Status of project advancement for the automatic logic coaching assistant (ALCA)

1. The first presentation of Lorna1 was for proof of concept on 2-teams. The code word Lorna means logically ordered, ranked, notational automation

2. The next presentation of Lorna2 was for functional proof on 8-teams.

> Both 1. and 2. used team data manipulated by hand as DATA statements embedded in the programming code.

3. The current Lorna3 is a pre production demo for rosters of 16-teams in 2020-2021 Stanley Cup playoffs.

> This contains substantial design to implement a more seamless data acquisition by minimizing manual, human intervention for an automatic process.

>> This includes data input from an *external* text file prepared by the clerk as follows.

>> The statistics for the 16-teams in the playoffs are contained at the NHL website in 7-spreadsheet screens.

>> The SAP-NHL contract prohibits download of all 7-screens as a *single* spreadsheet export; consequently, the 7-screens are exported separately.

>> The clerk copies and pastes the data into one spreadsheet file, formats all cells as text only, then saves as a .csv file using default switches.

>> That file format contains text of each cell in double-quotes and separated by comma, eg: "name", "team", ...

> This also contains the same processing output to the computer screen as in 2, but extended to 16-teams.

4. LornaPro for production is extended to 32-teams, with formatted screen output written to text files suitable for printing and with continuous input of program operation.

> This requires the clerk to download *daily* about 14-spreadsheet screens and manipulated as in 3.

Comment:

The manual process could be avoided entirely by the daily receipt of an email attachment with a single file in the above text format from the SAP-NHL contract. Such a gratis service is *not* offered as a public gesture to foster NHL good will.

That service also could be a pay-to-play subscription service from the SAP-NHL contract, since this automatic logic coaching assistant (ALCA) is effectively competing against the analytics as produced from the SAP-NHL contract. The SAP-NHL problem is any guarantee of uninterrupted serviceability and veracity of statistics, hence the necessity of a disclaimer of warranty to bar trust.

However, most of the analytics from SAP-NHL are provably meaningless. There is no academic evidence in team sport theory that the counting data or derived statistics are significant. For example, no published papers exist to show that shots on goal or arbitrarily cooked-up player rankings are valuable as predictors of outcome.

Therefore the LornaPro product includes pricing for mark up and surcharge of automated file updates. The surcharge covers quality assurance procedures to authenticate minimally that statistics as published publicly on the NHL website and usable at reader's risk are not *falsified* from the SAP-NHL data as used in the hand held computer provided to the bench. This QA effort is required because the SAP-NHL contract outputs statistics which contain human errors and because SAP is not known in the industry for enforcing comprehensive quality such as in DoD-STD-2167A.

Difficulty to overcome:

All communications to the NHL *and* NHL-teams go through a gatekeeper at nhl.com, but the gate keeping process is notoriously mishandled in that business inquiries such as request for pricing of subscription service go unacknowledged. Furthermore, US Mail business letters suffer the same fate as too costly to respond. (Our letter to the owner of the Washington Capitals and another to NHL management are two examples, among many misdirected emails to effect the same.) The track record of the NHL serves to elevate it to a god-like status and to disenfranchise it as a sporting monopoly from others, all guided by NHL avarice.

Consequently, the surcharge for a clerk manually producing daily text files means a higher markup for the input data. In other words, if the SAP-NHL contract was so easy to play with then both SAP-NHL and vendors would profit more by cooperating.