Technical Meeting COMPASS-DCS / EN-ICE

Date: 25th August 2010 from 14:30 to 15:30
Place: Building 892, 2-B09
This meeting was attended by:
Brice Copy (EN-ICE) (BC)
Ana Sofia Nunes (COMPASS-DCS) (ASN)
Christophe Pires (COMPASS-DCS) (CP)
Benjamin Farnham (EN-ICE) (BF)

Content:

General news:
BC introduced Benjamin Farnham, from EN-ICE, who will work on Wiener and OPC issues.

PVSS / General:
ASN reported that the queries of the COMPASS-DCS production PVSS project to the Oracle database, in particular the one for trending plots, are getting very slow. BC advised COMPASS to contact the database manager to request the (re)creation of indexes.
Action COMPASS: contact Dawid Wojcik, from the PhyDB service, to ask (re)creation of indexes.
Edit: done. New indexes were created. The limit for the number of tables was checked to be very big (more than 130) and the threshold on the size of tables to trigger a table switch was set to a lower value.

BC asked again about the needs of COMPASS with respect to a tool for management the historic data when changes of PVSS hardware-logical names are made.
Action COMPASS: open an “issue” on the EN-ICE controls platform, specifying the request.
Edit: done.

Wiener:
COMPASS delivered to BF the EEPROM with the version of firmware developed at Wiener in Germany during February-April 2010, using a full COMPASS setup lent to Wiener (VME crate, power supply of type UEP 5021 and fan tray). This firmware fixed a problem observed at COMPASS, but still has to be tested, first on a single crate, and then for a period of two months on a CAN bus with 13 crates of this type. COMPASS has other 9 spare crates with

this type of power supply. COMPASS reminded the agreement from EN-ICE to provide chips with the copies of new firmware, to be ready at the end of the Run, by November 23rd, and to help on its installation.
Action BF: provide copies of the EEPROM.

CAEN:
COMPASS reported that the fix to the SliC server developed at EN-ICE, to filter out packages of data where a non-physical vMon is detected, is now used in COMPASS for all its SliC servers, without problems, thus allowing a significant reduction of the number of fake readings displayed on the PVSS project.

BC reminded that EN-ICE is willing to develop support for the CAENet-controled CAEN crate types used by COMPASS (SY127, SY403, SY527) within the FESA framework, whose next release will happen in the beginning of 2011. COMPASS is interested in testing and eventually using this solution, as an alternative to SLiC, which won't be maintained by CERN in the future. CP reminded that, to be able to perform tests with COMPASS equipment (including CAN buses with several crates), the distribution should be available earlier than March 2011.
Action BC: organize the development and tests of controls solution for CAEN crates using CAENet within FESA framework.

COMPASS reported that there were tests done in 2005 with a CAEN OPC server, with non satisfactory results, that lead to the decision to maintain the use of the SliC server at the time. BC proposed to again test the OPC server at EN-ICE.
Action COMPASS: provide the reference to the report of tests done by COMPASS with CAEN OPC server.
Edit: done.
Action BF: perform tests, under similar conditions as the ones performed at COMPASS in 2005, with an up-to-date CAEN OPC server.

Other issues:
BC reported that he contacted several people from EN-ICE and other experiments, and could not find any other users of mySQL databases at CERN besides COMPASS.

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