

SIT Review Follow-Up

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Review Follow-Up Session(I) in SW Week

Recommendation 1

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.
 - This needs to be discussed with David and Dario.
 - There is a list in the computing TDR of what is included the SIT mandate but not a list of what is not included.

Recommendation 2

2. The software and Computing Coordinator should clarify the boundaries between SIT and the Production Tools Group.
 - To my knowledge this has not been done.
 - The Computing TDR does provide some guidance.
 - This is not a recommendation to the SIT.

Recommendation 3

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.
 - The AFS and kit release have been made to be closer to each other.
 - Changing a single line in AtlasLogin will change a user to using the kit installed at CERN instead of the release on AFS.

Recommendation 4

4. The Documentation Task Force should have something usable in place in time for the Common Tracking Software / Inner Detector Review in April.
 - This was done - Doxygen was used extensively within Tracking code for documentation.
 - Traudl and Steve have been working hard on improving the documentation this but this is taking time.
 - The growth of the Atlas Twiki is providing a real challenge to maintaining sensible documentation.
 - We need someone to go through the Twiki and prune off all of the obsolete pages and check that the remaining pages are up to date.

Recommendation 5

5. Investigate improvements to Savannah that can improve its usability. Put manpower into this user support activity as a high priority.
 - Some investigation of Savannah has been done (primarily by Traudl).
 - The main change was the formation of the Atlas Bugs group created for ease bug submission by novice users.
 - Atlas bugs is lightly used.
 - FL watches the group and generally (not always!) gets bugs moved to the appropriate group on the day they are submitted.
 - Usage Savannah is still low for many communities.
 - There is not uniform acceptance of Savannah by all Atlas communities.
 - No dedicated user support people.
 - Some modest effort to find a user support person.

Recommendation 6

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 by March (except job descriptions - that's still not done).
 - We should be better about explaining what does (not will!) suffer from the missing people.
 - My opinion is that the biggest problem that the SIT is the need for more people.

Recommendation 7

7. The second librarian should be added asap.
 - This was done - Vasily Kabachenko has become the second librarian.
 - Vasily has done a very good job!
 - BUT now he has to go back to his Institute in Russia by the end of the year and will spend less than half of his time at CERN.

Recommendation 8

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.
- We use checkreq to look for problems.
 - Finished removing Zebra dependencies.
 - Top level legacy packages remain in the complete 11.0.0 but are removed in the project build of 11.0.0.
 - Project builds are actively being worked on and 11.0.0 will be built both using projects and as the traditional monolithic, complete release.
 - None of the projects created thus far have had any major problems with dependencies - a good indication that dependencies were reasonably controlled to start with.

Recommendation 9

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 online needs at each bi-weekly SIT meeting but this is not a formal structure.
 - There is no formal structure but there have been few problems since we have started spending more time on using the first part of the SIT meeting to coordinate work between the communities.
 - Simon has done a great job of liaising with the SIT.
 - Andrei Kazarov also attends the SIT meetings occasionally.

Recommendation 10

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 SPMB should be involved in the encouragement!
- The testing group is still concentrating on making a better testing framework (see next recommendation) and other technical issues.

Recommendation 11

11. Converge on a single testing framework that does not require developers to take different actions for different tests.

- This is underway but more work remains.
 - Currently everyone involved is loaded down with work on other items.
- Many of the Kit Validation tests are now run in the nightly testing.

Recommendation 12

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.
- The feedback on TC2 has been generally positive.
- Discussions of moving the TC2 server to CERN are underway.
 - Moving the server to CERN may improve the uptime but many technical details remain to be worked out.
- The TC2 team has been very responsive to bug reports and feature requests.

Recommendation 13.

13. Develop a complete work plan, extending up to turn-on.

- Has not yet been done! This is my fault.
 - I have spent quite sometime figuring out what the open issues are and what the SIT needs to get done but I have not written a plan.
- This is a critical path item and is tightly coupled to the lack of people in the SIT.
 - The number of FTEs that the SIT has dictates how much work can be included in the plan.
- We will discuss this issue later in the week at the SIT session.

Recommendation 14

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.
- That said, the SIT believes that its responsibility is to provide the correct, working version of Python to the developer community and not coordinate the large number Python scripts used in running Atlas jobs.
 - These coordination issues should be discussed at the SPMB level because of the large number of communities involved.