

Software Infrastructure Overview

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Software Week Friday Plenary

Building Issues I

- Even using local builds, AFS problems consistently disrupt the nightly build cycle.
 - These failures are impeding the work.
- The nightlies have been switched from a full build to incremental building to reduce build time.
 - Some problems initially but it seems to work now.
- Investigating the use of “`gmake -jN`” to further speed builds.
 - Some packages need modification to compile without error.

Building Issues II

- The build on SLC3 is basically working.
 - Rearrangement of library path used for linking reduced build time by a factor of 2-3.
- We have received an additional high speed machine for SLC3 and more machines are on the way.
- Some work has been done on porting the Atlas software to 64 bit processor machines.
 - Need to make a new inventory of what kind of machines people are planning to buy and have already bought.
 - We believe that Opteron is probably the most prevalent.
 - LCG software is ported to Itanium

Distribution

- There has been lots of work to make the distribution system more reliable. That said it still has been difficult to get the distribution kit built correctly.
 - Now starting to use Kit Validation to validate kit before announcing it (and to the release builds too!)
- Strong request from the users for each kit build to be identified with a clearly labeled version.
 - Currently there is no way to tell if the kit has been patched / rebuilt.
- Pacman 3 is now released and Christian is testing it before we use it with the production distribution kit.

Release Strategy

- Our current strategy is:
 - Every ~3 weeks there is a development release (x.y.0)
 - Every ~6 months there is a production release (x.0.0) followed by a series of patches (x.0.z).
 - Additional releases for the CTB also also.
 - A times we have three releases open.
- IMHO we are at the limit of how many releases can simultaneously be maintained using a full time librarian and a part time release coordinator.
 - Instead of building one release every 3-4 weeks like we used to, a release is being built nearly every week and there is a constant need for the tag approval process.

Tag Approval

- The full tag approval process has definitely reduced last minute changes right before releases. However:
 - It is time consuming for the approvers.
 - Errors are made by the approvers.
- I am open to suggestions on improving the tag approval process.

Documentation / Web / Wiki

- I have received considerable comment from the developers and users that that documentation situation needs improvement.
 - Steve Lloyd and Jorgen Dalmau gave talks about their experience using the existing documentation to learn how to run Athena.
- I have received expressions of interest from Traudl Hansl-Kozanecki and Steve Lloyd that they would be willing to help out with documentation.

Help List / Savannah

- We have been monitoring the atlas-sw-help list and find that requests for help go unanswered.
 - Many people use the the developers list in the way that atlas-sw-help was intended to be used.
 - People also confuse atlas-sw-support with atlas-sw-help.
- Many of Savannah bug groups are under-utilized.
 - Ed Moyse thinks that we have too many Savannah groups. He wants a single address where all bugs are reported and then pushed by a moderator to an appropriate person.
- Tom LeCompte has suggested that he might be willing to be the Help List and Savannah monitor.

Mailing Lists

- CERN is phasing out the Simba mailing list system and replacing it with a new system called Simba2.
 - After discussion with the mailing list group, the conversion of the Atlas lists has been put off until Monday January 10 as the proposed date (needs to be confirmed).
 - We plan to clean-up the mailing lists while converting.

SIT Reviews

- The SIT is the second project to under go review next year (February 3) and we are starting to plan for this review now.
 - Preparing for the review will require work from all team members but hopefully will lead to clearer understanding of how many more people we need fulfill the SIT mandate.