Tango Meeting: DESY, 17/18 September 2007

Welcome: E. Weckert

1. Status reports
    a. Alba: D. Fernandez gave an overview about the progress at Alba. Various components are currently specified for the call for tenders. Others are already in a phase beyond. David mentioned that the vacuum will be operated by a distributed system. Synoptical displays, archiving and trend charts are important. Many new device servers have been created. Other issues are the work on the device pool, the interfaces using Python/Qt and the software distribution.

    b. ELETTRA: C. Scafuri reported that the global orbit feedback project is almost completed. It is used in routine operation and it is fully Tango based. Claudio also gave details about the commissioning of the new booster.

    c. ESRF: J-M. Chaize covered the status of the ESRF upgrade program including the scientific goals of this new project. He stressed the importance of building international partnerships in various field, e.g.: data analysis projects and user administration. Jean-Michel mentioned that currently 26 beam lines are running a Tango DB. New equipment has been installed at the ESRF and also new classes have been created. An important issue is the request to store geographical information with the devices.

    d. SOLEIL: M. Ounsy explained that the accelerator is now in operation and that SOLEIL is now delivering beam time to the users. The main fields for software developments are: insertion devices, feedbacks, device servers, archiving, and the supervision of the control system. Other important upgrades are the Web interface, the architecture of the Oracle database and monitoring applications.

    e. DESY: Th. Kracht reported that the first Tango server is in operation at Hasylab. It is the interface to a KETEK MCA.

2. Miscellaneous
    a. Tango at EMBL Hamburg: U. Ristau gave overview of the EMBL online control system and he reported about the status of the Tango2Tine gateway.

    b. Latest news about bindings: Matlab, Igor and Labview (N. Leclercq)

c. HDB-1: Sandra Pierre-Joseph gave an update about the recent HDB developments at SOLEIL. The current issues are code consolidation, fixing deployment problems and implementing a reliable backup/restore mechanism for the Oracle DB.

d. HDB-2: G. Strangolino talked about the event system implementation and about the collaborative work of SOLEIL and ELETTRA on HDB.

3. Kernel
    a. Tango kernel: J. Meyer reported on Tango 6 features and about features that will go into Tango 7. Tango 6 uses OmniOrb 4.1 which forced a new major Tango release. It has been ported to 64 bit architectures. Various changes have been implemented. Especially the event system has been upgraded. Tango 7 will improve the database performance. It will implement device locking and a security service. Tango 7 will have event queues per attribute. Jens finished his talk by addressing the Tango class distribution.

    b. Tango bottlenecks, experience and discussion: J-M. Chaize discussed problems that occur during system recovery after power failures. He proposed to use stored procedures in the DB server, to cache IOR information on the client side and to use event when re-exporting devices.

4. GUI
    a. Development of Tango client applications in Python: J. Ribas introduced PyTauico as the Tango user interface core. It is an abstraction layer for PyTango client applications.

    b. ATK Web protocol: M. Ounsy explained how Tango can be accessed from the internet. The communication is done via http and https ports only. Two steps are involved: ATK calls WebTangoORB instead of TangoORG and WebTangoORB serializes the requests to the Tango Web Server.

5. Experiment control
    a. Diffractometer control at SOLEIL: F. Picca talked about the HKL library of SOLEIL and the Tango implementation. He developed it in collaboration with V. Hardion. The software covers several diffractometer types and allows the user to specify a mode how the angles are calculated from the reciprocal space coordinates. Frederic showed GUIs that interface the software. The work on this project will continue.

b. Device pool (ALBA): J. Klora explained details about the Sardana Device Pool. It provides a simple, standard and unique interface to motors, counters and lots of other devices. The pool synchronizes measurements, minimizes hardware access and supports multiple client access. There will also be a macro server. The device pool will be the generic client for the machine and the experiments.

c. Experiment control at the ESRF: V. Rey Bakaikoa gave a general overview of the work of the BLISS group that supports 29 ESRF beamlines and 12 CRGs. He stressed the importance of TACO and spec for the experiment control system. The BLISS group developed a framework for graphical applications. It is used to create online GUIs. Other issues are automation and software distribution. For the future Vicente expects developments in detectors, beamline control, nano positioning, GUIs, automation, fast acquisitions and data processing. He closed his talk with remarks about Tango at the ESRF beamlines.

d. CSS: J. Hatje gave a talk about new developments at the DESY group MKS-2: the CSS (control systems studio) project a collaboration between DESY, the university of Hamburg and Cosylab has been established. CSS makes use of the Eclipse framework.

6. Preparation of ICALEPS 2007: A. Goetz spoke about the future of Tango. He discussed various requirements and trends. Andy proposed that each institute that is part of the Tango collaboration should contribute on the work of the kernel, alternatively the community should finance one or two system developers. There will be an invited talk and a workshop at the ICALEPS 2007.