Report from the Startup Team

Pere Mato (CERN), Torre Wenaus (BNL)
for the HSF Startup Team

HSF iFB Meeting
Nov 5, 2014

The setting up of the startup team

- Followed the plan presented and agreed in the last iFB meeting on Oct 1
  - Assemble startup team with broad representation and expertise
    - Flexible, evolving membership; have added members in recent weeks
    - Has worked well as a group -- good agreement, participation, progress
  - Startup team works in an open way with a weekly meeting and with minutes promptly made public
    - Have had 4 meetings thus far, all publically minuted

Startup team membership today

Peter Elmer (Princeton)

Daniel Elvira (FNAL)

Frank Gaede (DESY)

Michel Jouvin (LAL, IN2P3)

Pere Mato (CERN)

Dario Menasce (INFN)

Graeme Stewart (Glasgow)

Craig Tull (LBNL)

Andrea Valassi (CERN)

Torre Wenaus (BNL)

Startup team meetings

- Oct 8: discussed first contacts, settled communication (indico, vidyo, google groups, autonomous website), introduced first pass at white paper synthesis
- Oct 15: plans for contact meeting(s), short term timeline set for synthesis report, website introduced, google forums set up
- Oct 23: discussed & planned contacts, new website content discussed/approved, new spreadsheet summation of white papers
- Oct 27: discussed contacts, planning today's meeting, new synthesis report draft V0

Startup activities

Primary activities in the last month, elaborated in the coming slides:

- Synthesising the white papers
- Making contacts, planning contact meetings
- Website and communication
- Workshop preparation -- thanks very much to SLAC for volunteering and arranging for us to meet there in January
    - Not so much detailed planning thus far beyond fixing the dates and the plans we're presenting today
    - Emphasis so far has been on the above points to lay the groundwork for a productive workshop

Progress in the analysis of the white papers

- First we did a bulleted summary of main points of each of the white papers
- Using the summary and a fresh pass over the white papers, we made a matrix of papers/points
- Using the matrix, we made first, second and third outlines and drafts of a synthesised document
  - The synthesis is not just a summation of points in the papers, it's a qualitative synthesis with recommendations to build an initial HSF plan from the white paper commonalities, as well as the thoughts and deliberations of the startup team
  - A "White Paper Analysis and Proposed Startup Plan"
- Draft has been fleshed out (15 pages currently) and is iterating in the startup team
- Objective is a complete draft for public circulation and further iteration in 1 week or less
  - Not regarded as ready for public consumption now, but not a secret either; if you really want to see the draft, ask

HSF open forum, Startup team forum

- Google groups adopted as the basis for discussion forums
  - Better to be outside the perimeters of our institutions
  - But we stick with indico, vidyo for agendas, conferencing; they seem to be the best solutions and don't present constraints to non CERN affiliates
- Open HSF forum supersedes the CERN IFB e-group
  - http://groups.google.com/d/forum/hep-sf-forum - hep-sf-forum@googlegroups.com
  - IFB continues as the self-selected open group defined by membership in the forum, now the google forum
- Startup team internal discussions proceed on a closed google group
- More google groups can be set up based on needs and interests, under the HSF umbrella
- Posting rights, moderation requirements etc. may need some tweaking; let Torre know of troubles
  - In typical google fashion, forum posts don't seem to be sent to the poster; check the website if you want to confirm your post went out
- For those not wishing to use a google account: open forum posting/monitoring is possible. Posting via email, monitoring via web and/or email. But you need to ask us to sign up your email address if you don't choose to login to google and do it yourself.
  - Anything requiring authentication (like using the startup team forum) requires logging in, which means logging into google
  - A google account can be created using non-gmail mail account

The website: hepsoftwarefoundation.org

- Number one on the HSF task list was: *Animate discussions between all stakeholders, including users; provide a system for facilitating information exchange*
- We've established an autonomous website, together with google group based forums, as the basis for this
- Intentions for the website:
  - A communication and information exchange tool for all, with contributions from all
  - Facilitate collaboration and common efforts, and avoid redundant efforts, by increasing awareness of the activities and resources within our field
  - Promote awareness of useful software and tools from outside our community, e.g. open source
  - Define, describe, encourage "membership in the HSF" on the part of projects
  - Serve as a nexus for HSF activities

Website elements

Existing:

- Software projects/packages, a first assortment bootstrapped from hepsoftware.org (a recent pet project of Torre's, which could be subsumed by the HSF if it continues in a 'grass roots' direction)
  - Categorized with software category and science field tags
- Events: meetings, workshops, conferences, schools, tutorials… HSF and also any of community interest -- please add entries, help make it comprehensive
- Experiments: describe and crosslink what software your experiment uses
- Organizations: OSG, WLCG, HSF, Concurrency Forum, … our community

Planned:

- More/better content! Add your favorite software, extend/correct existing entries, establish cross-connections: what software does your experiment use
- Facilities, institutes: extend to 'computing', not just 'software'
- Licensing
- 'HSF membership/participation/standing/interest…'
- Assessment/evaluation/scoring/ranking/crowdsourced reviews/HSF peer reviews/endorsement...
- Job postings
- … bring your ideas!

