

SIT Coordination Issues

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SIT (I) Session of the May SW Week

Introduction

- This talk will cover three areas:
 1. Progress on the recommendations of the SIT review.
 2. The shortage of workers in the SIT.
 3. The milestones and planning.

Review Recommendations

1. A better definition of the mandate (particularly what is not included in SIT) be developed by the Software and Computing Coordinator. This should be included in the Computing TDR.
 - I need to discuss this with David and Dario. Currently there is a list in the TDR of what is included the SIT mandate but not a list of what is not included.
2. The software and Computing Coordinator should clarify the boundaries between SIT and the Production Tools Group.
 - This has not been done.

Review Recommendations

3. CERN should install from the same distribution kit as external sites.
 - The kit is now installed & tested at CERN but the normal AFS release area is still used by the majority of users.
4. The Documentation Task Force should have something usable in place in time for the Common Tracking Software / Inner Detector Review in April.
 - This is done - Doxygen was used extensively within Tracking code for documentation.

Review Recommendations

5. Investigate improvements to Savannah that can improve its usability. Put manpower into this user support activity as a high priority.
 - Some investigation but few changes and usage is still low.
 - The Atlas Bugs group created for easy bug submission.
 - No dedicated people.
6. SIT should specify immediately how many people they need to add to cover their tasks, and provide job descriptions for the missing people. Also set priorities and explain which areas will suffer in case the missing manpower is not found.
 - Largely done but still need job descriptions.
 - The single most critical path item.

Review Recommendations

7. The second librarian should be added asap.
 - Done! Welcome Vasily!
8. SIT should provide tools to identify trouble and unnecessary dependencies. Software management should eliminate unnecessary dependencies. SIT should investigate partial/project builds to mitigate the problem.
 - No tools have been provided (people required to do this).
 - Some work to remove Zebra but still many unneeded dependencies.
 - Project builds are actively being worked on but not in production.

Review Recommendations

9. Synchronization between online & offline needs to be achieved at the earliest possible date. A formal structure to achieve this should be established.
 - There is careful checking of the offline needs at each bi-weekly SIT meeting but this is not a formal structure.
10. Encourage Physics Validation tests to be propagated back to the automated testing that is done.
 - This has been done at some level but more feedback of tests needs to be encouraged.
 - The testing group is still concentrating on making a better testing framework (see next recommendation).

Review Recommendations

11. Converge on a single testing framework that does not require developers to take different actions for different tests.
 - This is well underway but more work remains.
12. A public forum for discussion between the developers and users of TC2 should be set up. This should be after a presentation by the TC2 developers during software week.
 - This has been done and TC2 is now in production.
 - I asked the TC2 team to give a presentation during the Friday plenary so that the developers have an opportunity to provide additional feedback about TC2.

Review Recommendations

13. Develop a complete work plan, extending up to turn-on.
 - Has not yet been done but...
 - We will discuss this issue later in this session!
14. The ATLAS Computing Management should make sure that the proper use of Python is discussed in the upcoming Framework review.
 - Not really a recommendation to SIT.

Personnel

- First let me thank everyone for all of their hard work on the SIT - I really appreciate it.
- Personnel changes:
 - Welcome Vasily! He is our long-promised second librarian.
 - Christian has been promoted and his duties are being assumed by Vincent Garonne. Welcome Vincent!
 - Hans has agreed to look after checkreq. Thanks!
 - Traudl and Steve are taking care of the doc. and workbook.
 - Ed and Fredrik have help greatly with Wiki and Doxygen.
 - Zhongliang soldiers on as the release coordinator (at least for 10.0.x). We owe him a huge thanks!
- Almost no one is fully dedicated to the SIT.
- Few people are based at CERN.

Personnel

- Working with Dario and DavidQ, in February I estimated how short of people the SIT was :

	Needed	Existing	Missing
Central Computing Env.	2.3	0.7	1.6
User Support	3.2	1.1	2.1
Software Process Service	6.9	5.6	1.3
Total	12.4	7.4	5.0

Note: Vasily and Hans are not included in the existing total so the missing FTEs can be reduced by ~1.1 FTE and existing FTEs increased by the same amount.

Personnel

- Notable issues (alphabetical order):
 - Someone needed to work on dependency monitoring.
 - Documentation could use more people.
 - Need help for porting code to new platforms & compilers.
 - Getting the project builds working with a valid distribution scheme will require more effort.
 - Someone needed to investigate Subversion.
 - The training coordinator is vacant.
 - Need full time user support person.
 - I personally cover the help mailing list and the Atlas Bugs group.
 - Someone needed to support valgrind.
- Some of these items will be covered by Vasily as he gains experience with the Atlas software.

Planning, Schedule, and Milestones

- I recently sent out an email that tabulated progress on the milestones submitted for the SIT review.
 - Please give me feedback!
 - Thanks to Alex for being the first to respond.
- Many milestones were done more or less on time:
 - Transition to Simba2
 - Reviews
 - Transition to SLC3
 - Kit versioning
 - Release 10.0.0, 10.0.x
 - Transition to Tag Collector 2
 - Transition to Pacman 3
 - Running RTT on a large scale using SLC3

Planning Scheduling and Milestones

- Some current milestones were mostly done:
 - Support for ROOT4 is done but schema evolution is waiting.
 - The use of distcc is ready but not in production.
 - The new testing framework is well along.
 - Much of the dependency on Zebra and GEANT3 has been removed but this process is not complete.
 - Clean-up of web pages is progressing.
- Some future milestones are partly completed:
 - Proof of concept for project builds is underway.
 - Ready to discontinue support for RH 7.3 in June.
 - Improvements of the distribution strategy are being planned.
 - First official version of workbook will be ready soon.
 - Local NICOS builds is well along.

Planning Scheduling and Milestones

- Some milestones are in the future:
 - Support for Opteron in 32 and 64 bit modes.
 - Subversion evaluation.
 - Further development of the distribution system to support multiple platforms and multiple releases
 - Deciding whether to use project builds
 - Making project builds the default for all releases
 - Ongoing task of nightly builds.
 - Clean-up CVS repository and decide on using Subversion.
 - Release 11.0.0, 12.0.0, 13.0.0, 14.0.0, etc.
- Need much more specification for the work and milestones after this September.

Planning Scheduling and Milestones

- Possible additional milestones:
 - Make decision about LCGAPP, CLHEP
 - Various ongoing tasks (e.g. CVS maintenance)
 - Dependency monitoring
 - New versions of various packages (e.g. Python)
 - Valgrind support
 - SLC4, SLC5?
 - Better support of users
 - Your milestone here...

Final Remarks

- I would once again like to thank everyone for their hard work.
- Things aren't perfect but we are doing pretty good given the resources that we have available.