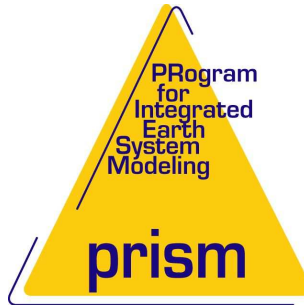


PRISM Support Initiative (PSI)



PRISM Support Initiative Activity Report September-November 2005

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PSI Management Report 3

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1 Overview

This document gives an overview of the PSI Team activities from September to November 2005. This report does not detail the technical developments done by the 5 PSI Work Groups during this period; those developments will be summarized in the next PRISM Team work plan, due end of January 2006.

During those 3 months, the PSI core group¹ or part of this group joined for 3 monthly meetings (Ex-eter meeting, 28/09/2005; teleconference, 29/10/2005; Toulouse PRISM Team meeting, 18/11/2005) to ensure the general coordination of the PSI activities. The minutes of these meetings can be found at <http://www.cgam.nerc.ac.uk/pmwiki/PRISM/index.php/Main/PSIMeetings>².

During this period, the following activities took place:

- PRISM Community Meeting 2005

The PRISM Community Meeting 2005 took place in Toulouse at CERFACS on November 16-17, gathering about 30 persons from different countries in Europe and one GFDL/ESMF representative. The objectives were to inform the community about PRISM latest developments, to review the results of the PRISM User Survey that was carried out in the European climate modelling community during the last few months, and help the PRISM Team developers gather the community's growing expectations into a new work plan for the next 3 years.

The Community Meeting was divided into 5 sessions gathering presentations and discussions. In the first session, PRISM current achievements and software tools were reviewed. In the second session, some PRISM users presented their experience with the current PRISM tools and their expectations. This was followed by a summary presentation of the PRISM User Survey given by the survey conductors G. Riley and R. Ford (CNC, Manchester University). In the third session, each PSI Work Group leader reviewed the part of the User Survey specific to his/her tool and proposed future developments; a presentation by R. Budich on the PRISM User group and relations with the community was also included. During the last session, general discussion on the User Survey results, on the role of the PRISM Support Initiative, and on criteria to define PRISM tools took place.

The minutes of the Community Meeting will be found at <http://prism.enes.org/news/meetings.php>. During the PRISM Team meeting that followed the Community Meeting, it was decided to produce two documents: 1- the complete User Survey results with replies by the Work Group leaders, 2- a summary of the User Survey and Community Meeting discussions with plans for future developments. These documents will be available in January 2006.

- PRISM tool definition

As was clearly expressed by the community in the User Survey, the PRISM tools should not be restricted to the ones produced during the EU funded FP5 project. The PRISM team proposed to review the criteria defining PRISM tools which development can be considered PRISM effort. A draft of those criteria was proposed:

1. The tool must be modular and usable independently.
2. The tool must be interoperable with other PRISM tools.
3. There must be a will by the community or by a subset of the community to use the tool.
4. The tool developers must be ready to provide user support.
5. The tool must be freely available for research.

Those criteria will be reviewed by the PSI core group and proposed to the PSI Steering Board.

¹The PSI core group gathers the PRISM Team General Coordinator, E. Guilyardi, the PRISM Team Technical Coordinator, S. Valcke, the lead of each PSI Work Group, the lead of the PRISM User Group, R. Budich, and at least one representative per PSI partner.

²Please contact Sophie.Valcke@cerfacs.fr for the wiki password.

- Metadata Work Group set-up

As it is now clear that PSI should have a stronger role, at international level, in the definition of model and data metadata, a Work Group on metadata was formally set-up during the PRISM Team meeting. This group should work closely with other groups already interacting PRISM (e.g. NMM, Flume, CERA/MPI) and internationally (e.g. ESMF, GO-ESSP, CF, PCMDI, CNC, Genie). Lois Steenman-Clark (CGAM) agreed to lead this group. The first actions of this group will be to formally identify its members, define where metadata is needed (model, data, etc.), and propose scope, strategy and remit.

- User group set-up

The PRISM User group was formally set up during the PRISM Team meeting. The scope of this group is to ensure that the community constantly drives PRISM remit, on the short and long terms. Reinhard Budich (MPI-M, Hamburg) will lead this group. The first actions will be to set up a User Group wiki page with propositions on how to organize the group, to send announcement of the User Group set-up at prism@enes.org, and to set-up another User Group mailing list.

