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Subject: IEEE R3 vTools Report

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I attended a vTools Training "Summary" event which was held on November 20. You can view all the material that were covered and an 8 hour video by clicking on: <http://sites.ieee.org/vtools/>. Most of the material covered merely re-iterated the available offerings which everyone is now familiar. Naturally some "burning questions" were answered. Most of these were regarding eNotice and Meetings.

The answers to these questions will apparently be addressed in subsequent releases. Although the staff was a little reluctant to talk about the new releases, here is some of the info that I was able to glean, just to let you know that work is being done on the project:

eNOTICE AUTOMATION: This new release will allow each OU (Operational Unit - like Region, Section, etc) to send normal eNotice emails as "Express" (not subject to search and seizure by the IEEE staff - currently a 5 day delay). An Express eNotice will be sent out within 2 hours (the time it take to generate the recipient list from SAMIEEE). This release is currently in Q/A and may be released by the end of December (ie. shortly).

MEETINGS/EVENTS: A complete re-design was done by the vTools Committee and several volunteers this last summer. The main thrust was "simplification" of use while simultaneously including solutions to a number of issues that have been discovered through use of the current release. In addition, the scope of the offering has been increased to include Events (which would be something larger than merely Meetings - perhaps to include Symposiums or small Conferences). This release is currently in software development (programming) bu a software vendor working with IEEE staff. This release has not been reviewed by the volunteer design group as yet but the initial review is expected the first part of next year.

AT-MEETING: This is an additional feature that has come out of the design effort this summer. It will allow the OU to perform a number of activities, such as Registration, fee collection, and other things, while at the Meeting/Event and have them recorded as meeting information. This will be a follow-on to the new Meeting/Events release next year.

REGISTRATION: Registration, which is recognized as needing upgrading, has not been subject to a complete redesign as yet, although there will be some changes due to the Meetings/Events redesign to correct some issues.

WEBEX: The current "scuttle-butt" says that the IEEE would like to get a separate license for each Section, so you won't have to go through HQ each time you'd like use the WEBEX system for a meeting. This is in-work. So don't "hold your breath" 'till you get it.

That's all folks.

Don't be afraid to contact me if you think I can help you with anything on vTools.

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