VDFS-WSA Monthly Report: 2003 July (Quarter 3, Month 1)

1. Software

Progress against deliverables for Quarter 3 is summarised in the attached table. As agreed at the Q2 meeting, some of the tasks in the original version of this table have been sub-divided so progress can be monitored at higher granularity, and an allocation of 4 staff weeks has been set aside for contingencies. Work on the CU (curation use case) tasks is now based on the design and principles developed in the Software Architecture Design. Progress has been good and has vindicated the decision to follow the CDR Panel's advice to eschew "quick and dirty" coding because we were pressed for time. A prototype WWW interface to search a SQL Server database by position and other SSA catalogue attributes using menus has been developed and tested. Extension of this to the WSA will be straightforward.

2. Hardware

The Catalogue Server hardware was delivered at the end of July. This is currently being set up and the priority task for August will be to set up the SSA on this, the first test of scalability of SQL Server. Given the delay to the delivery of WFCAM and of "real" WFCAM data, this will provide a valuable test of the system both from curators' and users' viewpoints. Further tests of data transfer between CASU and WFAU found that rates of 7MB/s could be achieved the download accelerator "axel".

3. Other

NCH gave a presentation on the WFCAM Science Archive at the "Virtual Observatory as a Data Grid" meeting organized by RGM at the NeSC. Following the meeting, Jim Gray and Alex Szalay visited the ROE for discussions with NCH, RGM and MAR on detailed use of SQL Server for astronomical databases.

PMW
2003 Aug 4

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