oversees the function of Computer Systems in Firing room 1 (FR1). Master Console Operators, MCOs' for short, are our customer. I was integrated into the System Monitoring and Control (SMC) software team that is under the guidance of David Slaiman, who is the product group lead. I have been brought up to speed with System Monitoring and Control. The initial time spent reading SMC software design description and understanding how it works. The current Firing Room 1 Console Display is a floor layout giving the MCO two essential pieces of information which are Health and Status. When an issue arises, the MCO has to look on the display to find which console is affected and then the MCO must use the Reference designator from the display to manually search for the Portal Workstation (PWS) installed in the console using the hardware map; which is a long process to lookup a PWS if an issue is present. My project is to make the FR1 Console Display easier for the MCO's to pinpoint PWS's without having to lookup additional resources in the process. My project also includes updating Firing Room 1 Console Display to include the F1R Non-Redundant Set. The display does not have good use of space and functionality. PWS numbers were not present in the previous design and are the critical component in efficient understanding and administration of the consoles. Part of the process includes getting feedback from the customer, instead of just emailing them with a question, we made a proposal with changes so they could respond and give us their input; which proved to be an effective method for engaging them. In order to do this I had to use the Display Editor (DE) tool developed by NASA. Paint.Net and Visio. The process I have been using has been Visio to alter the floor layout of Firing Room and take advantage of the white areas, and then I take the altered floor plan into Paint.Net. Once in Paint.Net I put the new floor plan as a background to the standard console display. Paint.Net also serves as a tool to create the new service state bars for the new background; finally I used the DE to assemble everything and setup the right CUIs for each PWS.
I. Introduction

This report shows you the goals, accomplishments and process underwent to fulfill them, for the Fall 2013 System Monitoring and Control (SMC) internship. This process involves security training, accounts necessary for the development work and training for the tools utilized.

The SMC software package is an important component of the Launch Control System (LCS). The LCS is the whole bundle of software that is used in the Firing Room when launching a rocket into space. LCS is made of different software products one of them is SMC. SMC gathers the system Health and Status (H&S) from all of the different components in the LCS. (Servers, Portable Work Stations (PWS), Kennedy Ground Control System (KGCS), etc...)

The goal for NASA is to ensure mission success; first because a manned launch mission is expensive, second it is dangerous to launch astronauts on a rocket with at least seventy metric tons of lift. Problems can come from the physical components such as the rockets or capsule used hardware failures such as computer systems failing or software problems such as misconfigurations or just plain software crashes. For this reason SMC is necessary to ensure mission success. This helps the Master Console (MC) team know when any of these issues arise and they can make informed decisions as to be GO for launch or NO GO for launch.

The goal of my project is to make the Master Console Operator (MCO) job more effective by providing clear and concise displays. This consists of making the displays with all the information and functionality needed for the MCOs to perform their duties.

II. Body

To accomplish the task of delivering effective displays several things have to happen before one can start developing. Since NASA is a Federal Agency there are high security standards along with good security practices implemented in their work force. To accomplish this, security training is essential to all new employees and interns. Once you have your security qualifications you need to set up your computer accounts, because depending on your account, permissions will be assigned and they vary from user to user. The accounts and access needed take a bit of time from the time you request them to the time you get approved because this has to go through different people for approval. This is the time to get acquainted with the project documentation, to better grasp what your product is and how it works. The SMC product has a Software Design Description Document which details the capabilities of the Computer Software Configuration Item (CSCI). When you have your computer accounts and access set up you start with the training portion of the internship, training is needed because some of the tools NASA uses are built in-house and a user from the outside would never have access to them. Stand up team meetings are held each morning to see the status of everyone's work load and offer help if issues arise. After all of this is completed we were able to deliver functional displays like the Firing Room 1 display which helps the MCOs with all the tasks they carry.

A. Security Training

Using the NASA's Saturn portal, took training courses online to meet the security requirements. The first security training was done before the internship to have access to NASA computers, the other trainings were performed during the internship period. These training courses also were necessary to fulfill tasks like installing software on the ACES computer, as well as getting training for some control management tools like Clearquest.

