

Plans for the BI Software portal

29/06/2017 **lason Dimitrios Rodis**





Overview

Background

- Applauncher
- LIDS
- Useful links

New BI Software portal plans

- Problems
- Goals
- Overview
- Detailed view
- Mockups
- Conclusion & Future work



In the beginning, there was a BI Software developer called Bob





 Since the section started producing Javabased graphical user interfaces (around 1997), the amount of Java-based software Bob wrote grew significantly.







In the early days, the deployment of Bob's Java applications was trivial.

 All he needed was a single directory under which he could copy the compiled '.class' files.







 As the complexity and number of applications grew however, access to the applications from a centralised directory became untenable. Bob and others in the section therefore moved to use Java's webstart technology.

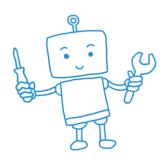


 By the end of 2004, the section had a large number of web-start files, accessible from a variety of different URLs. Tracking all these files became a headache - Bob had to do something..





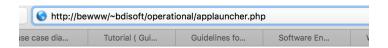
- Bob developed the applauncher taking into account BI-SW's following needs :
 - To classify, describe and start the applications
 - Make use of the Java web-start technology and extend the JNLP format
 - Standardise the configuration of the applications
 - Add a basic level of security
 - Make the execution platform independent

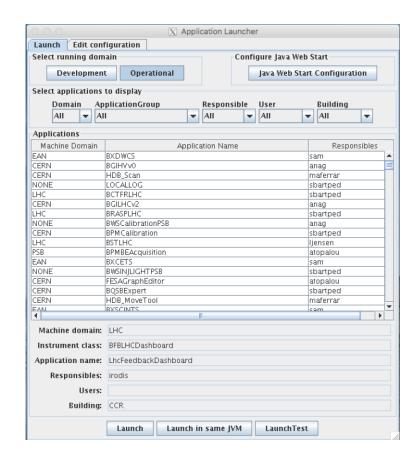




Application Launcher

irodis@cs-ccr-abbi4:~\$ which applauncher
/user/bdisoft/operational/tools/applauncher

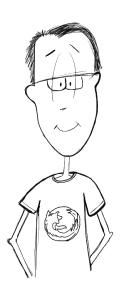






The LIDS story...

Bob had a good friend and colleague, Bill





The LIDS story...

- Among Bill's responsibilities was :
 - the development of real-time Front End Software for accelerator instrumentation using the FESA framework.
- However, as the number of systems rose, and their complexity was increasing, Bill realised he needed the means to document the systems.
- Not only did he need this to maintain his work, but also FESA documentation had to be accessed by Bob's friends in other groups.
- And thus LIDS was developed.



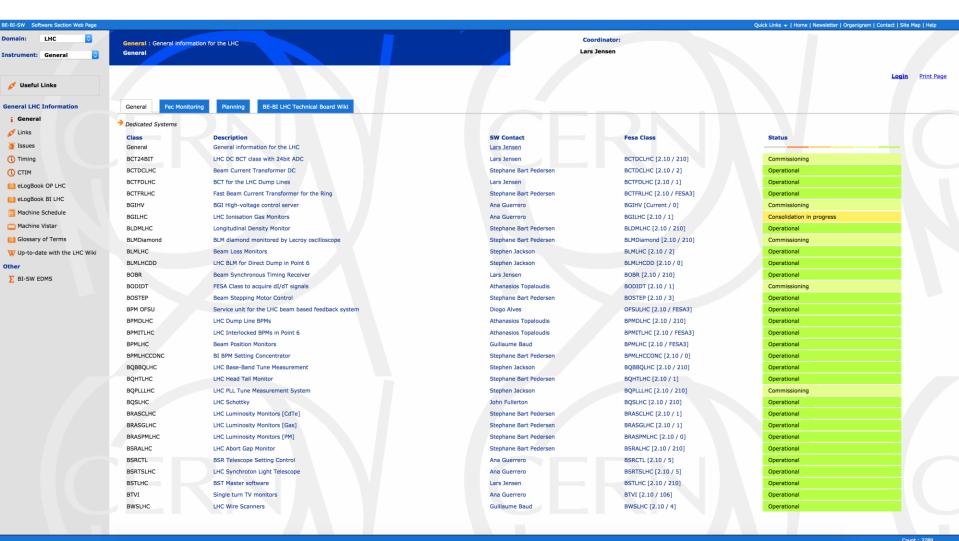
The LIDS story...

