
User Feedback from SEAL

- ◆ On LCG Policies
- ◆ On SPI services
- ◆ Summary

LCG-AA Internal Review
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P. Mato / CERN



LCG Policies

- ◆ Policies are important
- ◆ But the goal is to develop a **Common Culture**
 - Common values, common ways of doing things, ...
 - Much longer time scale
 - Learn by mistake and by doing
- ◆ The purpose of policies is not just to write tools to verify them
- ◆ Less in-paper policies and more tools implementing them
 - The built-in policy of a useful tool becomes the facto policy

SCRAM

- ◆ Wasted a lot of resources and time (shared by the majority of SEAL developers)
 - SCRAM is quite inflexible, user unfriendly (unhelpful errors), unpredictable,...
- ◆ Configuration settings should be common to all projects
 - Compiler and linker flags, make fragments, etc.
- ◆ Build procedures should be common
 - Anybody from any project should be able to build any project on any platform

Software Building

- ◆ In favor of an SPI software librarian
 - Common librarian shared among all projects
 - » Setting build policies
 - » Development of scripts/tools
 - Avoids project diversity
- ◆ Nightly build system (NICOS)
 - In production for SEAL. It works.
 - Unfortunately not yet benefited from it
- ◆ Build without SCRAM
 - It is particularly important for SEAL to be able to distribute build-able software SCRAM-free

External Software installations

- ◆ External software service

- *Very useful and well implemented service*
- *Actual work distributed among projects and developers*
 - » SEAL takes care of CLHEP, Boost, GSL, ...

- ◆ Projects should facilitate the work of SPI people by changing external software versions only twice a year

Savannah

- ◆ Excellent Tool
- ◆ Bug Tracking
 - Very good
 - Very useful
- ◆ Support and Task management
 - Not at the same level of functionality as bug tracking
 - Could be very useful

Software Testing

- ◆ Testing, Testing , Testing
 - Essential in XP-style programming
- ◆ Everything that facilitates testing is welcome
 - The effort required by the developer should be minimal
 - Anybody should be able to run the tests of SEAL and see if something is broken
- ◆ Provided packages and tools are adequate (CppUnit, Oval, QmTest)
 - In the process of developing a testing culture

Summary

- ◆ In general very good support from SPI
 - Some tools are very good (e.g. Savannah, QmTest)
 - Other tools are less good (e.g. SCRAM)
 - Very good collaboration with the SPI people
 - » Very often sitting together in front of the same terminal
- ◆ Some suggestions
 - SPI Software librarian
 - Less policy verification and more practical tools