ZWURM, 02-11-2020 10:00 (Early ZWURM through Zoom because of #COVID19 house quarantaine/wk34 and start of CASA VLBI workshop at 13:00)

Present eBob, Aard, Ilse, Des, Paul, Mark, Harro

Ilse: most time spent on preparation of the CASA VLBI workshop starting today and lasting through Thursday. Attended 2nd NOVA Instrument Steering Committee meeting; some problems identified at previous ISC are addressed: nice to see how funding organisation and instrument developers jointly arrive at solutions.

Des: prepared lecture for the CASA VLBI workshop. MichaelJ ran into problems with the packaged wide-band/widely separated band fringefitter: provided a patch. (The XML for casa tasks is kept in two (2) places and had updated only one; not always sure which one gets used during build). Supported Paul and Ilse with the Mattermost batch user import. Used python wheels to import casa6 tasks - seems to work quite well.

Paul: visited WSRT to inspect off-site backup machine "trantor" (11 yo machine), to identify parts in the machine to be able to assess compatibility with upgrades/replacements. The cooling elements of the SATA cards had slid off the chips - repaired using heat conducting double adhesive tape sourced from on-site ASTRON staff to prevent them sliding onto the mainboard and cause shortcircuits. The Mattermost batch import cost a lot of time due to combination of human data input (names) and very restrictive Mattermost username rules and Mattermost import not handling double imports - i.e. already existing accounts had to be filtered out manually. Still less work than setting up a separate, new, Mattermost installation. The Mattermost VM server was upgraded: Mattermost v5.28 installed, VM increased to four CPUs, 4 GB memory and 20 GB disk space from 1/1GB/10GB. The new VM servers are shipped. Saw ~6 Gbps on the network from ~0:00 on Monday but by 8:00 already dropped to ~1 Gbps, unlikely the traffic was due to the announced DDOS attack. Preparing for CASA VLBI workshop. Spent almost a whole day at ASTRON discussing network upgrade with KlaasS and JulianK.

eBob: EVN Session III/20 ongoing - data transfer issues with e-Merlin; partially recorded on different flexbuff because of recording issues on one of the flexbuffs; transfer system can not handle this, so data was manually transferred. Hope to be able to perform a split-datastream test after next e-VLBI. Dr Bob made the setup of the last K band 4 Gbps experiment (32 MHz bands) available for local testing [Mark: try at least 8 x 4 Gbps]. Started on the NorthStar todo list, one item already done, thanks to Apache Struts tutorial found online.

Mark: Had NRAO/CASA VLBI coordination meeting, obvious that 5.8/6.2 release already delayed (GeorgeM still coding on feature). Received (pulsar) data from RichardD - bug in importfits; one-line diff needs to be accepted by casacore. JustinL delivered VLBA data for testing gaincurve: limited dataset, having 1 IF - some columns become scalar

in stead of array. Fixed in casacore, needs to be accepted. Worked on CASA Workshop lecture. WP3 telecon: will be receiving invitation for onboarding tech talk soon. Prepared a two-slide presentation for next week's ADASS BoF on radio archives into the VO (co-author of that). Received (positive) feedback on ParselTongue Py3 from certain EPBoven, no response from AdamD/CormacR. Will ping and hope to do beta release after that.

Aard: Attended WP5 progress meeting, gave (well received) presentation with demo of Jupyter hub + notebook. Did not mention problems with X11; from ordinary shell use xvfb-run(1) and works, from docker entrypoint: hangs. Other docker problem: new user logs in, docker creates new home directory – ownership root. Might be able to use a "pre-hook" to create the directory and use chown(1). Will be providing tech support for notebooks during CASA VLBI workshop.