MXCuBE Developer's Meeting

Whereby, April 28, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Participants

Rasmus Fogh (Global Phasing)

Marcus Oscarsson, Antonia Beteva and Daniele de Sanctis (ESRF)

Andrey Gruzinov (DESY)

Jacob Oldfield, David Eriksson (ANSTO)

Bo Yi (NSRRC)

WenMing Qui (SSRF)

Jose (ALBA)

The meeting covered a variety of topics:

Status at ALBA

Jose has started working at ALBA, he is in the control systems department, rather than the computing department, and is not attached to a specific beamline. He notes that ALBA wants to move over to a web interface.

ALBA is building a new beamline which should start using Web MXCuBE, whereas XALOC will stay on the Qt version for a while. ALBA is trying to avoid ISPyB for as long as possible (or forever?). Jose has not been working on web development for quite a while, and would welcome a web development code camp. The meeting agrees that this would be a good topic.

Developers boot camp

The meeting agrees that one should be held, face-to-face, and as a separate two-day event rather than as satellite to one of the regular meetings. People from Maxlab have a hard time to be allowed travel; we might consider holding the meeting at Maxlab, but no venue is decided. One possibility would be in connection with the 14th International Conference on Biology and Synchrotron Radiation (11-14 June 2023, in Lund), but MO proposes waiting till after summer instead. We also need to avoid the week 22-29 August (2023 IuCR in Melbourne).

MXCuBE Release.

It had been agreed to make an mxcubecore release 'in connection with' the upcoming meeting. RF notes a major WIP to integrate the GPhL workflow UI allowing a web interface as well as Qt, which will shortly be ready (UPDATE: As of 202305017 ESRF is up to date with the main develop branch, the GPhL WIP PR is made and merged, and merging to the Massif-1 branch is in progress). It is agreed that th release can wait for this to be incorporated

Git actions

MO will look at increased use of Git actions (ACTION: MO); he may ask for help form others as well. We need to decide whether to bump the minor version or the patch version for every commit. Maxlab would be interested in having every bumped version published on Pypy

Miscellaneous

RF and OS agree to give a joint talk at the upcoming MXCuBE meeting on integration of the GΦL workflow at Massif-1. DE proposes looking at the Prefect workflow engine, that they are using at ANSTO. It is open source and free, though you pay for provision of servers.

The meeting (including Australian participants) agrees that 1100CET is a good time for the developers' meeting.

RF apologises for not having made progress on his action point of advancing the XML-Yaml switchover for configuration files, and discussion on this point is postponed.

The topic of future structure and development of the MXCuBE queue is postponed to a later meeting.

Next meeting

Postponed till after the half-yearly meeting at SOLEIL.