Implementation:

- Drupal based, polished and powerful, with a thriving and rich plugin/development community, with many plugins in use to provide the hepsoftwarefoundation.org functionality
- EC2 based, courtesy of US ATLAS, backed up several times per day to S3 (full site + DB)
- Flexible controls over access, authorship rights. The full site is open except for a 'startup team' page. All valid accounts are given edit rights to enable participation in developing content.

Current Round of Contacts

- Started the first round of contacts of the wide community
  - Essential to get their input and engagement to define initial services and activities
- MC generator community identified as priority
  - No participation to initial WS
  - Contacted first people: Mangano (LPCC), Mrenna (Pythia), Perdue, Andreopoulos (Genie)
  - Organizing an information meeting with authors of the main generators
- Major software packages
  - Assai (Geant4)
- Experiments and projects
  - Roser, Habib (HEP Forum for Computational Excellence)
  - Borgland (Photon Science)
  - Kuhr (Belle II), Buncic (Alice), Hegner (FCC), Cattaneo (LHCb)
  - LCG Architects Forum
- Laboratories and Universities
  - Boehnlein (SLAC), Tseng(Oxford), INFN

SLAC Workshop Preparation

- Venue and dates are now fixed
  - SLAC, January Tue 20 and Wed 21, 2015
- Main goal: refine next steps for building HSF
  - Structured after main topics from WP Synthesis
  - Get feedback from package authors, identified missed requirements or wrong priorities
  - Vision from the the various HEP communities
  - Initiatives, input arising from community engagement
- Importance of a wide SW project participation
  - Does not require a long-term commitment with HSF
- Possibility to organize ancillary meetings before and after the two days meeting
  - Need to get input ASAP
  - Reserve at least Thu 22 for ancillary meetings

SLAC Workshop - next steps

- Official announcement will be done after the official web is created, which requires DOE approval
  - We need to ensure a large diffusion to the whole HEP community (CHEP mailing list?)
- The program will be done using Indico: zeroth draft outline:
  - Welcome
  - Introduction
    - What have been done so far (previous workshop, startup team, White Papers synthesis, startup plan, etc.)
  - Project's Views
    - Invite large and no so large projects to express their views in participating to the Foundation (e.g. Geant4, ROOT, HepForge, …) (talks of 20' max)
  - User's Views
    - Invite as many as possible experiments, small communities, individual users to express their views. (lightning 5' talks)
  - New project initiatives
    - Opportunity for new projects to be launched under the Foundation umbrella
  - Funding Agencies Views
    - Invite institutions and funding agencies to express their views
  - Discussion and Conclusions
    - Structured discussion to reach consensus and agreements

Revisiting the 'next steps' from Oct 1

- Establish an inclusive, representative startup team ✓
- Make a plan for meetings, communication, engagement ✓

- Move quickly to an agreed initial work plan
- Begin consultations, synthesizing inputs, community engagement
- Define and initiate the first services and activities
  - The above three are coupled and underway, driven by synthesizing inputs and consultations

- Work with early guinea pigs to get a functioning HSF V0 off the ground
- Begin to build a HSF membership of active participants
  - The basis for getting guinea pigs and early participants involved is there -- come help develop the website content and discuss with us how the HSF could help your project

- Meet at a workshop in early 2015 to report, assess and plan
  - See you at SLAC in January

Timeline to the next iFB meeting (in a month)

- *Right away: official announcement of the SLAC workshop*
- Complete synthesis document draft (1 week)
- Begin having contact meetings, using the document as introduction/background (1+ weeks)
  - Contact meetings are documented in public meeting notes
- Based on contact meetings and discussions, begin planning/tailoring Foundation activities to the declared interests of groups and projects (2+ weeks)
- Encourage early contributors to the website, respond to feedback, continue development (underway)
- Fill out the plans for the SLAC workshop and ancillary meetings (underway)
  - By end Nov, have the plans firm enough to allow people to book their flights
- For the next iFB meeting, have a first early workplan/timeline informed by the first round of contacts