



RELEASE 7.0 QUESTIONS

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Introduction

This document should serve to clarify some of the issues around the 7.0 Release of Athena software. Some of the key changes from previous releases are an ambitious time-table, the creation of a Release 7.0 Team to act as representatives of the various Athena groups, the new project planning mechanisms and additional code auditing requirements.

What are the Sources of Information for the Release?

Bug Fixes

There are currently 1520 bugs in the *Changes* file which have accumulated over the past two years.

Software Suggestions

The *software-suggestions* mailing list and subsequent *suggest* Discuss meeting have created a lively dialogue on potential items for inclusion in Athena releases. We also plan to advertise this communications mechanism through the *Athena Insider* and posters in the public clusters.

Project Plans

About forty project plans will have been submitted to the managers by early March. However, not all of these are relevant to or could be completed in time for this particular release.

How will Items be Chosen for the Release?

Bug Fixes

The Release Engineering/Quality Assurance Team, and Jonathan Kamens in particular, are attempting to solve these problems as expeditiously as possible. We want to include as many of these fixes as we can, however we are hampered by the lack of auditors. **If you feel that you can help audit, please volunteer by contacting Jonathan (jik@athena).**

Software Suggestions

There will be three passes through these suggestions to decide which ones should be developed for inclusion in this release.

- The Release Engineering/Quality Assurance Team determine the viability and complexity of the proposed ideas
- The "Release 7.0 Team" decides which suggestions are realistic and desirable for this release
- The managers will have the final approval

Clearly, some suggestions will have to be deferred until the next release.

Project Plans

Not all of the submitted projects affect this release. The managers will evaluate Project Plans for those that match our short-term Goals and Priorities and can be completed in time for inclusion in this release. Some of these have been underway for quite some time and others should be decided very shortly to give the teams reasonable time to complete the work before the code-cutoff date.

What is the Timetable for the Release?

March 6 Managers select Release 7.0 Projects
April 1 Complete Software Suggestion Review
April 2 Announce 7.0
April 16 Projects due
April 23 Minor changes and documentation due
April 30 QA done with changes
May 7 Release to testers and "test cluster"
May 23 Staff Test
June 18 Release given over to Operations
June 20 Release to field

Still to be integrated is similar Release 7.1 schedule.

How will other Groups be Involved in the Release?

Release 7.0 Team

I want to form a team consisting of a representative from each of the functional groups within Athena with one additional member each from Documentation and Training, Consulting and Release Engineering/Quality Assurance. I will be asking the Managers to select their emissaries early next week.

We will meet on a regular basis from March through June. It will be the responsibility of the team members to represent their group's point-of-view at these meetings. This team will monitor the events throughout the release time-table and ensure that timely, effective and hassle-free decisions are made.

Projects

Project Plans are considered public information and will be accessible as they are completed. The project leaders have the responsibility of communicating information about the status of the work to rest of the Athena staff. Some examples are when/where design review(s) are going to take place, whether the project is on time and how to "test drive" the software.

Staff Testing

All staff should take part in the staff test, despite the possible loss in our productivity

due to running unreleased software. This is one of the key steps in ensuring that the software that we deliver to our "customers" functions properly and cleanly.

Advanced Cluster

The advanced cluster in W20 will be enlarged and used as a test cluster. We will once again advertise the availability of these systems as a place where the community can help us by trying out new software.

Department Cluster

I also want to work with one of our larger departmental clusters to provide a similar testing strategy as we use in the W20 Advanced Cluster.