WURM, 09-09-2024 13:00 CEST Strategy WURMng Marjolein's office

Present: Paul, Wybren, Bob, Des, Marjolein

Plenary announcements: EVN Symposium very good, many directors and young people to chat with, mm-VLBI developments and results are booming: tri-band receivers and frequency-phase-transfer (and source-frequency-phase-transfer) huge impact, ambitious plans in countries surrounding us: RASOR (UK)=10-12 SKA-MID dishes in UK, 3-4 w/ LOFAR station for space weather & ionospheric monitoring, LEVERAGE(DE)=4 ngVLA dishes in Germany as outstations to ngVLA and SKA-MID, can operate "solo".

Go over the high-level "project" tickets:
[DesS: Possible to change "Projects" to something else? Redmine has type "project" and having a project called "Projects" is confusing; also, can has guidance on organising information in Redmine wikis? Is a flat namespace so need to self-organize and best be done in collaboration w/ someone knowledgeable in the verse & rhyme of Redmine (i.e. PaulB — red.)]

#824: EEE upgrade — same state as before PaulB's holiday
#1074: tape library evaluation — MarkK, AardK, others given access, no feedback yet
#1077: no old stuff on the network — some hosts upgraded over the past few weeks, remaining to do evn-monitor, followed by code.jive.eu, then db0
#1078: "monitoring" — want to migrate to Zabbix v7, need to check w/ BobC, MartinL, PaulB, BobE _what_ needs to be monitored (for dashboard creation — red.); cannot guarantee all data, views, dashboards, can be migrated from old zabbix to new. Q: move to Postgres? Is faster and saves ~20% HDD space, also: Mattermost indicates dropping support for MySQL. [DesS: could have strategy ticket for migration to Postgres?] [PaulB: try on select instances first] gitea also sais it does not support MariaDB, at least not officially. [Note: issue is that MySQL is not in free O/S, can use MariaDB, but sometimes too old; MySQL == Oracle => before you know they'll come visiting counting CPUs and present licensing fee bill; some apps already using Postgres, evn-vo and at least one other, but also our queries may not be exactly migratable to Postgres, let alone some of the functionality we rely on)

=> Action: new strategy ticket to figure out situation re MySQL licensing vs Postgres vs MariaDB + what is it that our applications need

#1080: new normalisation scheme (GaborO)
#1081: alt weighting scheme
#1082: phase-sign convention scheme (MarjoleinV)
#1091: EOPs in FITS file(s)
        — all those tickets in collaboration w/ SuppSciOps,
          discuss at VLOPS meeting

=> Action MarjoleinV: update EOP ticket

#1093: containers vs VMs — no progress
#1102: centralized ID management — ORP-PILOT EVN BHTOM code using
Keycloak, need publicly accessible instance, can be used for testing
other application with too

#1103: svn to git — sfxc moved to git, should be done;
initially not part of ticket: ASTRON shut down svn server, BobE
migrated NorthStar, UNIBOARD code repositories but not converted to
git as repositories in principle only kept for historical reasons

=> Action MarkK, AardK: to update ticket

#1118: archive script development — generate static HTML from db
(done), DOI creation in progress but a bit worried that real DOI is
real (e.g. creating a million = big problem) [Marjolein: that's
why we have the sandbox environment, maybe make script capable of
re-running and replace test-DOIs with the real thing after checking
for correctness]

=> Action DesS: update ticket

[PaulB: top-level "projects" query does not seem correct? missing
ticket?]
#686: new archive server — software migration completed & seems ok;
remaining to do is hardware migration of tape + zombie jbod HDDs;
need to plan downtime day to do this

AOB:
[MarjoleinV: feedback from users in questionnaire, two most negative
aspects are a) archive interface and b) pySCHED installation. But we
know that wrt a) we've already got a working prototype for the new
interface, was waiting for hardware migration and b) using conda +
venv but still very tricky: Python installations break very easily
on e.g. matplotlib and/or numpy and/or Qt]

[Q WybrenB: what about the UK flexbuff? And "the other flexbuff"?]
[A MarjoleinV: UK flexbuff restarting now that holiday season is
over, procedure requires availability of staff at both ends; was
informed informally at EVN Symposium that HDDs for JohnMcK's
flexbuff are now ordered so who knows]

[BobE: working on forwarded vulnerability reports on ASTRON tools by
ICT caused by Responsible Disclosure clause on ASTRON website that
affect our tools too: NorthStar (account takeover) and domain
cookie-stealin' in EVN Calculator]