- LIDS:
 - LHC Instrumentation Documentation & Software

- Aims to:
 - Classify & Document FESA classes



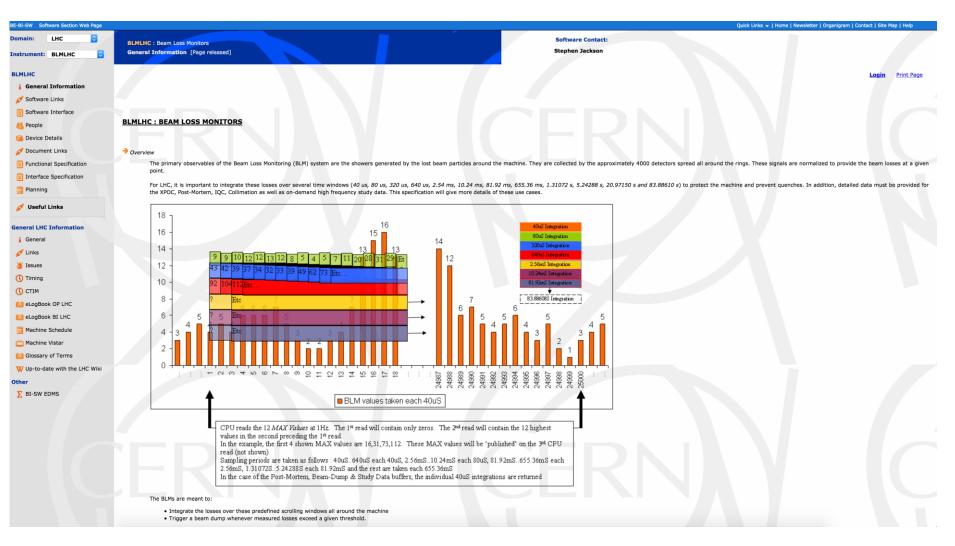
The LIDS





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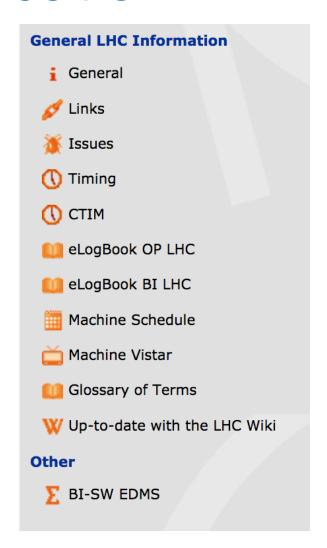
The LIDS





The LIDS classification

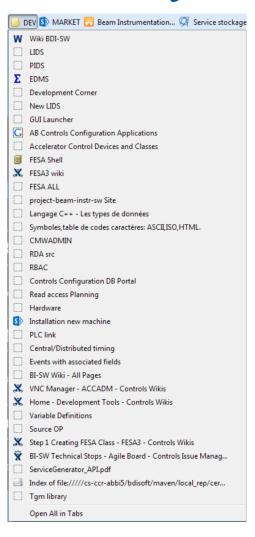






The BI Software portal story

- Following the development of the Applauncher and LIDS, ExpertGUI documentation / deployment, as well as FESA documentation, has been standardised.
- However, general BE tools and services were not organised and could be found in various places.
- Typical BI-SW developer's browser bookmark list
- Problem:
 - Links tend to increase in number and change over time.
- The need for a BI Portal arose.





