

JCOP Technical Meeting

Wednesday, May 30th, 2007 @ 14:00

Present: Helfried Burckhart, Manuel Gonzalez Berges, Frank Glege, Clara Gaspar, Mathias Dutour, Fernando Varela, Oliver Holme, Jim Cook, Lennart Jirdén, Chris Parkman, Joao Varela, Robert Gomez-Reino Garrido, Lionel Wallet, Peter Chochula, Fernando Lucas Rodriguez, Wayne Salter,

1. Situation with the control and monitoring of Wiener crates – Helfried

Many problems have been discovered with the monitoring and control of the Wiener crates and in particular in large set-ups. The main two seem to be that data is often marked as invalid and also that some crates can lose communication altogether. (An additional issue seen by CMS appears to be understood, i.e. OPC items declared but not accessible will lead to an increase in the memory usage of the OPC server and eventually to a crash). Some optimisations seem to be possible, e.g. creating more OPC groups (not mixing data from multiple crates in one group) and increasing the bus speed. However, more effort is still needed to understand the issues completely to be able to propose solutions/optimisations. Chris offered to provide a test set-up with 8 Wiener crates which can be used for analysing the problems and trying out optimisation schemes. CMS volunteered to be in the task force looking into the various issues. Wayne noted that the current Cracow-developed OPC server was likely to be replaced in the near future with a Wiener-developed version and that it was probably more important to ensure that this one does not suffer from the same problems than to fix them in the current version. The experiments will wait to see the offer from Wiener and the proposed schedule for the new version before deciding on how to proceed. Nonetheless, in the meantime Mathias will contact Wiener to discuss the problems seen and a suitable development strategy for the new OPC server (unified with the Maraton OPC server). In addition, the experiments can implement the strategy of having separate OPC groups per crate whilst the analysis is being performed. It has also been observed in the ATLAS LAr set-up that the Wiener OPC communication takes a quite long time to start up. It was suggested that this could be a problem of the OPC client but this behaviour has not been seen with large systems using the CAEN or ELMB OPC servers.

It was also noted that LHCb had experienced some problems with the Maraton OPC server crashing in one of its set-ups.

Lionel stated that he had produced control objects for the operation of the ISEG HV and also for the Wiener crates. He has offered for these to be included into the respective FW components. This was agreed to. There was also the discussion on whether one could have a common FSM representation for a Wiener crate. Oliver will check what already exists to see whether this would be possible, and if so, to make a proposal.

2. PVSS and Linux - Helfried

Helfried complained about the apparent lack of testing of the Linux versions of PVSS w.r.t. Windows. However, the feeling from IT/CO is that there is a general QA/testing problem with all new releases of PVSS. Wayne and Manuel have spoken about this many times with the Head of Development without any apparent success. In addition, Wayne had been hoping to raise this issue with Siemens in a meeting foreseen for the 18th May which was subsequently postponed. He still intends to do this but a new date for this meeting has not yet been set.

Helfried suggested for the experiments to send a letter of complaint to the Head of ETM. This was agreed to be a good idea and Helfried volunteered to produce the first draft. All experiments will review this and sign the agreed final version.

3. Upgrading of PVSS - Helfried

Updating projects has not been straightforward with recent releases and in particular between 3.1 and 3.6. This was really due to the major bugs that were in the first release version of 3.6. Again this reflects bad QA and should be addressed in Helfried's letter to ETM.

Helfried asked about the situation with Qt licenses. These are required for any development on Windows. With Qt 4 it will no longer be necessary to have a development license if VisualStudio is not used. Hence, Helfried asked when ETM would move to Qt 4. IT/CO will follow up with ETM. (The response from ETM is that this is not foreseen for this year).

4. Support of IPMI - Helfried

Helfried enquired what the support for IPMI would be, especially as this is now required by all experiments. Fernando reported that the current solution is to use the LHCb Farm Monitoring and Control component as is. However, this is overly complex for most users and he is in discussions with Clara on how this might be simplified. However, there appears to be constraints on the LHCb side preventing major changes. Wayne and Fernando will discuss again with Clara to agree upon a strategy.

5. A.o.B.

There were **two** items under A.o.B.

- Helfried enquired about the strategy for the use of WTS. ALTAS has now bought a second one to accommodate the increased load. ALICE has around 28 but CMS are rethinking the use of WTSs altogether. CMS is using the Oracle portal to publish the FSM States via the web. Anyone requiring more detailed information will be expected to use SSH tunnelling into the experiment network.
- Jim asked about the schedule for the System Overview Tool. Several enhancement suggestions have been made regarding the prototype. The planned new version takes account of these and it is expected that a first release covering the functionality of the current prototype but retrieving the necessary configuration information from the ConfigDB will be available in about 4-5 weeks time. Fernando will announce the schedule at the Project Team meeting on the 7th June.