

FCT and CERN Portuguese Trainee Programme Report

Christopher Viana Lima (June 2017 – June 2019)

Supervisor: Andre Rocha

CERN, Technology *Department*Vacuum, Surfaces and Coatings *Group*Interlocks, Controls and Monitoring *Section*



Outline

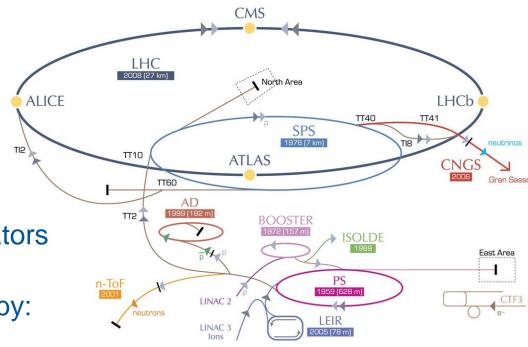
- Overview of Vacuum at CERN
- Vacuum Control Architecture
- My Main Project
 - VacCC- Vacuum Control Configurator Tool
- Challenges
- Acquired Skills

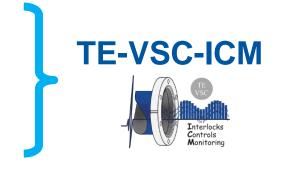




Overview of Vacuum at CERN

- Beam and insulation vacuum
- > 130 km of vacuum chambers across all accelerators
- Pressure range from 10⁻⁴ to 10⁻¹² mbar controlled by:
 - ~3000 vacuum pumps
 - ~3000 vacuum gauges
 - ~500 sector valves
- How to supervise and control such a large system?
 - 7 SCADA servers
 - ~300 PLCs
 - Backboned by vacuum-specific software









Vacuum Controls Architecture

LHC main view

- SCADA (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition)
 - Communicates in real-time with controllers running the vacuum process
 - Presents data to operators by an user interface (UI) in order to:
 - Check the process / react to alarms / interact with devices
 - Archives historical data
 - Operators can check what happened in the past

PLC (Programmable Logic Controller)

- Connected to vacuum controllers and field equipment
- Communicates with vacuum SCADA

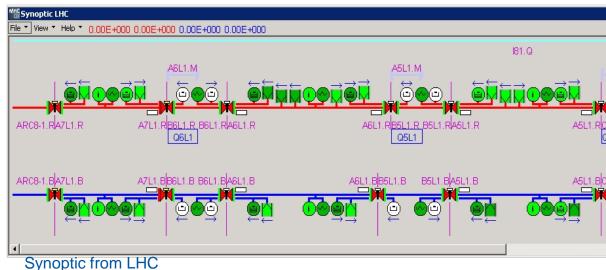


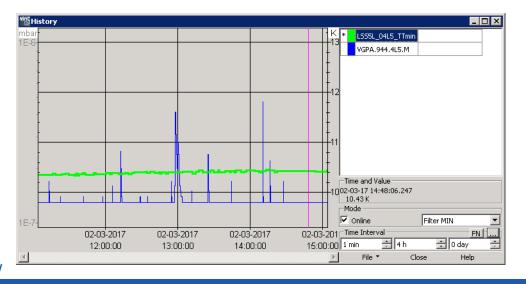
How to configure a large control system?



Configuring a Vacuum Control System

- Equipment specific parameters (type, control type)
- Equipment location (main part, position within sector)
- Equipment hierarchy (who controls who)
- Alarms
- Short and Long term archiving
- Publish data to other CERN services (CMW, DIP)

