

# 11<sup>th</sup> July 2005

# Fourth Inter-Celtic Colloquium on Hydrology and Management of Water Resources

# **WISKI**

Quality Assurance for Hydrometric Network Data as a Basis for Integrated River Basin Management

Frank Schlaeger Michael Natschke Daniel Witham



# German Celts?

- Cooperation with agencies in UK, Ireland
- Biggest partner is Environment Agency of England and Wales
- Hydrometric archive replacement project (HARP)
- Selected hydrometric archive → WISKI
- Software development driven by EA
- Major aspect was data quality control





# Contents

# Introduction

- Handling of hydrological data
- Quality assurance
- Conclusions



#### Handling hydrological data

- Demand on hydrological network data by hydrologists, engineers, decision makers and the public is increasing in quantity, quality and time to delivery
- For us, this means, that we have to process the raw data to value added products and information in an efficient way
- Standardized quality assurance procedures can help to fulfill this requirement
- Standardized data formats and data exchange
- For best results such tools are needed in the whole chain:
   measurement → data acquisition → validation and correction → dissemination → use
- Support of these processes with different tools and functions



# Data quality assurance

# **Quality assurance**

- QA on data level
- QA on workflow level
- QA on system level
- QA on IT level



- Securing the raw data before processing
   → original and production time series
- Standardized procedures for data validation, correction and evaluation
  - $\rightarrow$  plausibility checks
  - $\rightarrow$  standardized correctors



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- Securing the raw data before processing
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- Standardized procedures for data validation, correction and evaluation.
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- If available, use of national and international standards or agreed organization wide standards
   → e.g. ISO 748, British BFI, standard frequency analysis
- Continuous quality marking of the data by users or automatically by the system
   → Quality flag and remark system



#### Quality flag and comment system





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   "who worked on which data at what time and what was the reason the results?"



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# QA on workflow level

- Clear definitions and policies
  - $\rightarrow$  Guidelines
- Adoption to the requirements of the individual organization
  - $\rightarrow$  WISKI wizards
  - $\rightarrow$  Use Case
  - $\rightarrow$  Best Practice Guides
- Regular training of the users



# The hydrological network

- Spatial analysis in GIS environment
  - $\rightarrow$  WISKI ArcGis Extension
- Optimization of number and location for the gauges



# **Spatial analysis**



# The hydrological network

- Spatial analysis in GIS environment
  - $\rightarrow$  WISKI ArcGis Extension
- Optimization of number and location for the gauges
- Validation of rating curves in a catchment by calculation of the annual water balance
   → WISKI formula / KiBasic



#### The archive

- Overall analysis about trends in number and length of gaps in the records
- Overall analysis about trends in data quality
- Overall analysis about trends in time to publish the data
- Comparisons between these indicators between different regions, directorates or departments



#### QA on IT level

# **IT** infrastructure

- Standardized methods and policies for data base back-up and maintenance
- Back-up strategy for data base and software servers, multiple network lines
- Regular data base maintenance (statistics etc.)
- Regular checks of hardware and backup systems



# QA on IT level

# **IT Infrastructure of the Environment Agency**



National Archive 38,000 Stations 2.6 Billion data points > 200 GB database

300 concurrent user 600 in total

#### CITRIX ORACLE



#### Conclusions

- The WISKI system was introduced to provide a reliable and flexible archive enabling a central, consolidated source of information
- It can provide a modern software platform with sufficient flexibility to encompass future business change and data demands
- Its implementation in different authorities reduces costs for support and maintenance
- It frees up staff resources to improve data quality, undertake more comprehensive analysis and to convert data into information for managing the environment
- On all QA levels ideas, strategies or tools exist to increase the quality of data and information
- Due to the never ending process of increasing quality continuous discussion on this topic is needed





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# How to achieve quantity and quality goals

# of the Water Framework Directive

in the Celtic countries ?



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# Summary

- Requirements of EU-WFD lead to need of software for integrated data management
- Existing software WISKI for water quantity management
- Extension by Water Quality Module WQM
  - Data management
  - Data monitoring
  - Data analysis
  - Data assessment
  - Data presentation
- Complete solution for decision support and data management

Useful tool to meet requirements of WFD



#### **WISKI-Key** features

# Handling hydrological data







# EU - WFD

Complex management tasks:

- water quality data management
- monitoring of all water bodies
- combined water quality and quantity data

analysis

assessment of current water body status

presentation of results



# WISKI-Package

- Client-Server-Architecture (RDBM Systems)
- Complete Windows 32-bit application
- Hydrological work bench with data stream from telemetry to final report in one system
- Hydrological data are stored in time series
- Analysis tools based on international standards
- Automatic processing tools for data exchange to other systems, export or reports