Training Courses:

- Introduction to Information Security for new employees (ITS-013-002)
- KSC IT Security Pre-Briefing (KSC-ITS-PB)
- FY 2013 Annual Information Security Training (ITS-013-001)
- Protecting Sensitive Unclassified and Privacy Information 2013 (ITS-SBUPII-013-R)
- KSC Protecting Sensitive Unclassified and Privacy information for 2013 (KSC-ITS-SBUPII-013)
- NASA NE Information Technology Policies (KSC-NE-ROB)
- Elevated Privileges on NASA Information Systems (ITS-002-09)
- KSC Clearquest User Training – Basic (KSC-SCCS-CQUTB)
B. Accounts Setup
Access to the computer only grants you access to a certain amount of tools, but where I did most of my work wasn’t with the tools provided by the ACES machine, it was on the additional tools that are available on KSC through web applications or through Linux boxes. To request the setup and creation of the accounts I used the NASA Account Management System (NAMS). The most used account is the LCS dev account since this is a developing internship, this account gives you access to the development Workstation (DWS). From that DWS you have access to all your development tools such as the Netbeans Id’e used to program Application Control Language (ACL) scripts and the Display Editor (DE) where the entire graphical user interfaces where built and assembled.

Assigned Resources:
- KSC – Rational ClearQuest
- KSC AccuRev
- KSC RequisitePro
- CCC LCSdeV
- KDDMS – Windchill
- Enhanced ICE General
- ACES workflow for Elevated Privileges
- CCC SCCS

C. Documents
To understand the SMC CSCI and its capabilities initial time was spent viewing and reading the Spaceport Command and Control System (SCCS) presentation and the SDD for the SMC CSCI. These documents document the capabilities of both SCCS and SMC. SCCS is the whole system which includes LCS and SMC is a CSCI of LCS.

D. Tool trainings
Most of the tools utilized for the tasks of my internship are NASA controlled tools because of this I had no training or experience working with them. The SMC team as well as other NASA personnel offered us either training documents/slides on the tool or gave us an actual training.

Tool training:
- ClearQuest training by Jerry Murr
- AccuRev training by Delvin VanNorman
- Application Software Framework (ASF) user guide, ACL training
- Display Software Framework (DSF) Display Editor and Test Driver user guide

E. Team meetings
One of the most important aspects of being a successful computer engineer is having good communication abilities. Good communications abilities enable you to effectively understand your client's requirements and your communication towards your client to see if they are possible or not. Some clients do not have the technical knowledge or know the limitations in what they are asking. With effective communication you can make the client aware of those limitations, so you are not trying to do things out of the available scope of work. Through the course of this internship the Master Console Product Group (MCPG) holds meetings every morning to see the team’s status on their individual tasks as well clear information about milestones. This has a positive effect since we are on track and reaching our requirements on our way, without effective communication this would not be possible. As part of my tasks I have had to contact people from different subsystems to ask them for advice, explanation and best practices regarding their software/hardware to fulfill my duties.
F. Firing Room 1 (FRI) Consoles Health and Status Display

The FRI Consoles H&S display is the first task I received; this display consists of the FRI floor layout with all the components that are inside of it, the PWSs as well as printers. The old layout of this screen as seen on Figure 1 only had part of the FRI hardware mapped with the right H&S CUIs. The old layout only mapped out the redundant set, but FRI has two sets the redundant and non-redundant set. The requirements were gathered from my mentor and after the requirements a prototype was built to proof the concept to the MCOs. They replied with good feedback and things they wanted to include in this display. This meant updating the FRI layout to include both sets, to do this I used Paint.Net image editor. Also the status icons for each PWS were small and not numbered, when an issue arises the MCO would see the status of a certain PWS change state but could not locate the PWS just by looking at it, instead they had to look at the reference designator number of that particular desk to locate the two PWSs present and figure out which one is the one that is not working. This is a process that can be cut by just adding the PWS number on the spot that it is located. The layout size was increase to make better use of the available white space, this way icons are bigger and easier to distinguish (Figure 3and Figure 4). Throughout the process constant feedback was available from my mentor and also from the MCOs. This project was finished and implemented into a System Test TCID for 15-1. At the moment we are using the DDE set to test the display with a test driver script.

