Something a bit different: ICARE and its GRANDMA implementation

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A roadmap

Presentation of what you think about the Web Interface

The reality behind the Web Interface

A complete audit of the Interface

The future

Disclaimer

Some of you may think that I am very pessimist, a lot is working if we play a little. I am not attacking anybody nor bullying. I will be factual.

Think twice: would you call evil a MD who is telling you "this is serious, this is diabetes/infarcts/cancer/coronavirus" because except that point "everything is fine"?

I will not discuss what is working, I will insist on what is not working!

GRANDMA?

GRANDMA

- Global Rapid Advanced Network Devoted to the Multi-messenger Addicts
- Centrally coordinated network of telescopes





Handling an alert



Responding to an alert



Had you said coordination?



Had you said coordination?







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An interface with a lot of options and abilities...

... but very difficult to use by the shifters

- Reporting observations is very uneasy
- The shifter has nearly no control of anything
- The pages are difficult to find, and we can get lost very easily

The main reason is a poor design of the Database

- The first fix in last November turned to be a disaster
- Responsible: B. Gendre

A second reason is a lack of consideration of the feedback by users

• Implementing workaround instead of fixes

In practice...

The situation has grown up to a breaking point

- Some observations plans were not computed
- Some observations were lost

And we still had ICARE to do

- ICARE is the public release of the code for other projects using it
- It has to work, it has to be useable and customizable for "any" project
- