WITSML Public Seminar[1]
Rueil-Malmaison, France, November 2004

Introduction

The Wellsite Information Transfer Standard Modeling Language (WITSML) has undeniable momentum. About 60 registered[2] (50 in attendance) for the public meeting in Paris – which followed the special interest group technical meetings. Etymologically, WITSML came from the well information transfer standard, WITS[3]. 'Vanilla' WITS is used to move data around between contractors working on the rig. WITSML may or may not displace vanilla WITS on the rig, but it has developed beyond the drilling rig. WITSML's importance is as a data staging point between the rig, the onshore operations center and the office. This success has been due to WITSML's ability to integrate http traffic – making it a firewall friendly solution to data transfer. It also benefited from the timeliness of XML as a data exchange mechanism. WITSML is a modern IT solution, with a lot of tools available for developers and deployers.

WITSML got strong endorsement from ExxonMobil, ChevronTexaco, Statoil, BP and the UK regulator, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). Because of legacy WITS – and the existence of other data sources on the rig, WITSML plays the role of concentrator, or hub. A typical geometry has multiple data feeds from the rig going to a WITSML hub/consolidator. Data from the hub, in WITSML, is available for polling in a 'subscribe and publish' mechanism (another firewall friendly technique). Various companies occupy the hub – Sense Technology (SiteCom), Landmark/Halliburton (OpenWire), Schlumberger (embedded in InterAct), Baker Hughes (RigLink), National Oilwell (S926?). Others (e.g. Paradigm) who have less of a rig site presence see in WITSML, an 'opening-up' of the hitherto proprietary wellsite data market.

WITSML has been a shot in the arm for interoperability, for the standards movement in general and a new lease of life for POSC. POSC is now looking through its standards portfolio for candidates for revamping with a WITSML-conformant approach.

Highlights

WITSML in BP, ChevronTexaco, ExxonMobil
Real time WITSML in Statoil
WITSML Data Servers
WITSML client usage

[1] The agenda and presentations from some of these talks can be found on http://www.posc.org/meetings/nov04WITpub/.

[2] Demographics of registered – 28 from EU outside France, 15 from North America, 9 from French private sector and 2 from host organization, IFP.

[3] For more on vanilla WITS see http://home.sprynet.com/~carob/.

Contents

