

Vista Users Meet in Oregon

Vista Newsletter

1st Vista User Group Meeting

Twenty-three *Vista* users from 7 companies attended the 1st *Vista* User Group Meeting that took place in Portland, Oregon on July 30th.

The meeting was held at the DoubleTree Hotel from 8AM to 4PM.

User Participants and Synexus Team

Among the companies represented and their attendees we could find *Bonneville Power Administration* (Mr. Kuepper, Smith, Murphy, Johnson, Thompson, Glabau, Bishop-Walker, Halpin & Ms. Perot, Mackay, Masson), *Hetch Hetchy Water and Power* (Mr. Picklum and Samii), *Idaho Power* (Mr. Wolfe), *Manitoba Hydro* (Mr. Shiels), *PacifiCorp* (Mr. Smith, Allerman, Bornemeier & Ms. Lozovoy), *WAPA* (Mr. Van Tran & Ms. Grouw) and *We Energies* (Mr. Rauscher and Carlsen).

Specialist, *Tryggvi Olason* - Application Developer and Implementation Specialist and *Marc Lafreniere* - Application Developer and System Integrator.



Richard Allen from Synexus Global



Terry (BPA), Diana (PacifiCorp), Bob (PacifiCorp) and Marc Lafreniere (Synexus)

Synexus Global technical team consisted of *Stu Bridgeman* - Director, Power and Water Resource Optimization, *Richard Allen* - Chief Technical Officer, *François Welt* - Optimization

The Marketing and Sales team was also present with *Pierre Lamontagne*, *Yvan Brien* and *Mélanie Rousseau*.

Round Table of Objectives

Synexus Global invited each company to express their goals regarding this User Group Meeting. Attendees saw the Meeting as an opportunity to:

- Meet other *Vista* users and learn from their experience
- Discuss implementation challenges, troubleshoot problems and identify solutions
- Discuss the integration of hydro scheduling with marketing activities.

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New Features Available in 2002

Richard, Tryggvi and François made a 90 minute presentation covering *Vista* new development areas:

- Editable relaxation costs
- External energy sources
- System representation
 - Modified structure of spillways and reservoirs
 - New definition of tailwater-affected spill structures
 - New uncontrolled structures (weirs and canals)
- Configuration flexibility
- Data integration generalization
- Export and publish functions
- Term contracts
- Reserves
 - New constraints

Enhanced Scheduling within ST Vista

Richard presented two recent issues related to *ST Vista*:

- ST simulator
- Hour grouping



Some of the attendees

A New Feature: Near-Real-Time Function

The near-real-time (NRT) function schedules unit generation on a 5-minute time resolution.

The NRT optimization project was presented by Stu, Tom Murphy (BPA) and Tim Smith (BPA). Rick and Dan Shiels (Manitoba Hydro) also provided input.

Architecture Challenges

Richard, Marc and Scott Bishop-Walker (BPA) presented recent work done to enhance security and to simplify workstation preparation.



Scott Bishop-Walker from BPA

LT Vista Matters

François presented recent issues related to *LT Vista*

- Probabilistic tables and plots
- Increased time flexibility – periods can be any number of days (greater than 7)
- Price uncertainty
- Restructuring
 - “Inputs” dialogue
 - new “.sch” file
 - ST-style desktop

Auto Vista – A Benefit Analysis

Tryggvi presented recent the issues regarding the “hour grouping” while Marc discussed the new capabilities of the Report Generator.

Eric Wolfe (Idaho Power) presented the results of a benefit analysis pilot study.

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What's Next in Vista?

Stu solicited input from the attendees regarding the R&D Directions that *Vista* should take. More specifically:

- ST hour grouping
- Report generator
- Pump-generating functionality
- "undo" function
- reserves
- ST simulator
- LT time flexibility
- LT price uncertainty
- Security / login
- Uncontrolled spill structures
- Transmission losses
- Term contracts

Attendees also had a lot to say on the future of the product. Their input included:

- GUI usability study
- Energy effects on reserves (account for "take" ratio)
- Wind generation
- Explicit unit commitment / start-stop costs
- Explicit thermal modeling
- Improved display of Daylight-savings-time values, and functionality of shift constraints in relation to DST
- Add time variation to LT sub-period definition
- Source-of-violations report
- Improved diagnostics reporting
- Parallel processing
- Local office (Portland?)
- Add more complex transaction types "financial instruments" (e.g.) options

Evening Activity

After the meeting, the participants went aboard the *Willamette Star* for a dinner cruise on the Willamette River. Good food, good wine, good company!



Vista Users and Synexus Team



*On the left: Tryggvi, Dan, Bill, Yvan
On the right: François, Bob, Terry and his wife*

Next Year?

The Synexus Team hopes to see you all next year for the 2nd *Vista* User Group Meeting, tentatively planned to be in Niagara Falls, associated with the 2002 Hydro Power Conference in Buffalo, NY.