

API RBI User Group

Version 8 Software Release

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Lynne C. Kaley
The Equity Engineering Group, Inc.
Houston, TX USA

Background

- E²G took over management of the User Group project in late 2001
- Upgrade existing V3.3.3 Access 97 based tool developed in 1998
- Goals
 - Minimize operating system dependencies and installation problems with Windows/Office applications
 - Decrease the time and cost for software development and implementation of new technology
 - Decrease the time for software testing and validation
 - Reduce the incidents of bugs
 - Facilitate maintenance and distribution
 - Eliminate outdated or redundant functionality
- Software Product will:
 - Enterprise Network product
 - Standalone PC-based installation
 - World class software tool
 - Support multiple databases (MySQL, MS SQLServer, Oracle)

Version 4

- Development:
 - Web based tool intended to be distributed and operated over an internet/intranet
 - Personal Web server user interface (GUI)
 - Fortran calculator
- Status:
 - Web based tool found to be too slow for practical application
 - Personal Web server still an MS tool with system conflicts
 - Overly complex architecture
 - Abandoned development in late 2002

Version 5

- Development:
 - Standalone PC-based product
 - Java GUI – completely redeveloped from V4 functionality and form layouts
 - MySQL database
 - Fortran calculator with additions and improvements
 - User and Administrative Guides and Interoperable specification provided
- Status:
 - Released 2/2004
 - Used in limited application as first “production” release
 - Replaced by V6 2/2005

Version 6

- Development:
 - Improvements to GUI, Fortran calculator and database functionality
 - Speed improvements in navigation and calculations
 - Initial Network, multi-user functionality
 - Added MS SQLServer and Oracle database capabilities
 - Added Database browser (PC) and remote node
 - Improved guides and documentation
- Status:
 - Released 2/2004
 - Replaced by V7 2/2005

Version 7

- Development:
 - Fully Network, multi-user capabilities through collaboration with individual user companies
 - Currently operating network at three locations
 - Script Wise installation process to replace relatively manual installation
 - Added Import/Export interface for user data management
 - + Manage data in Excel for PC based applications
 - + Remote Node data from MySQL database to enterprise database
 - Added equipment types and damage mechanisms for thinning
 - Improved guides and documentation
- Status:
 - Released 2/2005
 - Validation testing provided input to production release 9/2005
 - Will be replaced by V8 in 4/2006

Version 8

- Development:
 - API RBI Service was rewritten to prevent shutdown of all services when user logged off
 - Normalization of database
 - + Eliminated reference tables
 - + Split tables with multi-functionality (e.g. separate input from calculated results, separated damage types)
 - + Restructure comments handling
 - + Develop automatic upgrade from V7 database structure
 - Server Changes
 - + Changes required for removal of reference tables
 - + Implement caching of static data to improve performance
 - + Implemented new filter capabilities – expanded filter choices, Added AND
 - + Improved/Added report capabilities
 - + Allow up to 12 instances of the server on a single server computer
 - Improved guides and documentation, Re-written BRD consistent with V8 capabilities
 - Interface with Meridium V3
- Status:
 - Release due 4/2006

Future Development

- Development:
 - Next release to include:
 - + Damage mechanism improvements
 - + RSF approach
 - + Improved inspection planning module
 - + Calibration of separate modules for consistent risk management approach
 - + Links to inspection database management programs
 - Documentation and approval with lead all future software development
 - + Submit inquiries or requests to E²G/TWG
- Status:
 - One to two annual version releases planned
 - E²G commitment to ongoing investment to software product and updated documentation