MXCuBEWeb Developer's Meeting

Whereby, October 25, 2023

Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

Participants

Rasmus Fogh (Global Phasing)

Marcus Oscarsson, Antonia Beteva, Daniele de Sanctis, Jean-Bapriste Florial, Axel Bocciarelli (ESRF)

Elmir Jagudin, Fabien Coronis (MAX IV)

Feedback on past MAX IV code camp

All agree (MO proposing, all concurring) that the code camp was a success. People were engaged, the exercises were good and will work well as tutorials. The exercises should be moved from the Wiki to toe documentation directory as, longer term, should other documentation.

It was proposed to have regular code camps, e.g. yearly. The meeting was in favour, though DdS noted that it would be necessary to define properly the scope of each meeting. Slightly shorter code camps (one day) could be appended to the half-yearly MXCuBE/ISPyB meetings, which would cut down on travelling. There was some eagerness to have the documentation code camp soon (particularly from EJ), but it was too late to organise for the ALBA meeting, and winter with shut-downs and start-up was a bad time for such meetings. The meeting generally agreed on a date some time around March, but this clearly needs to be discussed in the full (i.e. not MXCuBEWeb) developers' meeting and/or at the ALBA meeting.

FC proposed to use the framework of https://diataxis.fr/ to organise the documentation. This was agreed, though with a question mark on where to put architectural / program structure documentation in this framework.

In preparation for a code camp it was agreed that we needed to share out different topics so that each participants could contribute something different in advance. It was agreed to put up an issue on topics for documentation to gather both expressed needs and volunteers for providing the documentation, and to put the issue under mxcubecore to cater for both web, core, and qt documentation. RF promised to start the issue (DONE)

Any Other Business

RF raised the question of the proper way to pass issues to the Steering Committee, with special reference to the current status of the call for acquiring PyQt licenses. The normal procedure is simply to mail the committee, either directly or through a committee member. The specific question of PyQt licensing has already been raised, by Gerard Bricogne, but has not triggered much feedback. Apparently DESY has said they were buying a license. ESRF is discussing internally whether to buy a license; they are not currently developing in Qt, but are participating in code review etc. and were of course the first people to make a Qt interface. ESRF is not awaiting guidance from the Steering Committee on the subject. DdS promised to add the PyQt license question to the Steering Committee agenda for the ALBA meeting (**ACTION** DdS).

It was clarified that the supported Python versions were still 3.8-3.10, and that there were no rules on Java versions since java was not used in MXCuBE, outside the workflows (!).

FC raised the question of making more dependencies optional, to simplify the work for those sites that did not use them (such as MAX IV). The most urgent question regarded Video Stream, but also a dependency on Cyprus was blocking work. Arguments were raised on both sides, since having optional dependencies (while obviously helpful for those who did not use them) would complicate the build structure for those who did, and it was agreed that the issues would be looked into. On the specific question of VideoStream there was a discussion whether it would be worth it for MAX IV to use it after all, and further on the possibilities and merits of various alternative video formats.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be the mxcubecore developers' meeting around November 16 (exact date to be decided by Doodle poll), followed by the meeting at ALBA November 29 – December 1.