Geant4 Discourse Forum

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Geant4 Collaboration Meeting

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The Change to Discourse

- Until May 29th the Geant4 user forum was hosted by SLAC HyperNews
  - had been in use since 2001
  - ~4600 subscribers (not all active) at shutdown

- SLAC HyperNews judged to be not secure by SLAC IT
  - required to get rid of it by June 2019
  - no longer any maintainers of basic HyperNews at SLAC

- Geant4 team chose Discourse as replacement
  - Ben Morgan, Gabriele Cosmo, Makoto Asai, Gunter Folger, Alex Howard, Dennis Wright
  - choice approved by steering board

Change-over Plan (1)

- Get private instance of Discourse from CERN IT
  - testing and use of instance by change-over team
  - establish configuration suitable to Geant4

- Make instance public (geant4-forum.web.cern.ch)
  - by Geant4 e-mails, encouraged users to subscribe
  - also sent notice that old HyperNews was closing after a two-week transition period

- Prepare static, read-only version of HyperNews
  - containing all posts up to beginning of transition period
  - static version to be maintained by SLAC indefinitely
  - thanks to SLAC IT for help with this

Change-over Plan (2)

- Link all HyperNews posts to new categories in Discourse

- Close SLAC HyperNews
  - disable posting

Click on "User Forum" in Upper Right-hand Corner of Geant4 Main Page

Click on "Categories" to see all fora (1)

Click on "Categories" to see all fora (2)

Physics Processes, Models and Cross Sections — 2 / week

This category covers electromagnetic, hadronic, and weak physics processes along with the models and cross sections that implement them. HyperNews posts in these categories are archived at electromagnetic processes, optical photons, hadronic processes, DNA/Very Low Energy physics and fast simulatio…

Particles, Track, Event, Run and Biasing — 1 / week

This category is for questions on controlling and biasing runs, events, tracks, and particles in a simulation. HyperNews posts in these categories are archived at event and track management, multithreading, particles, run management, biasing and graphical (user) interfaces.

Recording, Visualizing and Persisting Data — 2 / week

This category covers data management in your simulation, including how to score hits and quantities, visualise the detector geometry and hits, and persist results to file. HyperNews posts in these categories are archived at scoring, hits/digitization, visualization, persistency, and analysis.

Ideas and Requirements — 1 / week

Post here if there's a feature you'd like to see implemented in Geant4, or have an idea for the evolution of Geant4. User requirements posted prior to June 2019 are archived under the User requirements category.

Applications — 4

Geant4-based applications may be discussed here. These include medical, space, industrial and educational applications, among others. Posts prior to June 2019 are archived under the education, industrial, medical and space categories.

Getting Started — 3d

RSim available for download — 0 / 3d
News

Style guide for publishing — 0 / 3d
Getting Started

G4PVParameterised Voxelization/Optimization Documentation — 0 / 3d
Geometry, Fields and Transportation

Activation of Synchrotron Radiation process — 3 / 3d
Physics Processes, Models and Cross Sections

dN/dE meaning…… versus fill histogram — 2 / 3d
Physics Processes, Models and Cross Sections

Unable to idenfity error when installing g4py environment — 0 / 3d
Getting Started

FreeCAD GDML Workbench & Geant Workbench — 8 / 4d
Applications

C12 ion Bragg peak — 0 / 5d
Physics Processes, Models and Cross Sections

Problems modifying particle decay table — 0 / 5d
Particles, Track, Event, Run and Biasing

Integrate field along particle trajectory — 0 / 5d
Recording, Visualizing and Persisting Data

Geant4 visualization with RayTracerX — 5 / 6d
Recording, Visualizing and Persisting Data

Discourse Features (1)

- CERN Discourse maintained by CERN IT
  - Geant4 responsible for maintaining its own instance
    - membership
    - moderation
    - content
    - configuration (to some extent)
    - access

- Reduce number of fora from 26 to 10
  - based on past use patterns

- Search function that works!
  - magnifying glass icon at top right
  - advanced search also

Discourse Features (2)

- "Hamburger" icon gives drop-down menu for options
  - top right

- Three ways to log in:
  - CERN single log-in
  - GitHub
  - Google account

- Can post and respond from e-mail
  - still need to log in to Discourse, though

- All posts allowed, if by registered users
  - any post may be removed by one of the Geant4 managers

Managers and Moderators

- Managers:
    - Makoto Asai, Gabriele Cosmo, Gunter Folger, Alex Howard, Ben Morgan, Marc Verderi, Dennis Wright
    - must approve new member applications
    - may suspend or remove users
    - may flag, change or delete content
    - may appoint moderators

- Moderators
    - Vladimir Ivantchenko + all managers
    - can flag, change or delete content within category
    - warn users
    - suspend users

Discourse Status

- Many statistics available to managers:

- 400 users signed up since inception
  - currently averaging 2 new sign-ups per day

- 487 page views per day

- 5.3 posts per day

- Average time to first response: 21 hours

Discourse Help

- Discourse is far more flexible than HyperNews
  - more options, but no "official" documentation

- meta.discourse.org
  - for general Discourse How-To, FAQ and information

- Geant4 Discourse managers and moderators
  - for questions specific to Geant4 Discourse

- CERN IT has been helpful answering questions
  - have to set up ticket, though