G. EIC Display Pad B

The EIC Display for Pad B is a display used by the MCOs to Activate Data Acquisition (ADA) and Inhibit Data Acquisition (IDA) on the Gateways (GW) connected to the Arbiters on Pad B. This display also requests and releases an arbiter for remote or local commanding. SMC will only be able to command when the arbiter is in Remote grant. The physical infrastructure for this display is from the KGCS team they are the ones that control and design the PLC system because of this I had little information on the displays requirements and capabilities. I contacted Katherine Stresau, who is part of the KGCS team, and met with her to talk about requirements and displays they used for their same system. She helped narrow down the requirements and also gave us best practices for that display by giving us the best idea of how the system works and interacts with our system. This display as seen on Figure 5 is still under development and I have developed three prototypes (Figure 6, Figure 7 and Figure 8) to present to the operations team so they can decide what works better for them. Later conversations with David Miller and Guy Bedette have helped us really make a consistent display with accurate information as it can be seen on Figure 9. This displays is the one that meets the requirements and the one going through the approval process. Also this display has ACL code running the commanding for the remote request and release since the display is essentially talking to the GW instead of the PLC. Some of the ACL code is already implemented since it was used on a previous display but there might be a little bit to add to this display. The ACL training has proved good to get around this problem, it is a lot easier than what I thought.

III. Conclusion

I successfully completed the required trainings and requests needed to work in the computer systems at KSC. The changes made to the FRI Consoles H&S display were to the expectations of the MCOs and to my mentors' standards. I was successful in updating and implementing the FRI Consoles H&S Display for testing in the DDE set, as soon as the testing is done and successful will implement it in the final build. The second display that is still in the process of being reviewed and approved for implementation is a more complex display because there is not too much information on it. Having good communication skills helped me gather the right requirements in the best amount of time possible to continue with this display. The training slides on the ACL programing proved to be invaluable piece of information for understanding the code needed to execute the request and release commanding and neutral set of the commanding.

My experience as an Intern for KSC has been the best work experience that a computer engineer can have. The MCPG has been the most experienced and helpful set of engineers in the center. I have developed a better understanding of what it is to work on a team with independent tasks that are all linked together and built. This is a real software engineering process, using iterative software development and CMMI like an industry standard has given me better understanding as a leader of how to run things. I am sure that I would love to work with NASA, it is a lot more than just an employer it is a family environment. Being part of the best space agency in the world that is sending rockets and working towards taking humans back into space is just mind boggling.
Appendix

Firing Room 1 Consoles Health and Status Displays

This is an image of the original FR1 Consoles H&S display; it shows only the redundant set with the health and status icons. Health icons are transparent on their default state.
This is in the process of updating the display the gray square that covered the non-redundant set is removed, the name of the display is changed to FR1 and on the top left the SMC was removed and it holds the MC now.
The changes made to the FR1 Console H&S display can be seen here, the whole layout was made bigger in order to have a better visibility. The desks have divisor lines so one can easily distinguish between one PWS and another. Each PWS has its number on the desk so the MCO does not need to look up additional information when an issue arises. On the outside of the desks there are the reference designators which help the MCOs locate issues faster. Incorporated a heartbeat monitor on the left side of the screen so that the MCOs know if the SMC servers are up and running at any given moment and last printer numbers were included as a request of the MCOs.

Figure 3 The completed FR1 Consoles H&S display

Figure 4 Close Up of cluster F and Heartbeat monitor
This is the first prototype done for the EIC display based on documentation found and email with Katherine Stresau. It has two sets of PLCs and each with its own set of arbiters. It gives the MCO the option to Activate data acquisition as well as enable remote commanding to a certain arbiter.
On this display PLC H&S is displayed like on the KGCS PLC roll up Health display. There is now an ADA and IDA for each gateway and the status. The AEC and IEC have been changed to request and release which is what KGCS uses.
This display is like the previous mentioned model but the ADA and IDA are taken out of each PLC and you have one general for each set.
This display is like the previous but to improve the visibility of the gateways ADA and IDA section a box was incorporated into it.
This is the latest prototype and the one that best addresses all the requirements. There are two sets of PLCs the A and B set; each set is in communication through a gateway. The A set uses GW 1 to communicate and the B set uses GW 2 to communicate, it also shows the gateway status whether it is INIT/COMM/CMD. Each PLC has its own ADA/IDA because they can be activated separately. The weather arbiter has been removed because at the moment it does not have a CUI and it is not clear if it will be included. This display also shows the PLC number along with the letter that tells to which set it belongs. The rest is similar to previous prototypes.
References
