

my research

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH COUNCIL
RUTHERFORD APPLETON LABORATORY

INFORMATICS DIVISION

SOFTWARE ENGINEERING GROUP NOTE 127

IPSE 2.5 Note 1
Monthly Progress Report: April 1986

issued by
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2 June 1986

DISTRIBUTION: R W Witty
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File: R&D/Theorem proving/Ipse 2.5

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Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

IPSE 2.5 April Report - C.P. Wadsworth, 8th May 1986

1. Overview

RAL started work on the project at the beginning of April although the official announcement of grant from Alvey/SERC is still not yet through. Work during April has concerned iteration of the Formal Reasoning concepts paper with MU and initiation of RAL procedure to recruit two staff to work on IPSE 2.5.

2. Staffing

Chris Wadsworth is nominally full-time on IPSE 2.5, although only charged 60% in April owing to unexpectedly high involvement in other events at RAL (caused by absences of senior staff, also time of year in SERC).

An advertisement to recruit two RA's has been drafted and agreed internally at RAL and will appear in the press shortly (Guardian, New Scientist, Computer Weekly - probably week of 12/5 - 16/5).

Brian Ritchie has been recruited from Edinburgh to work on the project at RAL. He will start on 1st August 1986 (awaiting confirmation of date). Brian developed the Interactive Proof Editor (IPE) on VAX and SUN2 at Edinburgh.

3. CPW Activities

WP2.3.1: Iteration of Formal Reasoning concepts paper with MU/CBJ
- 3 visits to MU during April

WP2.3.2, 2.3.3:
Multiple discussions with ipse staff at MU

Management:

- Chasing progress (lack of) toward official announcement of RAL grant
- Initiation of recruiting two RA's
- Brian Ritchie recruited (see above)
- Initial joint planning with MU

Meetings, Conferences:

- IPSE 2.5 ORB and TRB (1 day each)
- IPSE 2.5 Requirements review (1 day)
- Software Engineering Environments conference, Lancaster (3 days)
(Panel Member, Formal Methods Panel Session)
- Alvey FOREST project Open Meeting, Imperial (half-day)

Visitors to RAL:

- Nakajima from Kyoto: IOTA, 5GCS, SIGMA project (1 day)
- Yuasa from Kyoto: -- ditto -- (1 day)
- 2 from RSRE: ML/LCF, theorem proving, etc (half-day)

Software acquired:

- Kyoto Common Lisp (KCL) for VAX and SUN2 [Yuasa]
- IOTA over KCL (test version) [Yuasa]
- Edinburgh IPE on SUN2 [Ritchie]

Documents issued:

- one revision of Formal Reasoning concepts paper (with CBJ)

4. Exceptions

Project library, database, mail lists:

- RAL not getting documents by the regular route

EEmail problems:

- Very poor reliability through much of the period
- Considerably delayed issue of revised Formal Reasoning paper, particularly over two weekends when attempting rapid turn-around with CBJ
- Have necessitated spending more time at MU to escape dependence on the network (and high number of diversions at RAL!)

Announcement of RAL grant:

- Not through yet. Have been assured that there are no problems about grant being announced eventually, but chasing Alvey and SERC Central Office leaves me little wiser now as to when
(MKT: Do you need/want to chase up?)

Ack to application to Alvey (lack of):

- I have never had one
- Or indeed ANYTHING in writing from Alvey!

Now 6 months since the RG2 left my desk!