Technical Meeting Compass DCS / IT-CO

Date: 7 June 2007 from 16:00pm to 17:30pm
Place: IT-CO Scada Lab

This meeting was attended by:

Catarina Quintans (COMPASS DCS)
Ana Sofia Nunes (COMPASS DCS)
Mathias Dutour (IT-CO)
Manuel Gonzalez Berges (IT-CO)

Content:

General news:

CQ reported that the COMPASS DCS group will receive a summer student from June 19th until mid September. She will make studies of the DCS performance. She also announced that the migration of the main project of COMPASS DCS to PVSS 3.6 was done successfully on May 29th.

MGB announced that PVSS 3.6 SP2 will be delivered on July 9th, and will have two distributions: a full version and a version of patches. It will have improvements in the RDB manager, allowing now the storage of the comment field of datapoints in the database; and in the User Interface.

Status of open issues:

Wiener equipment communication problem (remedy case CT376974): MD reported that other experiments were having similar problems and that a new OPC server now being tested at IT-CO should allow a better control of the CAN.

CQ reported that during the migration to PVSS 3.6, some Wiener items (IMeas, VMeas, Status) were seen to have been set to invalid "by the user"; this was corrected by hand.
Action MD: during the next access, make measurements with the CAN analyzer and an osciloscope, to investigate the permanent invalid bits set by the OPC server.

Integration of new CAEN HV module A1932AN (remedy case CT349393): CQ reported that the integration was done. It required many modifications in panels and in scripts; doubt still persists on the meaning of the items TripInt and TripExt.
ACTION MD: Ask CAEN the meaning of the items TripInt and TripExt.

CQ informed that the OPC overload problem still exists. There are almost no updates for the values of the SY1527 crates, even after a firmware upgrade to version 2.01.02. For the third crate read by the OPC server, whose model is SY2527 and has the firmware version 2.01.00, values are updated regularly. MGB said that if it wasn't for this fact, smaller groups with fewer items or the new “event driven” OPC server might solve the problem, but that in this case a hardware problem should be considered.
ACTION CQ: create a group with only few items and check if the problem persists for this group.

Problem with ISEG modules (remedy case CT429604): CQ reported the current situation, with two OPC server versions, one for each type of module firmware. It was found out that the old firmware would crash the new official OPC server. Moreover, Lionel Wallet supplied COMPASS DCS a new corrected version of this server, which can handle two CAN buses, unlike the official release of the new OPC server. CQ informed that the remaining module still with the old firmware would have its firmware upgraded during the next access period.
ACTION MD: Ask Iseg why the corrected version of the server is not the official release.
EDIT: the firmware upgrade was performed on June 11th.

Migration to PVSS 3.6: CQ informed it was decided that SLC3 would be kept to gain some time during the migration period. It had been planned for the process to last about 8 hours, but finally it lasted more than 24 hours. During this time, the devices were controlled by a spare computer; the values archived during this period are not integrated in the value history of the main project. Many problems appeared during the migration: the KDE Plastik style is not a part of the KDE SLC3 distribution; an attempt was made to install it but it failed. By suggestion of Piotr Golonka, another style was used. It was found that the function printPanel() isn't working, because it requires libraries that are not present in SLC3. It had already been reported that, although this function worked with our PVSS3.6/SLC4 project, the resolution of the plots was very bad. For some time, there were limited functionalities because of the trending plot dependency on a wheel mouse. It was found that the “auto logout” functionality is no longer working as it should. Another PVSS manager created by COMPASS to read a file being updated regularly still isn't working properly. Debugging of these problems has to continue.

SPS data via DIP: CQ reported the meeting she had with the COMPASS beam coordinator

Davide Reggiani, the CESAR expert Vito Baggiolini, and the SPS beam responsible Lau Gatignon. COMPASS DCS had requested access to the full list of items published by the beam server; the ones related to the access door status and the magnets status would be of particular interest. On the SPS side, some doubts were expressed about the use of DIP, because no one is using it for this purpose yet; and also because not all items are available via DIP. MD and MGB informed that DIP is a CERN standard and is being used by other groups. CQ reported that it was proposed to COMPASS DCS to access the beam logging database, but all agreed that it wasn't an adequate solution, because the data accessed in this way would be outdated. MD and MGB advised to bring this issue to COMPASS responsibles.

New points arising:

None.

Specific action and conclusion:

None.

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