The BI Software portal story





Areas for improvement

Applauncher

- Difficult configuration & maintenance
- Not ideal for Maven deployment

LIDS

- Difficult maintenance
- Outdated
- Yet another web page to remember
- Duplication of information



BI-SW Portal goals

- Improve User Experience
- Update / replace LIDS & Applauncher with BI Software Portal
- Correlate FESA and GUI documentation, cross reference information
- Support fixed displays
- Single point of reference
- Need for a new BI Software Portal



BI-SW Portal Overview

Personalised Dashboard

- Favourite apps
- Recent apps

Search

- Applauncher
- LIDS
- Wiki

Configuration / Editing

- ExpertGUIs
- LIDS Documenation
- Useful links



Detailed view - Technologies

- Back-end
- Spring boot



- Front-end
- Angular



JavaFX webkit



Inspired by the 3rd Developers@CERN Forum



Detailed view - Technologies

Evaluation of the web approach:

Pros

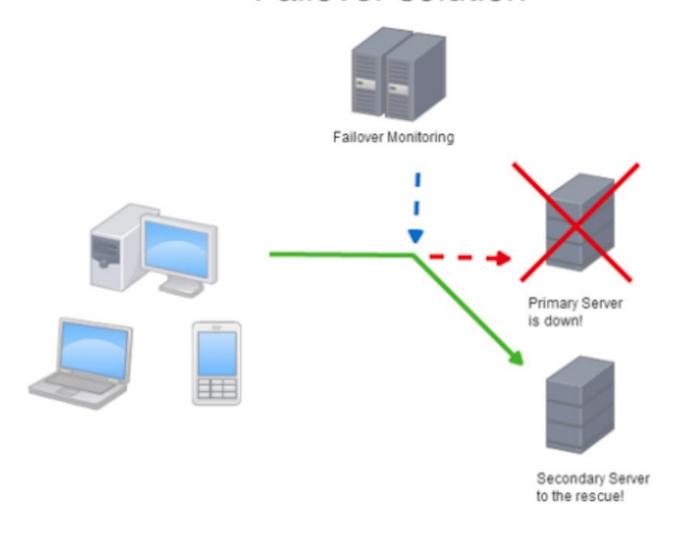
- Cross-platform
- Single code base
- Bypass ecosystem rules (mobile for fixed displays)
- Always updated

Cons

- Higher cost of maintenance
- Availability can be more difficult

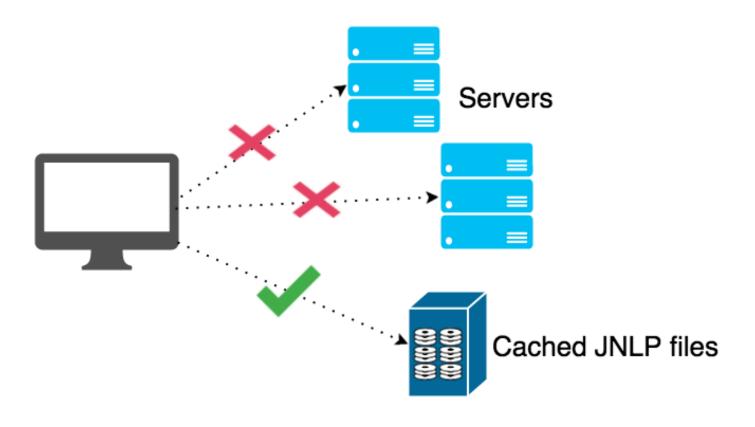


Failover solution





Detailed view - Availability





Detailed view - "Offline mode"

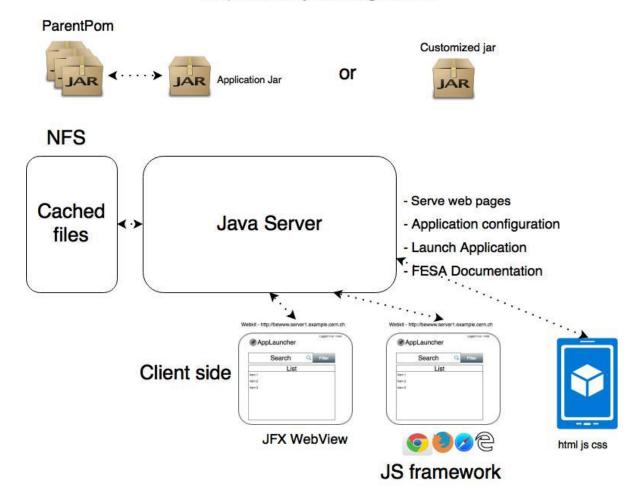
- In case of server failure (even in failover mode) an "offline mode" will be provided.
- The servers will frequently cache data
- Ensuring access to BISW applications 24/7





