Architects Forum - Minutes

Date / Time: 18 October 2018 - 14h
Agenda: https://indico.cern.ch/event/765006
Present: P Mato, G Ganis (chair, notes), A Naumann, A Gheata (for G Cosmo),
                    J Blomer, M Simon, A Peters, G Stewart, W Lampl, M Clemencic,
                    A Sailer, A Di Meglio, A Valassi
Next meeting: 15 Novembre 2018 - 14h

Introduction (G Ganis)

G Ganis reminded the composition and goals of the new series of the Architect Forum. The list of related projects has been enlarged to include XRootD and EOS. OpenLab is also invited to meeting. The meeting will keep a similar structure as before, with the possibility to have focused discussions on topics proposed-by/prepared-with the participants. The tentative dates for the next meetings have been added to the Indico calendar.

SFT line management (P Mato)

Personnel movement:

- 1 technical student started in the area of LCG builds
- 2 new fellows started in October (ROOT and Simulation)
- LD position for fast simulation: final selection and board being organized
- Patricia Mendez will be leaving the group in the next few weeks
- 2 new staff (librarians of ATLAS and CMS)

Reorganization of the SPI activities

Following the personnel changes, a internal meeting took place early October to discuss the redistribution of roles and responsibilities. The new configuration of the SPI team is:

- Coordination: G Ganis (STAF, 40%)
- I Goulas (STAF, 100%)
- J Heinz (TECH, 100%)
- D Konstantinov (MPA, 50%)
- I Razumov (PJAS, 75%)
- E Obreshkov, CMS (STAF, 10%)
- S Muzaffar, CMS (STAF, 10%)

Special Topics

ROOT Workshop Outcome (A Naumann)

A Naumann reported on the feedback the ROOT team received from the workshop participants, generally very good. A discussion followed about ways to make the event more attractive to physicists more involved in the analysis, and also to people outside HEP, such as other fields of science or finance. A Di Meglio offered to establish contact with some external groups who recently contacted him and who may be interested in using ROOT.

EP WP7 R&D status (G Stewart)

G Stewart reported on the status of the EP software R&D preparation group (WP7), giving details about the six activities currently foreseen. Following a specific question, Graeme explained that at present the estimated need for manpower sums up to 16 fellows and that the idea, in case of this request cannot be fully fulfilled, is to reduce the number activities instead of cutting a bit of every activity.

Report from the SFT Projects

ROOT

Nothing to report.

Simulation

Geant4

Deployed new development release beginning of October and now entering the testing phase for the December release.
The date for the switch to GitLab for the development code repository has been fixed to December immediately after the release.

GeantV R&D

Sprint week this week in preparation for a follow-up review of the project to take place in early 2019, dates to be fixed.

CernVM

CernVM-FS

Preparing v2.5.2, a bug fix release fixing some issues with the S3 backend. Working with IT on the optimization of the `unpacked.cern.ch`, a repository dedicated to (unpacked) container images.
Version 2.6 is expected for Q1/2018; major new features expected include: the `shrinkwrap` utility a new tool to extract and pack information from cvmfs intended to replace the unofficial `uncvmfs` tool; a notification systems to broadcast repository changes and reduce propagation delays; a component to collect and monitor publication and garbage collection statistics. Experiments/groups caring about performance are encouraged to negotiate with IT the move of the backend to S3; experience shows that one can expect a factor 5 speed increase for the publication phase.

CernVM

The CernVM 3 and CernVM 4 appliances got regular security hotfixes, following the Scientific Linux and EPEL security updates.

SPI

The release LCG_94 is available for the main platform combinations since mid September; this release is based on ROOT v6.14/04 and features a new way to provide the compilers RPMs which should address some of the dependencies problems experienced in the past.
The team is working at the consolidation of the build infrastructure and to extend the integration test coverage.

Stakeholders feedback

There was no time left for a proper roundtable with the present stakeholders.

There was a question about the status of the new EOS FUSE implementation. A Peters said that it is undergoing several stress tests allowing to cover corner cases and consolidate the module. LHCb offered to be 'guinea pig' for these tests. Overall looks good, but its is not yet possible to estimate when ready for deployment.

G Ganis, 24 October 2018