Meeting Minutes

Focused Technical Project: CAD to ROS

Meeting Time: Monday, March 21, 2016

Meeting Venue: Teleconference

Attendees: Nicole Williams (Boeing), Paul Hvass (SwRI), Levi Armstrong (SwRI), Gijs van der Hoorn (TU Delft)

Topics:

- Issue categorization
- Backend data model, URDF_dom vs SDF vs generic
- Recruitment

Issue categorization: We reviewed the 25 issues currently categorized as Milestone 1 and found two items that can be delayed until beta:

- 31. Add export wizard to create robot support packages
- 42. Add sliders to control as-visualized joint positions

Action Items [Closed]: Paul Hvass moved issues 31 and 42 to Untargeted.

Backend data Model – URDF_dom vs SDF vs generic: The backend data model for in-memory storage has been a pending architecture design decision for the CAD to ROS project. We've wanted to move beyond URDF_dom for many reasons including the fact that it doesn't support closed kinematic chains and its API doesn't include logical checks for data consistency. In December and January, we reviewed the possibility of adopting SDF or Collada for in-memory data storage. However, Gijs pointed out that a generic graph model would be fast to setup, and then readers/writers can be composed to support each of the competing standards. The group agreed to proceed with the generic graph solution. Further discussion explored the impact of changing to the generic graph soon as opposed to waiting until the beta revision.

Action Items [open]: Gijs van der Hoorn is going to estimate the time required for creation of a generic graph in-memory data storage model.

Recruitment: Paul Hvass and Mirko Bordignon have responsibility to recruit programmers to help with the CAD to ROS project. Mirko was in the process of recruiting help from the ROS-I team at IPA. Paul Hvass had leads at TRACLabs and UT Austin NRG.

Action Items [closed]: TRACLabs and UT Austin are now project collaborators.

Action Items [open]: No word from Mirko about help with RIC-EU members.