MXCuBE Developer's Meeting

Whereby, July 30, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Participants

Marcus Oscarsson, Antonia Beteva, Jean-Baptiste Florial, Daniele de Sanctis (ERSF)
Yan Walesch

Andrey Gruzinov (DESY)

Elmir Yagudin, (MAX IV)

Alessandro Olivo, Nicola Demitri (Elettra)

Annie Heroux (ex Elettra)

Martin Savko, Dan Costin (SOLEIL)

Rasmus Fogh (Global Phasing)

Jacob Oldfield, (ANSTO)

Nicolas Moliterrro(LNLS)

Lais do Carmo (ESS)

Status reports

JO reports that ANSTO is ready for first light, and working on getting the official approval finalised. Developing and setting up MXCuBE will be the next step.

Working groups

MO reminds the meeting that working groups that are separate from the main meeting should write up minutes and make sure that their results are circulated. RF suggests providing a list of existing working groups and their members. A detailed discussion is postponed to the next developers' meeting, in August.

XML-Yaml conversion

EY is working on making the transfer to YAML configuration, first in mockup mode, then for microMAX. The meeting expresses its appreciation.

EY raises a current problem with the XML-YAML conversion (mxcubecore issue #977), and RF promises to look into it.

AB raises a question about the get_roles function for diffractometer motors, and promises to send details to RF.

MO notes that MXCuBE should be deprecating the access of properties by collection, and RF remarks that it remains possible to put complex nested data structures in the YAML configuration files, if needed.

Cybersecurity

A draft cybersecurity questionnaire is being circulated; it will also be sent out by email. The objective is to finalise the questions, by the next developers' meeting, and then to put the questionnaire to synchrotron IT departments to gather information.

Any Other Business

Participants are urged to complete the questionnaire circulated on MXCuBE coding workflows for the next developers' meeting.

RF asks who see themselves as continuing to work on the Qt version of MXCuBE, on occasion of a problem that had been raised on github by MO, trying to get rid of a Qt View parameter in mxcubecore. MO is well ahead with having solved the problem, but obviously cannot test the Qt branch. The sites that are seriously involved in the Qt branch are noted as SOLEIL, DESY, GPhL, and EMBL-Hamburg – though the latter is not represented at the meeting and is currently stuck at an old version using Python 2.7.

Attention is drawn to the many pending PRs and people are urged to take some action. A number of PRs are awaiting the return from holiday of Mikel Eguiraun. The possibility of changing the procedures for merging PRs is briefly raised, but not taken up.

RF asks about the status of automatic tests which he currently understands 'always fail for me regardless'. Other participants note that the tests work for them, including for PRs from other forks (which was not always the case in the past), and RF notes that he should give another try at making sure the tests pass. The xml_yaml branches are currently failing because there are tests for features that have been (partially) removed, and the tests need updating. It is noted that a failure of black also causes a test to fail. It is recommended to tun the automatic pre-commit from github on your code before pushing it.

Rasmus Fogh, Global Phasing   01/08/24

JO suggests that MXCuBE should withdraw support from Python version 3.8, which will go out of security support in November 2024, and which is not supported for a number of libraries, including Pydantic 2.0. The current agreement is to support the oldest version in use anywhere, but there is some discussion whether to strongly encourage upgrading to as new a version as possible (RF), or keep the oldest version until a change is unavoidable (EY)..

EY similarly asks why Python 3.11 is not supported. There are various feedbacks: MAX IV is pushing for standardising on version 3.11. Bliss is compatible with max version 3.10 (AB), PyTango may be a problem, and Qt breaks on version 3.11 and requires some work having to do with float->int casting. It is suggested to check for library compatibility and update the .toml file to allow version 3.11. (**DONE** as of 20240801).

Half-yearly meeting

The next half-yearly meeting will be on 20 November, at Elettra. The dates are now fixed. There will be a session on cyber security, to be put on the middle day in the MXCuBE+ISPyB session.