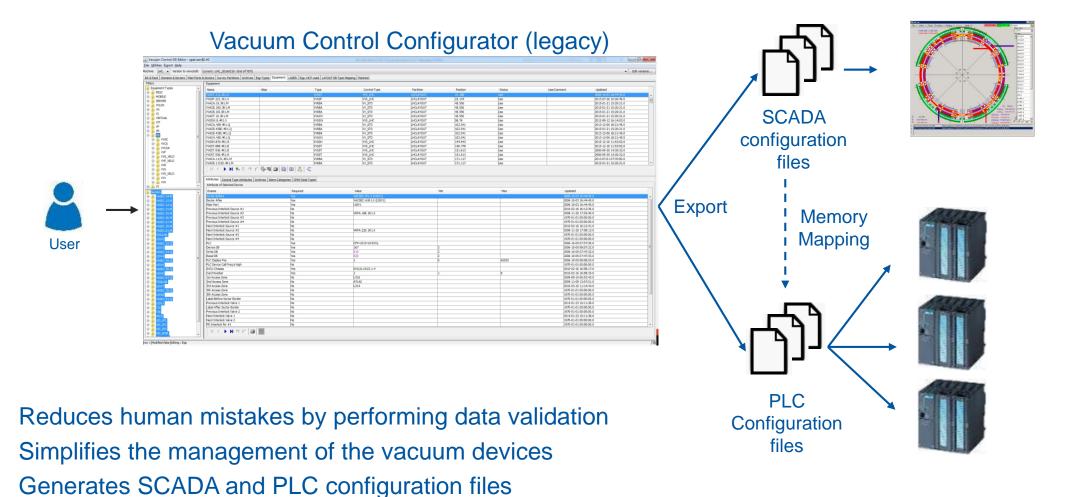




History window



VacCC – <u>Vacuum Control Configurator</u>

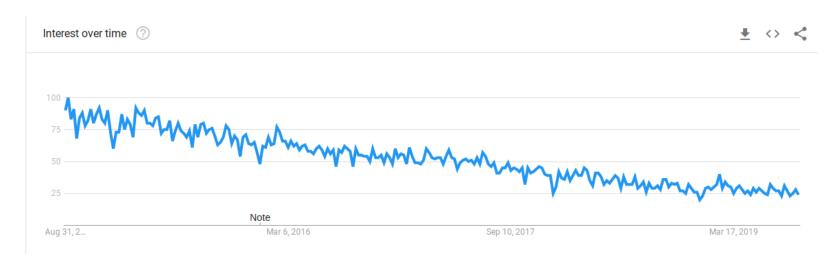






VacCC – Problems with legacy application

- Oracle ADF* Framework lacks support
- Written in Java 6 (released Dec 2006)
- Running ADF on new Java versions causes unpredictable behavior
- Progressively harder to develop and maintain
- User base is declining, only used in legacy projects



*ADF: Oracle Application Development Framework



New VacCC – Motivations

Rewriting the VacCC Editor with:

- Modern technologies with large support
- Big set of components available to re-use
- Modern test-driven development approach



Easy to maintain & expand current functionalities



New VacCC - Objectives

- Migrate from obsolete technologies
- Porting from a standalone application to a web application
- Take advantage of a microservice architecture
- Improve usability





New VacCC Editor - Project Organization



Backend

- Application Logic
- Handle requests from user interface
- Authentication and authorization
- Data validation
- Interact with the database

Database

- Stores configuration data
- Extra data validation

Frontend

User interface

Exporter

- Generates SCADA and PLCs configuration files
- Under development

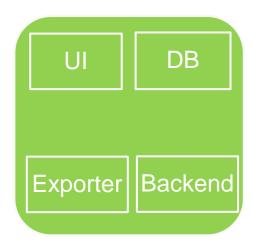






New VacCC – Architecture

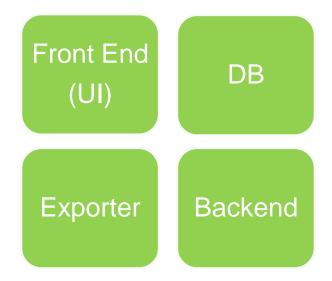
VacCC - Before



Monolithic architecture:

- One big application
- One component failure will cause the whole system to fail

VacCC After

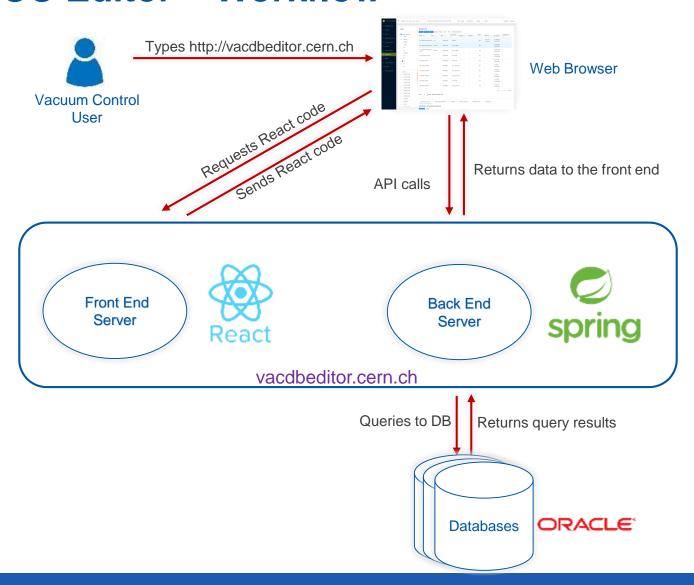


Microservices architecture:

