Technical Meeting Compass DCS / IT-CO

Date: 20 August 2007 from 14:00am to 16:00am
Place: COMPASS Experiment

This meeting was attended by:

Catarina Quintans (COMPASS DCS)
Mathias Dutour (IT -CO)
Ana Sofia Nunes (COMPASS DCS)
Katharina Schmidt (COMPASS DCS)

Content:

General news:

MD announced the PVSS 3.6 SP2 is not yet available as some problems with Oracle archiving have been detected and the related fixes provided by ETM have neither been received nor tested yet.

Status of open issues / specific actions.

CT376974 Wiener equipment communication problems
MD monitored the CAN bus with 10 crates using CANKing CAN analyzer and found that some requests for information issued by the OPC server are either not understood or available in the hardware. After a second investigation, the 5 crates on a second CAN bus show similar behavior. These requests represent roughly 10% of the CAN traffic. CQ removed the related subscribed items at OPC Client level without sensible effect on the communication issues.
On the CAN buses with 10 crates COMPASS DCS team saw that some crates, apparently permanently blocked, could be recovered by unplugging then re -plugging back the CAN bus to the Kvaser card.
CQ reported there were no problems noticed on the 2 CAN buses with PL500 and PL508 attached since the fans and temperature probes have been removed from the OPC server configuration. MD underlined these equipments are known to have recent firmware.
KS investigated the permanent communication problem from PVSS archiving and saw some crates could recover from the blocking state without any clear reason. However it appears the restart of the OPC server as a negative impact most of the time. MD explained there is probably a link with the burst of messages exchanged at startup between the equipment and the OPC server.

Finally MD suggested to either keep the crate setup as it is (no firmware or OPC server upgrade) and try to improve the communication on these equipment without Wiener`s support (outdated firmware and OPC server), or to consider a full upgrade for the Wiener equipment used. CQ contacted Wiener to get information for the latter case.

Action MD: Check the difference between the crate and the power supplies OPC server v. 1.0.08 releases.
Action CQ: Contact Elcotron to get information on Wiener equipment firmware and software upgrade. (In progress).

New actions.

None.

Misc.

CQ reported SLiC seems not to remove from the internal 'Bad list' (items that could not be retrieved during the last polling cycle from the hardware) the items that has been seen to be updated. It was agreed this is not disturbing SLiC operations and could be investigated by MD when appropriate (E.g.: With future SLiC release).

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