

VDFS-WSA Monthly Report: 2006 Quarter 2, April-June: Narrative

1. General

Work has concentrated on the DR1 and DR1+ data releases. The wide/shallow surveys (LAS, GCS, GPS) were relatively straightforward but quality control took more time and effort than initially estimated. The deep surveys were more problematic. Because of problems with the V3 re-processed Semester 05A, we had to back off and use V2 for DR1. In June, the UDS WG found the standard VDFS products unacceptable as regards sky subtraction, stacking and source extraction, and the Nottingham group provided enhanced deep mosaics. Stacking and source extraction in the DXS also required a lot of extra work and the whole carefully planned release schedule was squeezed into a rush for the release of DR1+ on July 21. For future releases, we need to publish the schedule and time the release to fit delivery of the required components.

2. Hardware and Networking

We have installed a further pixel data server (12TB, Khafre), catalogue server (4.8TB, Thutmose) and equipment has continued to work well. The ATC have installed a UPS to cover all the data servers and networking equipment on site, and have also moved the heavy breathing processor farm out of the server room, which should alleviate the load on the air conditioning which has plagued us off and on. We have begun studying the use of the University's SAN for storage of large amounts of data as part of the VISTA design review.

After extensive discussions with networking staff in Cambridge and Edinburgh, we applied for a 1Gb/s UKLight circuit for data transfer between CASU and WFAU in the next few years until we get managed bandwidth on SJ5. This has been agreed and we are in the process of getting the necessary equipment.

3. Software

In addition to the work, and work-arounds, for the data release, work has continued on improving the user interface and organisation and refactoring of the code for Phase 4.

4. Tables

Progress and project status are summarized in the usual Quarter and EVA tables.

PMW (2006 July 21)