Technical Meeting COMPASS DCS / IT-CO

Date: 16 March 2007 from 9:00am to 10:30am
Place: IT-CO SCADA-Lab

This meeting was attended by:

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

Contents:

General news:

ASN, the new DCS-COMPASS collaborator, was introduced. She joined in mid-February, and is going to attend the PVSS course next week. She will stay at CERN for most of the Data Taking Period this year (May to November).

Presentation: The present COMPASS DCS project:

A live connection to the COMPASS DCS project was established, for demonstration purposes. CQ presented the basic features of the 2006 PVSS project (v3.1), and explainned the requests/ideas for this year's Run (contents of "DCS-COMPASS requirements for the 2007 Run", v.2).

FV explainned that Finite State Machine (FSM) should be the ideal implementation for what COMPASS is requesting (changing the Experiment configuration in the middle of the Run to include/exclude detectors). It was agreed that, given the short time remainning until the beginning of the Run, FSM shall not be used. Some lighter solution is advised instead. All the detectors needed are to be included in the same PVSS project. The detectors not used in one Running mode will not be acessible (greyed out in the DCS panel). The corresponding datapoints will have either masked alerts, or some script will allow to add/remove alert-handling from dps, depending on the running mode. MGB and OH advised for the first option.

FV said that the setting of ORACLE databases (DBs), for both the historical values and to put a configuration DB, should be a good option for COMPASS. CQ informed that COMPASS already has some ORACLE account centrally based (CDR), which is used to store all the physics data in real time. The communication was seen to be very reliable. MGB said that it is possible to move PVSS archived data into an ORACLE DB. He also explainned that with ORACLE the dpAlias is stored together with dpName only if the archive configuration is included. This will be fixed by the new PVSS service pack 3.6.1 (to be released end of April). The history of changes in the dpAlias to dpName correspondence is not stored, though – this will be provided by IT/CO in the future. It was stated that IT/CO can help setting the ORACLE DB.

Action CQ: Check with COMPASS for some space in the already existing ORACLE account.

The Running mode and Access status can either be set by the operator, or read from an external system (like the COMPASS DAQ and the SPS Beam Info). MD advised to define as soon as possible the parameters which are to be read from the SPS info. CQ told she is presently discussing this with COMPASS responsibles,

who would also be very interested in having in the DCS information on the status of the beamline magnets.

Action MD: Check with the SPS Beam Info responsibles about the technical implementation of DIP middleware.

On the subject of the user authorization feature, Piotr Golonka answered that in PVSS 3.6 this was tested and works ok.

Action CQ: Test the user authorization with sessions timeout in PVSS 3.6, with the upgraded COMPASS project.

Status of open issues / specific actions:

CT376974 Wiener equipment communication problems
The new firmware upgrade tool is not yet available. MD said that, after contacting U. Vogt (Wiener), he was told the new tool is being prepared on some LHC request. It is not totally clear if it will fix the "Power Inhibit" problem, and the temperature limit uninitialization seen at COMPASS. CQ explainned that, due to the delay to have the fixed tool, it will probably be too late to upgrade all in the 3 CANbuses (total of 29 power supplies). There is also no answer from Wiener on the problem of the PS not visible to the tool or the OPC server.

Action MD: As soon as the upgrade tool will be available, test it at IT/CO, using one Wiener PS.

CT349393 CAEN A1932N board integration with Framework
CQ told that the modules are now in the COMPASS experiment (not clear if they were modified or not). The detector responsibles did not provide yet one of the modules for tests at IT/CO. MGB warned that if the module will not be available soon, it will be impossible to do the job before the beginning of the Run, due to other duties. It is agreed to wait until 1st May, otherwise close this case.

CT410101 and CT411402 Strange behavior / corrupted PVSS archive database
CQ reported strange behavior and inconsistencies when extracting data from a past PVSS archive. The problems have been reported to ETM and are under investigation on their side.

New actions
CQ informed she plans to test the COMPASS project, upgraded to PVSS 3.6 in real environment. Connection to the hardware and tests should be done asap.

Misc.
None.

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