

The Blueprint



The official News Letter for the Army Architecture Repository Management System (AARMS)

12 Dec 2003

AARMS version 2.2 Release December 15th, 2003

The much-anticipated AARMS version 2.2 is scheduled for general release 15 December 2003. The new features for AARMS version 2.2 include the following:

- The AARMS OV-5 import / export mechanism has been completely redesigned to use standard IDEF IDL also includes off-page references, external references and greater user-data validation.
- OV5 IEM Preview Report
- Added the Joint Functional Architecture Assessment Tool (JFAAST) Access database utility to the OA tool set.
- Addition of Navy and Marine Task Lists
- Building architectures by Integrated Process (IP)

The New OV-5, Activity Model Utility

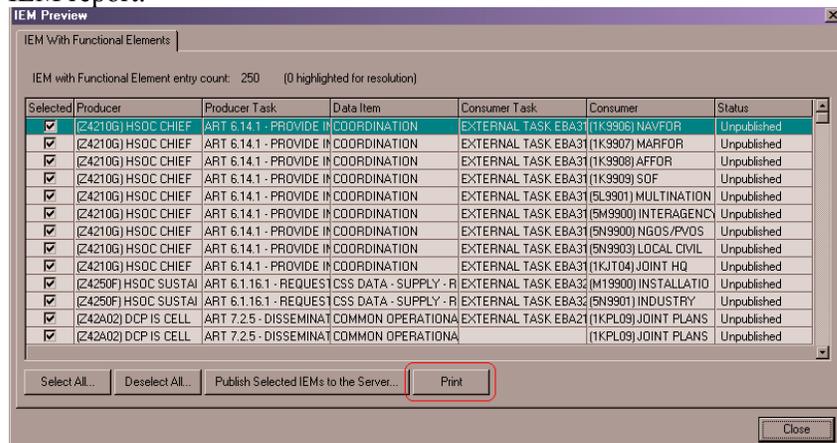
The AARMS OV-5 import / export mechanism has been completely redesigned to use standard IDEF IDL (Interchange Definition Language) methodology that is more robust and universal, bringing it from an “early concept” stage as first released this summer, to “industrial strength.” The new tool includes the ability to process complicated “off-page references”, the ability to process external references, and provides greater user-data validation. This latest feature allows the user to use this special mechanism to represent all Functional Elements without actually having to add them to the BPwin model. The OV5 import recognizes the special case and creates the required IERs automatically. User beta testing has been underway for over six weeks by the Futures Branch at Ft. Monroe with positive results. Due to finite resources, the originally OV-5 to OV-3 import mechanism was limited in scope and scalability, capable of processing only basic, one-page models without multiple instances of Data Item Types (DITs). Now, the re-engineered tool is fully scalable, capable of processing complex, multi-page models, utilizing multiple instances of DITs, off-page and off-model references.

Instructions

1. Export the activities (tasks), arrow mechanisms (OV-4 functional elements and data item types), as previously done using the dictionary menu from the AARMS OV-5 page. Ideally, only one set of Activities and Arrows from AARMS (Tasks, Data Item Types and FE/OE's) should be imported into the BPWin dictionary and are from the Architecture currently being developed.
2. Set up BPWin options as follows:
Tools->Preferences -
IDL Export User Defined Properties - Checked
Cost Data - NOT Checked
Data Usage - NOT Checked
3. After the activity model has been completed, create an 'idl' file for import into AARMS as follows (all in BPwin):
 1. Select 'FILE ->Save As' from BPWin menu
 2. In Save As dialog box enter file name with a .idl extension
 3. In Save As Type Drop Down choose - 'IDEF0 IDL Files (*.idl)
 4. Select this saved IDL file for import into AARMS - the application will do some basic checks on the file before the import.
4. Import the IDL file into AARMS. The IEM preview page is slightly changed but now gives more information and error detail e.g. invalid opfac (probably not in the architecture), no OV-2 connection, IER already exists, can't publish OE's (need to use FE's).

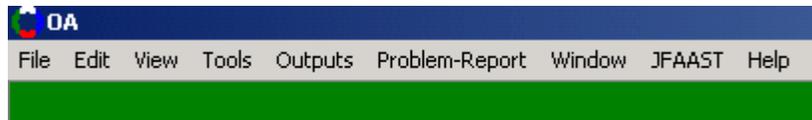
The New OV-5, Preview Report

The capability to review and print the OV-5 IEM's has been added to this AARMS release. Users can assess this feature once the BP Win model is imported in the OV-5 as instructed. The user then selects "Build IEM" to display the IEM Preview. This screen will provide the selection to print the IEM report.



AARMS Adds JFAAST Capability

The AARMS team added the Joint Functional Architecture Assessment Tool (JFAAST) Access database utility to the AARMS OA tool set. Wayne Kropp of the Futures Branch developed this tool. This tool gives users the ability to associate mission threads to desired operational capabilities. Just select JFAAST from the tool bar to activate.



Building Architectures by IP

Building architectures by IP was implemented to support LSI/Integrated Process team. IP's are assigned to architectures by using the properties dialogue assign IPS to the Architecture. IP's can also be selected in the OV-4 under node properties, OV-2 on the drop down, and OV-3 under "Select an IP".

AMEDD Requests AARMS Support

AMEDD has requested assistance from the AARMS team to integrate AMEDD organizational and functional architectures, which consist of several thousand IER's into the AARMS database. The identified IER's are located in an access database and not in a format consistent with AARMS. This pre-release exercise with AMEDD will provide significant opportunities to garner knowledge on how functional architectures are produced. A process to build functional architectures will be incorporated in AARMS 4.0.

Marines Use AARMS

To support the Blue Force Tracking Joint Army/Marine Architecture the AARMS team extracted data objects from Blue Force Tracking BPWin Activity Model using a combination of manual and automated mechanisms, created associated elements in AARMS database, and built the OV-3 (Information Exchange Matrix) Architecture product that is stored in AARMS and can be viewed in AARMS using the application Graphical User Interface. This produces Joint architectures in AARMS and makes the products available to other Uniformed Services promotes AARMS as a major tool in the development of DOD architectures.

AARMS To Support SDCS

The AARMS team met with LTC Greene from Netcom and Scott Delibac from MITRE on Wednesday Dec 3, 2003 to discuss the use of AARMS as a tool to aid the SDCS with the workload based assessment of the number of SIGNAL units required by the ARMY. LTC Greene was very impressed with what AARMS already does and was of the opinion that AARMS is a 90% solution for their current needs. This tasking request will have to be submitted to TRADOC AIMD Directorate for approval.

AARMS Training

The AARMS training plan is currently under development to support the version 2.2 release. The v.2.2 training manual and training schedule will be posted to the web site in pdf format later this month.

AARMS Welcomes New Member

The AARMS team welcomes a new member, Robin Josey. She will be taking on the duty of database developer.

AARMS TEAM

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