Meeting Minutes

The 10th meeting of the IT Innovation Review Board (IT-IRB) was held in person/by videoconference on Wed, 28 June 2023, and was chaired by Alberto DI MEGLIO, IT Department Innovation Lead.

Participants (ex-officio): Alberto Di Meglio (INN, Chair), Natalie Kane (replacing Dirk Duellmann) (TD), Maria Girone (INN), Gavin McCance (ARB), Sofia Vallecorsa (INN), Sonia Mentrida Calleja (PMO), Stefan Roiser (INN)

Excused: Bob Jones (GOV), Simone Campana (ENG), Manuel Martin Marquez (Secretary)

Participants (invited):

Minutes: Alberto Di Meglio, Manuel Martin Marquez

https://indico.cern.ch/event/1230062/

The meeting was called to order at 9.00 a.m.

Adoption of Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of the last meeting are still being reviewed

New Projects Proposals

IT-GPT

Manuel presents the project proposal, slides attached to the Indico page

Discussion

Q: The use of LLMs and ChatGPT-like tools is receiving more and more attention and we agree that the IT Dep. should look at this with attention. However, the proposal as expressed today presents some risks. Opening a portal this to public usage might not be a good idea

A: Yes, I agree that the consequences should be better understood

Q: Where do the resources come from so far?

A: This has been a very best-effort activity, mainly by myself with help from other interested people. I've talked about this to a number of IT members and there is a lot of interest to help. However, some dedicated funding for the GPT service and dedicated effort is necessary

Q: Is anybody else looking at this at CERN?

A: I know that there is interest from EP and ATS, but so far this has been discussed mainly within IT

Q: You mentioned that LLMs and AI is not your main field of expertise. Have you discussed this with other experts?

A: Yes, I had discussions with members of the Innovation team (Sofia Vallecorsa), she provided some recommendations already

Q: Scalable AI and Generative AI models are a hot topic, we are including some objectives about this in the future Innovation Roadmap, maybe you should discuss with Sofia about adding specific objectives

A: Yes, It's a good idea

Q: Where would the data come from in your use case?

A: We plan to use the information from our own experience in managing Linux installations and user support. We need to train our own specific model.

Q: Can you consider a smaller pilot project, built and used only by Linux experts within the team? In this way, you do not have the risk of exposing possibly wrong output to the public and you can validate the answers and fine tune the model

A: Indeed, this seems a very nice solution

Recommendations

- Rescope the initial proposal around a smaller pilot only for experts for your specific use cases
- Asses the interest for LLMs in other contexts (experiments, Accelerators, programming) and build a case for adding a specific objective in the Innovation Roadmap
- Assess possible interests from other people in collaborating within IT and outside

Outcome

Although the topic is potentially of great interest, the current proposal presents some risks and is not fleshed out enough to be endorsed at this stage. It is recommended to rescope and redefine the proposal and come back in 4-6 months