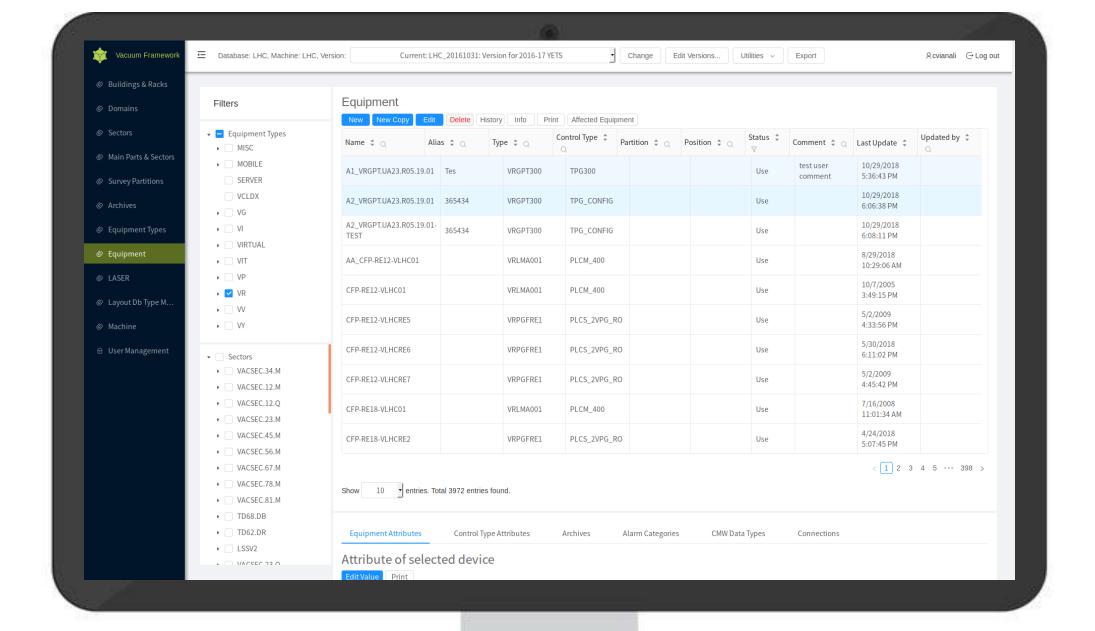
- Different functionalities = different components
- Allows incremental implementation
- Mix different programming languages and frameworks



New VacCC Editor – Workflow









Challenges

New VacCC

- Several use cases to cover for the DB
- Databases logic very challenging and interconnected with external databases
- Replicate all databases for test purposes
- Critical nature of the application: failure can lead to vacuum downtime

In general

Takes time to be productive in all vacuum applications (SCADA, DB editors, vacuum monitoring)

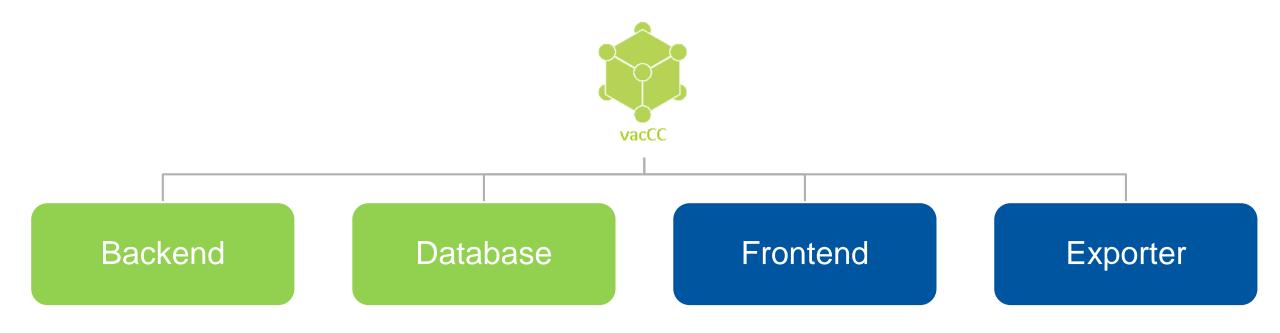


Competences

- Skills acquired/improved:
 - Web technologies (JavaScript, <u>React</u>, REST)
 - Programming (Spring Boot)
 - Databases (Oracle, <u>PL/SQL</u>)
 - Continuous Integration/Deployment (<u>GitLab Runner</u>, Docker)
 - Siemens WinCC-OA (SCADA)
 - Agile Methodology (<u>Scrum</u>)



Currently (FELL)

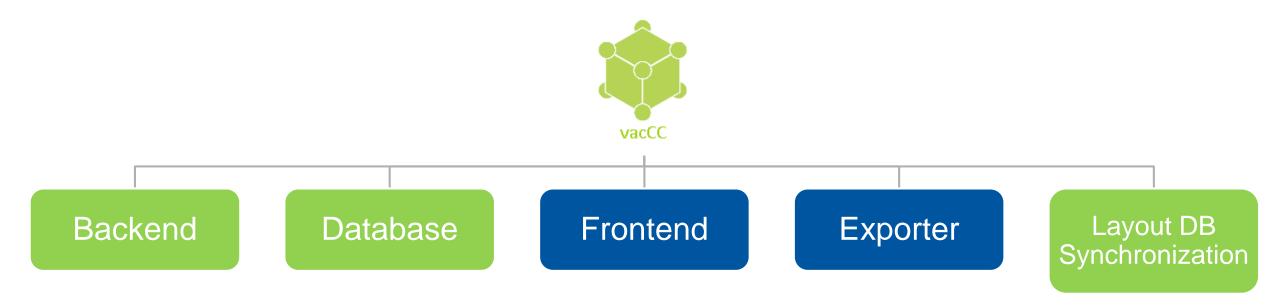








Currently (FELL)









Questions?



