

MXCuBE Steering Committee

Friday 20180202 - report

Code reorganisation

The reorganisation of the MXCuBE code to allow merging between different versions is extremely important. The accumulated divergence between branches has got to the point where it is hindering progress. It is proposed to use Matias's proposal for a UI-HardwareObject interface as the first step, which will make shared development possible again between the two main branches, and will simplify subsequent harmonisation and testing across the code base – as well as allowing site-specific code to be split off. Because of the resource implications the first step is to investigate the feasibility of Matias's proposal. This should be done as a matter of urgency by the developers, coordinated through the monthly web meeting, and followed closely by the steering committee. The aim is to be able to take the important decisions on how to proceed well *before* the September meeting at Elettra. Various sites are willing to contribute developer time to this endeavour, with Rasmus Fogh, Ivars Karpics, and Gleb Bourenkov being specifically mentioned.

Qt v. web implementation

The lifetime of the Qt implementation was discussed, as was the competition for resources between updating the Qt4 implementation to use the new UI interface v. moving over to MXCuBE3. The current position is that the Qt4 implementation may continue for a significant period, given that some sites will not consider changing over to MXCuBE3 until after it is deployed and tested in use.

Memorandum of Understanding

After discussion, it was agreed to continue to have a Memorandum of Understanding. The MoU will be based on a draft initially proposed by the ESRF on the basis of the ISPyB agreement, as last modified by Andy Thompson (who has just recirculated it) that includes changes made by Gerard Bricogne to render the initial wording of Clause 7.1 less draconian as well as additional text to allow the possibility of joint funding of extra resources. An alternative basis could be the "Framework Agreement" model used by SOLEIL, of which Andy Thompson will circulate an example. It was discussed and agreed that an additional clause providing for the tacit reconduction of the MoU should be included.

Licensing

- It was agreed that all sites must as a matter of urgency comply with the Qt/PyQt licensing conditions (i.e. buy a sufficient number of licenses), as well as remove explicit references to any other GPL licensed code, either through relicensing or code removal.
- Chooch/PyChooch has already been replaced in the master branch, and must similarly be replaced in other branches as well. This will take care of any Chooch licensing issues.

- Potential problems from interactions with low-level GPL-licensed code (e.g. hardware controllers) is not considered to be a problem of MXCuBE, but of the individual sites who connect MXCuBE with such code. This may restrict the possibility of disseminating or sharing such code (but not of using it in-house, presumably).

Any other business

- An MXCuBE paper is in progress, and has been so for a while. After some discussion on necessary changes it was agreed that Daniele de Sanctis would produce a modified draft for circulation.
- The inclusion of control by external programs was discussed and it was approved that it should be added as an explicit goal of the purpose of the collaboration.
- It is agreed that the next MXCuBE meeting will take place at Elettra in the first week of September 2018.