

Integrated Flight-Ground Software for Rapid Mission Development

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generationone

About us

- Space technology company specialising in software
 - Based in Scotland, UK
- Founded in 2011
- Experience with a wide range of upstream software
 - Flight
 - Mission control/operations
 - Simulation
- Mixture of software products and services
 - Supplying products to nano-satellite missions worldwide
 - Partnered with spacecraft integrators offering full software service
 - Ongoing R&D projects and consultancy with ESA, UKSA and others



Typical Space System

- Interface specified at the level of telecommand and telemetry packets
 - Impoverished view of the functionality provided
 - High level patterns of interaction not readily captured
 - Labour-intensive
 - Error-prone
 - Hard to change (particularly across organisational + contractual boundaries)
 - Complicates operation + automation
- Problems
 - Doesn't scale well
 - Doesn't support rapid, agile development

Some alternative approaches ...





The Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems





EUROPEAN COOPERATION



FOR SPACE STANDARDIZATION

PUS



CSP

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GenerationOne

- **GenerationOne** is a core software technology and reference architecture •
 - Applied to onboard software through a Flight Software Development Kit
 - Applied to operations through **Mission Control Software**
- GenerationOne addresses the key challenges by combining •
 - Model-based software engineering
 - Model captures software at an architectural level
 - **Component-based** software engineering
 - Software is built from regularly structured modules (components)
 - A service-oriented architecture
 - Interactions between components conducted using services
- GenerationOne was not solely designed up-front
 - Started simple with features introduced gradually
 - Has been iterated and improved upon •
 - Uses experience from many projects and missions •
 - Features tested in a practical environment •
 - Continues to be extended and improved •



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Characteristics of GenerationOne

- Model-based software engineering
 - Permits machine comprehension of software architecture
 - Enables tooling to assist with software development
 - Tools can also be used to assist with product/quality assurance
 - Model describes architecture across flight and ground
 - Model used across life-cycle from early development to end of operations
- **Component-based** software engineering
 - Key enabler for re-use
 - Each component includes implementation, tests and documentation
 - Complete system built from components
 - Lightweight underlying framework connects and supports components
 - Many (most) components portable across platforms and operating systems
- Service-oriented architecture
 - Provides consistent semantics for component interactions
 - Enables low level parts of software to be expressed as components
 - Raises the semantic level of operations
 - Separates interaction semantics from implementation protocol



Example software components

- Subsystem components, represent hardware
 - EPS, battery, ADCS, payload
 - Support for many off-the-shelf hardware subsystems and OBCs
 - AAC Microtec, Clyde Space, GOMspace, ISIS, Pumpkin, Vorago and many more

Data handling and monitoring components

- Sampling, data pool, aggregation, logging, monitoring, statistics
- Support for most common onboard monitoring functions

Communications components

- Packet handling, telemetry reporting
- Support for a number of different communications protocols
- Includes support for ECSS PUS, CFDP

Automation components

- Absolute and relative time scheduling, orbit-based scheduling
- Event-based automation
- Onboard scripting

Mission-specific custom components

• Mode management, deployment sequencing, orbit counting



Typical workflow



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MCS View

COAST MCS - LEOP - Orbit view File Data Tools Help

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	2017-01-30 12:35:22 DEBUG gen1.protocol.tmspacedatalink.TmSpaceDatal	And space packet header						
an interface to the onboard	2017-01-30 12:35:22 ERROR gen1.gui.hk.HkChecks	gging site. irameter cdn DataPool.platform.DummySubsys1.dummyParam16 violated check 1: Value of 16 is above HARD limit of 10						
							CD/ID client connected	



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Results



- 10 Diverse Cubesat missions within the company
 - Small team, rapid development
- 8 Satellites currently operating with gen1 technology
- Application Diversity
 - Commercial, Science, Education
- Platform & Technology Diversity
 - AAC-Clyde, Pumpkin, GOM Space, Custom
 - Linux, RTEMS, FreeRTOS, Bare metal
 - ARM, x86, Leon-2, SPARC, MSP430
- Centralised & Distributed Architectures







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Conclusion

- Move towards a more unified treatment of space and ground through a • shared functional architectural model
 - Facilitates rapid iteration •
 - Raises the **semantic level** of the space / ground interface for improved • operability, autonomy and scalability

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Backup slides



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Interface to a component

Actions

- Commands/operations/methods
- Can 'invoke' from onboard or ground

Parameters

- Data fields/attributes
- Can 'get' or 'set' (if not read-only) from onboard or ground

Exceptions

- Status code
- Returned by synchronous operations (e.g. get/set/invoke)
- Indicates abnormal or unusual operation, usually an error

• Events

- Issued asynchronously and usually logged onboard
- Indicates abnormal or unusual operation, usually an error
- This is the interface that is "seen" from ground
- Components can be grouped together to form a logical hierarchy

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The GenerationOne approach

- Provide common functions off-the-shelf as **software components**
 - Model captures the available component types
- Flight software rapidly **assembled** from these components
 - Within the "glue" of the GenerationOne framework
 - Model captures the architecture resulting from component assembly
- The software can therefore be tailored for the mission
 - Which components are used
 - How many of each type of component is used
 - The ways in which components are connected together
 - Custom components for the mission
- Component framework is relatively simple
 - Not flying a lot of unnecessary complexity
- Component interfaces follow regular structure
 - Limits issues caused by component interactions
- Reduce development time, cost and risk
 - Software available earlier to support AIT



Component interface from ground

	Somection View Help					
	🚽 Spacecraft Explorer					
Component Action Parameter	Spacecraft Explorer spacecraf					
	Ved 14:01:59 DEBUG framework FileStoragePr 298 Overwriting Ved 14:01:59 INFO framework Deployment.c 36 Deployment initialisation successful					
	onnected					

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Components and services

- A component interface and a service are on different semantic levels
- Component interfaces (as defined by the OSRA)
 - Describe what
 - For example
 - An attribute
 - An event
 - Bindings bind a thing to a thing
 - e.g. an attribute to an attribute
- Service interfaces (as defined by MO and, to a lesser extent, SOIS)
 - Describe how
 - For example
 - Parameter service
 - Event service
 - Bindings bind a *mechanism* to a *mechanism*

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