WURM, 18-08-2025 13:00 CEST WURMng + some "strategy" Oort Room

Present: Paul, Wybren, Bob, Aard, Des, Mark, Marjolein

Des: seems we have a working PolConvert that operates on MSv2 directly, expect to do commissioning (with Supp.Sci) soonish. SFXC documentation converted to Markdown.

Paul: we have (very) old disks in the flexbuff pools - double-disk failure in fb5 caused loss of data of one pool. Likely to happen more often.

Mark: worked on RADIOBLOCKS milestone, Aard needs to verify what is written; worked on EHT data description document. Multiple source names in MSv2 after importfitsidi: root-cause traced back to behaviour of ms-concat tooling in casacore, different behaviour was implemented and a PR is under review. SFXC-gpu fixes: convinced we now have the full algorithms ported, good basis for further developments. casacore now wants c++17 (!); casa-dev has Deb11, which doesn't have any truck with such modernisms: schedule upgrade to Deb12, needs coordinating [After some discussion: wait until after next casa release Sep/Oct].

Bob: fb5 data loss: BobC provided with list, data from two stations still available on the remote end, but no effort to recover requested. BertH reported a runjob error: turned out that runjob doesn't handle selecting a scan that does not have any of the selected stations in very elegantly. New LBA setups in pySCHED. Ran (sandbox)DOI generation script on everything, takes about one hour; found that landing page code is per exp but url in DOI separates between project and observation needs fixing); built dev archive website w/ DOI integration. Produced Northstar build that can handle unicode chars, at least fixing some of the errors, hopefully also the "data leak" i.e. associating wrong abstract with proposal. DBBC3 eVLBI support in runjob + simul code: following DBBC3 documented commands, mapping of BBC to core board firmware dependent, but bitmask mapping simple.

Marjolein: published python-pgplot and jiveplot projects on PyPI; users can now "pip install <...>". Working on getting them into conda forge too; currently waiting for python-pgplot recipe to be reviewed and, hopefully, accepted into conda forge.

Semi-strategy section: current high prio items now that everyone is back from holiday, mostly:

* RADIOBLOCKS Grant Agreement Amendment being processed
if accepted, we'll be able to purchase a beefy GPU server;
project has only 1 1/2 yr left:
  - need to order as soon as OK is given
    => quote needs to be ready
  - upon receipt of h/w immediate install
    + hand over to (A+M)K

* There is a RADIOBLOCKS WP4 Deliverable scheduled (beamforming+coherent dedispersion) for Feb 2026; that is ~5 months from now (including Christmas and other holidays)

* Cooling machine situation:
we need to figure out which points to monitor and how for the most effective protection of our equipment

* SFXC Workshop coming up in ~one month, need:
  - cluster EFGH set up
  - accounts set up
  - data made available
  - s/w installed

* Heads-up: after the SFXC Workshop there will be a SWEEPS workshop held here, organized by JackR and JohnMcK, this will include remote participating LBA folk

* Ageing disk pool:
After fb5's double-disk #FAIL better:
- make an overview of disk ages
- come up with a mitigation plan
[After a fair bit of discussion the following was decided: a) experiment with USB-3.0 external disk connected whilst resilvering to see if that works, it might help avoiding double-disk #FAIL and b) better to replace whole flexbuffs at a time - doing pool-by-pool is A LOT of overhead and time consuming, option to consolidate two current 8TB-based fb's into 1x 16+ TB sized one - have a spare chassis + room for expansion. Marjolein to find ppl to cough up the money, or, speed up migration to tape library. If staying with HDDs, need rolling replacement strategy; back of the envelope: have 1000 HDDs now, lifetime 5 yrs, replace 200 HDDs / year = 60k€ at least]

* CI/CD integration w/ Gitea (and/or github?)
Any thoughts about this?
[In general: yes, could be a good idea! Self-hosting: takes effort, hardware, and electricity. Possibly investigate purchasing some compute for this? Yes, excellent idea]