Detailed view - Applauncher

Dependency Management





Detailed view - new "LIDS"

Filter by :

- Domain
- Instrument
- Responsible
- User

General Instrument Info:

- Instrument
- Description
- SW Contact
- FESA Class
- State



Detailed view - new "LIDS"

- Overview
 - Instrument Use (guidelines)
 - FESA class(es) Graph (auto-generated when delivering)
 - API (auto-generated when delivering)
 - SW Links (Expert GUIs etc...)
- People
 - SW, HW (from egroups)
- Device Instances (table view CCDB)
- Jira links
- Version Control links (svn, git links)
- Documents links (EDMS)
 - Functional & Interface Specifications
- General Domain Info: (additional side-goodies)
 - Timing
 - · elogbook Domain OP, BI
 - Machine Schedule
 - Vistar

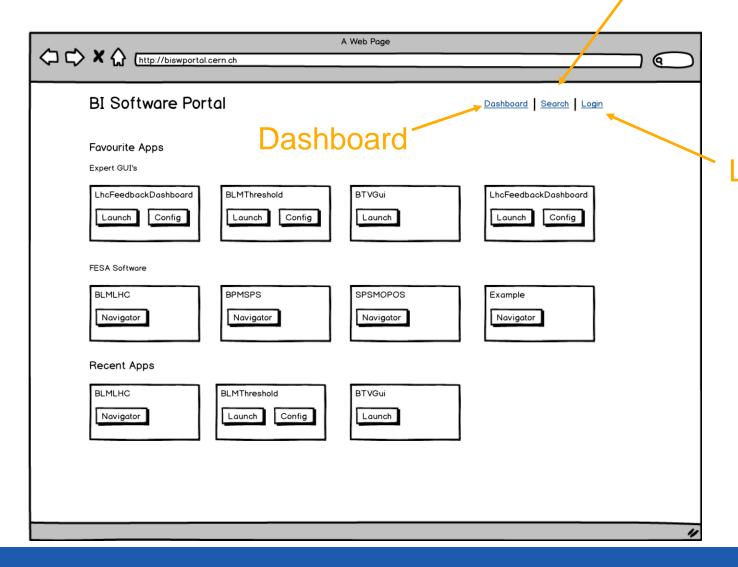


Mockups



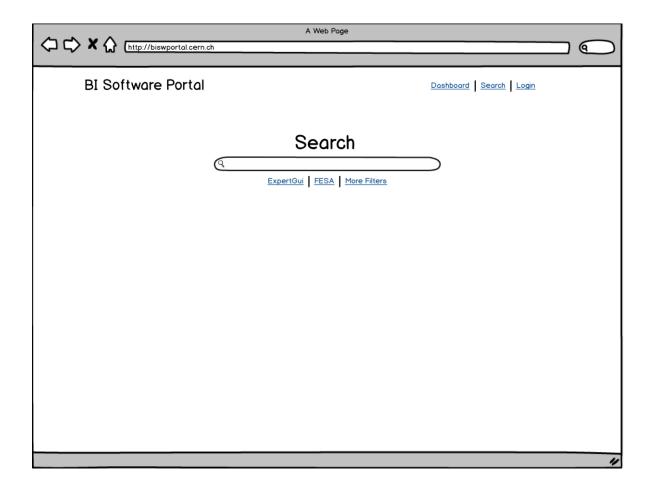
Portal Dashboard

Search



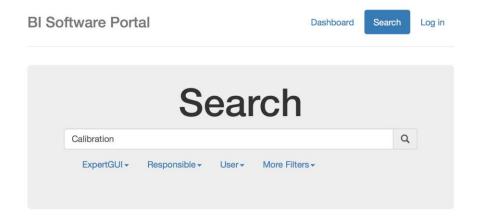


Portal Search





Portal Search - ExpertGUI



Results





Conclusion & Future work

- Introduction to the concepts of:
 - Applauncher
 - LIDS
 - Useful links, first "portal"
- Detailed description of new BI Software documentation plans
- Future work
 - Implementation
 - ExpertGUI creation within the portal from the new component-based javafx applications
 - Investigate the possibility of launching Python applications



Thank you





