

EI Release Process

Author: Geoff Davis

Created: August 16, 1999

Last Modified: April 26, 2000 11:09

1 Purpose of Document

Details the release process for the MGI Editing Interface.

2 Definitions

release: Noun form: A named state of a product. Verb form: The act of distributing a new version of a product at a particular time (e.g., “Monday is the day of the release”).

3 Editing the EI Source

In order to work on the MGI Editing Interface, a working copy must be created. How this is done depends on what one intends to work on:

1. Standard release

```
cvs checkout ei
```

A working copy will be created from the most recent source in development. This is the “main line of development”.

2. Patch release for a Prime-time Release

First, check with the EI primary to make sure that you are supposed to be working on a patch release. The changes you intend to make may actually belong in the next standard release, in which case you should be working on the trunk, not a branch.

If you have confirmed that you are working on a patch release, determine the tag of the current patch branch for the EI (ask the CVS administrator or the EI primary). If a patch branch does not exist and is needed, contact the EI primary. Here is an example of checking out source from the “ei-1-2-4-patchBranch” branch:

```
cvs checkout -d eipatch -r ei-1-2-4-patchBranch ei
```

This causes the working copy to be created from the patch branch in the directory “eipatch”.

Whether changes belong in a patch release or as part of ongoing development is determined by the EI primary and is dependent on the type of changes and the ongoing release schedule. Please coordinate all changes with the EI primary.

4 Release Process

Changes between releases are noted in the HISTORY file associated with the EI product. After one determines the tag that will be used for the release (See document CVS Release Tagging and Product History and Dependencies), this tag is included in the section that pertains to the current release. Note that this comment needs to be in place *before* the tag is applied, otherwise the HISTORY file will not contain the expected information about the release. The same goes for dependencies listed in the DEPENDENCIES file.

After the HISTORY and DEPENDENCIES files have been modified, and all parallel work on the EI has been synchronized (i.e., everything has been committed), the tag should be applied.

The release process is identical for patch releases and standard releases, except that after a tag has been applied to a patch branch, the changes from that branch need to be merged into the main line of development. When this is done is up to the discretion of those working on the same product in the main line of development. See the CVS User's Guide for details on merging source.

Once the tag has been applied, one can export the tagged source to a new location:

```
cvsexport -r <tagname> ei
```

Builds/installs can then be done in that 'ei' directory. See the system documents associated with the EI for details on doing builds/installs.

For patch releases, one can either do a full release from the source on the patch branch, or install selected files individually. Which approach one takes depends on the circumstances. It is clearly desirable to ensure that the installed software is in-sync with a tagged release, and doing a full build/release ensures that. There are situations, however, where this might not be the best course of action. Doing a full build/release requires down-time for the editors, and if this is not convenient, one might simply identify the differences between the patch release and the currently-installed release and manually make the changes. This is only possible for files that are not compiled in any way, such as reports, and if the files are not likely to be used at the moment the installation is being done. For such a file, one would export a copy of the ei with the appropriate patch tag, then simply "cp" the file into the installation directory of the Production host.

5 System Documentation Installation

System documents are associated with the EI product and are stored in the "system_docs" subdirectory of "ei". All system documents for the EI are currently in HTML and are installed in Lori's public_html directory. This situation exists because we had not discussed where system documents would be installed at the time of the patch release. For now, contact Lori if you modify system documents for the EI.

6 Related Documents

1. MGI CVS User's Guide
2. CVS Release Tagging

3. Product History and Dependencies