- Workshop on UK Met Office FCM software

As part of PRISM expertise networking, a visit to the UK MetOffice in Exeter was organized on September 26-30 to review the Met Office FCM project. The Met Office FCM includes software to manage the development of model code and related scientific applications, and a compiling tool. V. Gayler (MPI-M&D), M.-A. Foujols (IPSL), S. Legutke (MPI-M&D), C. Levy (IPSL), S. Valcke (CERFACS) and N. Wedi (ECMWF) participated in the workshop.

The workshop was very useful for both the UK MetOffice and the participants. New requirements were expressed and are now fulfilled. The workshop showed that FCM is, a priori, an interesting and flexible tool for generating Makefiles and compiling code sources without imposing any strong constraint on the sources themselves or on their organisation. However FCM does not provide, as the PRISM SCE, a full Earth-system model assembly environment (including e.g. the choice of CPP keys and compiling options for different model combinations on different platforms). The SCE implementation could be substantially improved by incorporating FCM in its lower compiling layers. The reactions of the workshop participants will be found at <http://cgam.nerc.ac.uk/pmwiki/PRISM/index.php/Main/VersionControlFcmWorkshopWriteup>³.

Provision of FCM as open-source software received support at the UK Met Office from S. Bell (Head NWP) and D. Griggs (Head Hadley Centre); there is now need to seek agreement from the UK Met Office legal advisors. FCM evaluation process at IPSL will continue.

- PRISM Web Site

A group composed of R. Hatcher (CGAM), C. Larsson (ECMWF), N. Wedi (ECMWF), and E. Guilyardi (CNRS) reshaped the PRISM web site, based on the work already done by R. Budich (MPI). The new web site (same address as before: <http://prism.enes.org>) was published in September. The overall appearance of the web site is currently very satisfying although some pages, especially in the "Getting Started" and "Software" sections, need to be completed. For more details, see <http://www.cgam.nerc.ac.uk/pmwiki/PRISM/index.php/Main/PRISMWebSite>.

- The PRISM CD

Experience with the PRISM CD showed that its content is not always easy to install and run. As it was stressed many times during the Community Meeting that "the first experience with PRISM software should be easy and positive", a CD requiring specific Linux knowledge might not a good way to advertise PRISM. The CD content should be reviewed and its diffusion policy rediscussed.

- PRISM software server

Discussion about which software should be provided by the PRISM software server took place but lead to no clear conclusions up to now.

³Please contact Sophie.Valcke@cerfacs.fr for the wiki password.

- Fundings

The Agence Nationale pour la Recherche (ANR, France) recently accepted a proposal by O. Marti from CEA (IPSL) in collaboration with S. Valcke (CERFACS) and S. Planton (Meteo-France). This project includes in particular 12 pm for OASIS4 development and 6 pm for OASIS4 User Support.

- Interaction with other projects

- The first meeting of newly established Modeling Panel of WCRP (WMP) was held in Exeter on October 5-7. Cecelia DeLuca and Eric Guilyardi were invited to present respectively ESMF and PRISM, and to establish a plan for further cooperation. It was agreed that metadata standards was the key aspect to coordinate between the two projects. A white paper will be written by both groups and proposed to the WMP, with initial review by PRISM core group. A Teleconference between C. DeLuca, E. Guilyardi, V. Balaji and S. Valcke was organised on November 7th to start the process. During the PRISM Team meeting on November 18th, a formal PSI working group on metadata was also formally set-up (see above).
- EU FP6 GEMS project: S. Legutke (MPI - M&D), R. Redler (NEC-CCRLE) and S. Valcke (CERFACS) attended the GEMS technical workshop in Reading on October 17-18. The meeting was interesting and confirmed GEMS intention to use the OASIS4 coupler for atmosphere dynamics and atmospheric chemistry coupling. The PRISM coupler Work Group provided important user support and updates to match particular needs expressed by the GEMS project members.
- UK Met Office FLUME project: FLUME now plans to use OASIS4 coupler and is interested in collaborating on descriptive metadata in general and grid definitions in particular. Some user support has been provided by the PRISM coupler Work Group. The OASIS3 and OASIS4 interfaces for the NEMO model have been made available to UK Met Office, basically the same routines that have been developed in cooperation with IFM-GEOMAR.
- Collaboration with SMHI continued. The implementation of OASIS4 interfaces has been completed and the OASIS4 software has been updated to match particular needs imposed by the model configuration at SMHI.

- EGU

The text of the session "CL045 Earth System Modeling: Strategies and Software" proposed in the section "Climate: Past, Present, Future" is available at

http://www.cosis.net/members/meetings/sessions/information.php?p_id=185&_id=3653 . The session addresses not only technical or infrastructure issues but also scientific issues.

- Organization of the next Steering Board meeting.

The next SB meeting will take place at Hamburg Airport on February 15th (local contact: Michael Lautenschlager; lautenschlager@dkrz.de).

