

VDFS-WSA Quarterly Report: 2007 Quarter 2.3 (June-July): Narrative

1. General

After further discussions with STFC ("is the VDFS extension new money, thereby attracting fEC, or old money, and not"), the JeS form for the extension was submitted on July 9 and the grant awarded on the 19th. So the project continues after September 30th. The content (early 06B data), structure (with or without photometric/astrometric recalibration) and timing of UKIDSS DR3 are being discussed with Steve Warren.

2. Hardware

A second 18-TB (raw) NAS box has been acquired for pixel data and another JBOD for the VSA load server. A series of tests comparing speeds of access to the SCSI disks via SCSI and SAS have found the latter to be significantly faster, so we expect to use this for future expansions of catalogue servers. The disks on the pixel servers are being reorganised and data moved from the older servers to the NAS boxes to reduce the amount of network traffic and possible NFS congestion on the cross-mounted RAID arrays. This was thought to be the cause of the slow data transfer rate on from CASU using the UKlight connection, but appears not to be and investigations continue; the position is not critical but will become so when VISTA data become available.

3. Software

Work has continued on refactoring code where this can lead to faster curation and/or easier maintenance and the architecture has been reviewed by the team with a view to improving efficiency. Similarly, the Java SQL access code is being re-factored to make it more general, easier to maintain and to implement for VISTA data access. All code, including full revision history, has been transferred from the CVS to SVN repository. A bug was found in seaming algorithm used to create the GPS (and recreate the LAS) in the final released DR2. This has been noted on the release history web pages and an email sent to the user wsa_announce list. The LAS has now been fixed, the seaming flags in the GPS source table reset, and re-seaming the GPS source table is under way.

4. Tables

Progress and project status are summarized in the usual Quarterly Summary and EVA tables circulated with this report, as is the plan for the present quarter (Q3).

PMW (2007 July 26)