

VDFS-WSA Quarterly Report: 2007 Quarter 3.1 (July-Aug): Narrative

1. General

The navigable, zoom-able colour mosaic from the GPS DR2 on the WSA Gallery pages has been enhanced with coordinate read-out/input, and has attracted a lot of attention. August 10th saw the first “world” release of UKIDSS data, the EDR. We have begun transferring staff effort – currently 60% of NCH – to work on Gaia and are making this up with effort from the archive curation staff. The boundary between development and operations is blurred but we intend to do the best by all our commitments. NCH and PMW have provided Gary Davis with comments/suggestions on the draft MoU between the JAC, CASU and WFAU covering the WFCAM data system.

2. Hardware

Work has continued on reorganisation of disks on the pixel servers and transfer of data to the NAS boxes to reduce the amount of network traffic and NFS congestion on the cross-mounted RAID arrays since the bottleneck in data transfer from CASU has been confirmed to lie between the network switch and our disks. Thanks, Pete, for all your tenacity, help &c ! The transfer speed has crept up to 3.4 MB/s so there is a long way to go. SQLServer 2005 has been installed on the new catalogue server, Hatshepsut, and is being exercised with ingestion of the SSA. Its performance will be benchmarked and, provided we are satisfied, we'll establish the other catalogues on it. We've experienced a break in UKLight service and a clutch of brief power cuts in the last couple of weeks but the systems have weathered the squalls intact.

3. Software

Web access to 2-CD and CMD contour plots from survey data has been provided (static plots are available to anyone; dynamic plots from user-specified data require UKIDSS login; tools for producing these have been written by LGR funded from the WFAU RG). Work has continued on refactoring code, including CU13 stacking and mosaicing, CU7 source merging and the transfer/ingest tasks CU1-4. These are all geared to improving efficiency for VISTA data volumes as well as WFCAM. Work has begun on cross-talk flagging for the UDS deep mosaic frames. Some software maintenance has been required from changes between Python 2.4 and 2.5. The DR2 GPS re-seaming reported last meeting has been completed. As usual, details are given in the minutes of group meetings already circulated.

4. Tables

Progress and project status are summarized in the usual Quarterly Summary and EVA tables circulated with this report.

PMW (2007 Sep 12)