

VSIPL Forum

Policies and Procedures for a ‘Maintenance Mode’

A Proposal to the VSIPL Forum
May 1, 2002

The VSIPL Forum has succeeded in launching the VSIPL standard. A standard document, a reference implementation, and a test suite have all been issued and are being maintained. Although there are various proposals for further VSIPL-related work, none of them are yet at the stage where the VSIPL Forum needs to actively meet to consider them. Therefore, the Forum is planning to enter a ‘maintenance mode’, in which it no longer holds regularly scheduled meetings, but continues to maintain and support the VSIPL standard and its associated products. This document describes the operation of the forum while it is in maintenance mode.

VSIPL Electronic Presence

The VSIPL web site and email lists will remain active. They will continue to be maintained by the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI), which also holds the copyright on the VSIPL standard document. The VSIPL co-chairs will remain listed as points of contact on the web site; they are responsible for answering questions related to the standard.

The VSIPL web site should be amended with a ‘VSIPL Journal of Development’, maintained by the co-chairs and document editor. This will be an area where proposed additional functionality for the VSIPL standard will be posted and accumulated. Items are posted to this area only with the consent of the co-chairs. The idea is that when or if such time arises that major functional changes are being considered for VSIPL, the items in the Journal of Development could also be considered for inclusion in the standard at that time.

Document Changes

The Forum foresees two major categories of possible changes to the VSIPL standards document. One category, designated *minor changes*, consists of typographical error corrections, minor clarification, and cosmetic or other formatting changes to the document. The second category, designated *major changes*, consist of actual additions to the functionality of the standard. Examples of major changes might include image processing or a C++ binding, but also include the addition of even a single function to the standard document.

Minor changes will be resolved by posting proposed corrections to the vsipl-core mailing list for a two-week comment period. The change will then be made by consensus of the document editor and co-chairs.

Major changes require a formal proposal for a substantive change to the standard. The Forum will hold at least three meetings to review the proposal, and vote on the proposal no sooner than the third meeting. Voting rights on the final proposal would be defined by meeting attendance, but the requirement of at least 3 meetings ensures that interested organizations will have the opportunity to participate in the discussion of the proposal and then be invested with voting rights by the time it came to a final vote. The

co-chairs will be responsible for publicizing the existence of the proposal and organizing an appropriate series of meetings to act on the proposal. As part of this process, items in the Journal of Development may also be evaluated by the Forum and accepted, rejected, or deferred.

Additional Meetings

AVSIPL meeting will be called if a majority of voting organizations request one. The co-chairs are responsible for organizing the meeting. If the number of requesting organizations is less than a majority, the co-chairs are responsible for evaluating the need for a meeting and deciding whether to call one.

Replacement of Key Personnel

Replacement of the document editor or co-chairs will be handled by e-mail votes of voting organizations, organized by the co-chairs. Eligible organizations for the e-mail voting include those who had voting rights at the most recent VSIPL Forum meeting. When approved by the Forum, this document will include a list of those organizations which had voting rights at the meeting where it was approved.

Replacement of key points of contact at major participating organizations will be handled informally. The Forum hopes that any such person would introduce a successor if their organization remains interested in VSIPL development. In the event no successor is identified, the co-chairs will invite the organization to designate another participant.