**Forecaster Update**

I’m currently converting the existing source code to work within Microsoft’s latest development environment and C++ compiler. The existing code is well over 10 years old and both the IDE and the compiler have changed extensively since then to accommodate the latest trends in software development and changes to the language standard.

I considered completely re-writing the system in Microsoft’s newest .Net environment using the C# language (which still may be a possibility for parts of the user interface) but the existing code base is solid and robust, so we should make as much use of it as possible. (The forecaster has required no major maintenance over its lifetime and Microsoft will continue to support C++ extensively). We need to develop the new system using modern technologies and trends that will make it readily updateable and easily maintainable going into the future and for possible future developers.

The first significant step in this process does require a re-write of the code to access the database. The technologies now available for this and other techniques such as error handling have changed considerably. In order to facilitate this development, I’ve been working on a framework (or scaffolding if you will) that allows for adding too and testing of the new and changed code. This scaffolding may eventually become the basis for a new GUI for the system. That can be determined at a later date.

Once this initial step is completed, there will be a solid foundation for conversion of the old code and the upgrade of the system. I expect this initial phase to take another month of work.

Paul Dovenor

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