

WURM, 08-01-2024 13:00 WURMng Oort room

Present Bob, Aard, Mark, Des, Wybren, Ilse, Paul, Marjolein

First WURMng, first group meeting in 2024 – Happy New Year everyone!

Quick update session:

Ilse: Work climate survey preps done, going live 16 Jan (invite emails will be sent then); charming RADIOBLOCKS 5.3 people to write up things (e.g. SKA-VLBI Challenge) and trying to get SYMBA to work this week (w/ MichaelJ); this Fri special NAEIC mtng: farewell to TanaJ; CEP6 busy day this Wed.

Mark: V0 server updated to Deb11, went so smooth so cont'd on to Deb12 and upgraded to latest DACHS version; some discussion in radio-ig and asked to investigate some (very old) radio images (by EnnoM) but FITS files contain (too) little meta data to be useful; ParselTongue users report some probs, trying to reproduce but have issues w/ that. VIPER mtng last week (=CASA ng data infrastructure) – zarr format is ~ 1/2 MS size. Helping wrap up RADDIOBLOCKS WP4 deliverables.

Bob: Multi-facility Cfp tool: deleted EVN stuff from Northstar copy, tested, seems to work on one go (?!), VM requested for hosting => prop tool cannot connect to db: seems MariaDB vs MySQL issue; remaining questions: how many pages for justification? keep EVN user db? Icons needs to be replaced. MartinL reports disk list inaccessible? php on archive2 not executing. Reading up on keycloak, request discussion about linking accounts.

Aard: 8-bit VDIF support in SFXC implemented, JunY wants test tomorrow (!!!) – 8-bit test at next NME. JasonH question: sfxc paper? still open for comments? [Yes] [Mark: printed it out and left it at the office before leaving for holidays], in progress. Working on automated tests in ASTRON gitlab CI/CD.

Des: Verloftool updated to handle year boundary. MichaelJ fringe fit request: quick pkg, now need to do it proper. Panicking about RADIOBLOCKS milestone. HOPS commentary document ready for internal sharing.

Paul: working on rearranging parts of the network: some services will be migrated to the DMZ, pending some more reconfiguration. FS optics saga continues: replacement optics now already failing after 1.5 yrs, in discussion w/ vendor (claim "was repaired, so out of warranty" vs "actually you sent a new item so it's nowhere near being out of warranty"). 4x Mellanox SN2100 support contract: last year's vendor not allowed to sell NVIDIA anymore and didn't tell us; found Hamburgnet as replacement vendor. Renew contact w/ Spectra logic this week (tape robot).

Wybren: updating flexbuffs; helped Bob w/ multi-facility Cfp machine. With Aard: Zabbix on evn-monitor is very old, so updated,

then everything broken, restore backup and continue later.

AOB:

[Ilse: Writing hours I don't see week 1? What's up?] No week 53 either – which could explain lack of week 1 – so it's likely a bug, talk w/ Aukelien.

Topics for further discussion:

[Aard: automatic nightly sfxc test failed on one day (30 Dec) and worked on 29th and 31st – anything happened that day?] After some hypothesising (discouraged) Mark to check logs to see if a root cause for #FAIL can be found in there.

[Bob: at last TOG (Dec 2023, Torun) suggested to take gps-fmout from evn-monitor, need user (e.g. "log2vex") for access to database?]

Aard/Wybren: why not use Zabbix itself to read the data?

Marjolein: AlexanderN has shell script to extract series?

Aard: let's produce script that extracts all useful information in one go, AlexanderN's script requires ssh and extracts one series at a time.

[Bob: what's the point of Keycloak for one use case if not linking accounts/BHTOM user gets forwarded two times: BHTOM => Keycloak => ProposalTool, which may be confusing]

Main realisation: the keycloak instance isn't meant for just this "one off" multi-facility CfP; already have Jupyterhub that needs to go through keycloak (note: discuss w/ Aard+Des, both have set up / experimented w/ keycloak instances), can use proposal tool login to give access to proprietary data et cet.

[Wybren: automatic security updates on flexbuffs? there are quite often patches and our machines are (limited) exposed to internet] General consensus: security updates necessary, cannot predict impact on operations so "all machines on unattended updates" seems like a bad idea. Options: cronjob? Script Ansible? [Paul: current Ansible setup not conducive to that, would require a fair amount of work]

After tossing ideas around:

- very soon *after* e-VLBI to maximise time-to-next-real-time-requirements
- staggered updates, using cronjob, use update command-line flag(s):
 - week 1 even nodes
 - week 3 odd nodes
- include sfxc nodes; some of them have external connectivity too