The LHCb Electronic Logbook

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LHCb Team Meeting (01-Sep-2005)



Overview

Introduction

Elog

Adaption and Integration



Outline

Introduction

Elog

Adaption and Integration



Introduction

Purpose

- The electronic logbook replaces the former paper control room logbook.
- It will not only be used by the shift crew in the experiment control room but also by internal and external experts working on the LHCb experiment.

Requirements

- It has to be simple and user-friendly.
- Web browser used to view, add and search logbook entries.
- Not only text entries but also pictures, hyperlinks and binary data should be supported.
- Automatic Timestamp.
- Preset attributes like fill/run-number and author name.



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Elog in a Nutshell

- Developed at Paul Scherrer Institut (PSI) by Stefan Ritt (since 2001).
- Released as Open Source program under the GNU General Public License (GPL).
- Single daemon program written in C, available for Linux and Windows.
- It contains an integrated Web server.
- ► The "database" consists of plain ASCII files.
- Very versatile, can be adapted using the configuration file.
- A command line client to submit entries is also provided.
- Homepage: http://midas.psi.ch/elog

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Configuration File

- Controls the program behaviour.
- About 100 possible options (for different logbooks, access control, email notification, RSS feed, logbook hierarchy, mirroring).
- Our file has about 40 non-comment lines.

Example (Defining Attributes)

```
Attributes = Author, Category, Fill, Run
```

Example (Display LHCb logo)

```
Title image = <img src="lhcblogo.gif">
Title image URL = http://lhcb.web.cern.ch/lhcb/
```

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Functionality

See program demo after the talk!

Or the Screenshots



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Problems and Adaptions

Some Problems

- Elog could not be integrated with the central Web servers. I actually spent one week developing an own, alternative program (using ASP, PerlScript and the Oracle database) until the decision for Elog was made.
- The scalability was tested and the program did not respond any more after it was filled with 100 000 entries.

Adaptions for Easier Use

- Elog provides the possibility to execute a shell command upon submission of new entries.
- This mechanism is used to call a Python script which automatically adds the fill-number and the run-number to the database.
- It is also used in order to auto-register new users.



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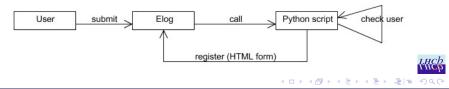
Remembering the Author

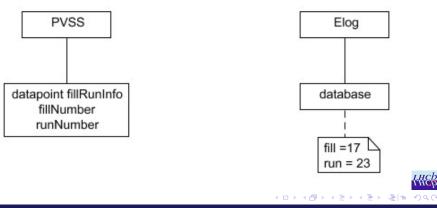
What they wanted (and not wanted)

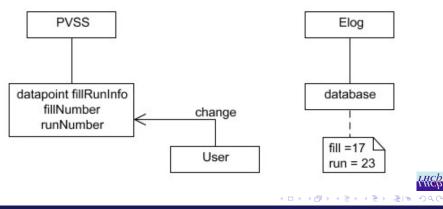
- The author name should be preset when a user wants to submit a new entry.
- But there should be no need to register or to login every time, as it should be as simple as possible.

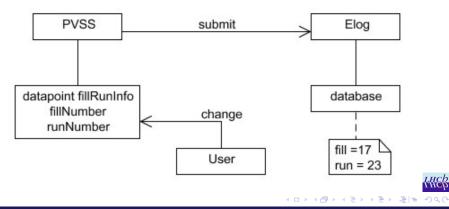
How I solved it

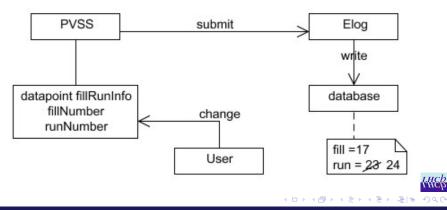
- Elog provides a built-in mechanism to preset attributes (which relies on the user-level access control).
- New users are automatically registered.











Summary

- Elog matched our requirements and we therefore decided to use it.
- It is very flexible but I still had to perform some special adaptions and to integrate it with PVSS.
- But we still rely on substantial changes which will be made by Stefan Ritt.

Outlook

The logbook will be installed on the testbed in order to get real user feedback.

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The End

Thank you for your attention!

Questions?

Otherwise it's time for the DEMO!



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214	29-Aug-2005 16:33:08	tiohe	Test	210	210	Okay, I'll be there:			
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212	29-Aug-2005 16:32:14	tiohe	Test	210	210	Yes I want			
211	29-Aug-2005 16:31:44	tobias	Test	210	210	Does anyone want to join me going to the swimming pool after work?			
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