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LHCb Core Software Meeting

Date and Location

28 March 2007
10:30 - 12:20
CERN (2-R-030)
(agenda↗)

Attendees

Florence, Gloria, Hubert, Marco Ca., Marco Cl. (minutes), Markus, Matt, Philippe, Radu, Ronan, Thomas, Zsolt (phone)

Subjects

Specific Topics

Feicim browser

Ronan Mcnulty and Zsolt Lazar presented a first prototype of a GUI intended to simplify the access to LHCb analysis for newcomers.

The slides and a couple of demos are available on the agenda⬀.

The presentation triggered a lot of discussion and comments, I shall try to summarize the main points/comments.

- Part of the Feicim project is in Java (GUI). It was asked why not stick to Python, since the biggest part of the project is Python.
- The use a pure GUI tool is controversial:
    - ♦ it cannot have the power and flexibility of a programming language:
      we will always need to go to the code to tune and improve the selection.
    - ♦ it hides all the technical details that are important for a physicist
      with a tool like this one, the young students may loose the knowledge of what they are doing
      (e.g. how do we select a particle, which cuts..)
    - ♦ it should provide a way of exporting the selection to a python or C++ algorithm, so the user
      could use it to prepare a template.
- Feicim allows to produce n-tuples. In LHCb, we are trying to discourage the n-tuple approach because it makes difficult the collaboration (the n-tuple is very personal and strictly non-standard, nobody except the creator can understand it). The Cambridge group is working on the tools to generate microDSTs (see the presentations at the core software meeting and at the LHCb week⬀), and Feicim should use something similar instead of n-tuples.
- It has been mentioned that the browser will allow to find documentation too, but the demos did not show anything like that (e.g. links to doxygen pages).
- Radu developed a generic transient store browser (based on GaudiPython) already one year ago: GaudiViewer. The scope is more limited, but it is useful to have a look into it.
- The current implementation of Feicim uses MySQL to store the tree representation of the transient store and as a temporary storage engine for the data to be copied to n-tuples. It is not clear why it is needed and why MySQL (SQLite is a valid alternative without the need for a server).
- It was asked if Feicim work on Windows. The answer is that it should work, but was never tested.

News

- LCG 51 is going to be released
  Nothing in it is needed by LHCb, so we will jump directly to the next one

Software Releases

Gaudi (Hubert)

- Gaudi v19r3 released
    - ♦ annoying message on windows about MultiSet.dll
      Thomas has got the same problem, which Pere fixed. Thomas is currently using a private copy of Cintex.dll.
- Fixing a problem in GaudiPolicy with the usage of `private` and `public` in patterns (now that `end_private` is available, we should use it)

Marco Ca. suggest to remove the tags for a "static" build because it cannot work with the recent changes in the plug-in manager.

LHCb, Boole, Brunel (Marco Ca.)

- Releasing LHCb, all the rest will come later.
    - ♦ the release was delayed by a nasty problem due to a bad interaction between SEAL `.cache` files, Windows AFS client 1.5.1, summer-time (definition and changes)
- Changes for the Velo are in the pipeline for the next release (possibly soon in DEV).

Gauss (Gloria)

- Florence is building v30r2, based on Gaudi v19r1 because of problems with v19r2 (under investigation)
    - ♦ **NOT TO BE USED FOR PRODUCTION**, only for testing
    - ♦ it is possible to choose between different electromagnetic physic descriptions
- A new DC06 compatible version should be ready, possibly, before Easter

DaVinci (Marco Ca. for Patrick)

- Patrick has got a working version in DEV that should be released soon after LHCb.

Panoramix (Thomas)

- v15r2 is working... using a different version of ROOT (5.14.00d), POOL (2.5.1) and a custom made Cintex.dll (provided by Pere).

Round Table

Philippe
> The preparation of GRID middleware libraries for SLC4 is progressing well thanks to Oliver Keeble.

Marco Cl.
> QT and PyQT are not distributed with LCGCMT, but they are needed to have the CondDB browser working. It should be requested at the architects forum. Hubert added pylint (Python syntax checker) to the list.

-- MarcoClemencic - 28 Mar 2007

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Topic revision: r2 - 2007-03-28 - GloriaCorti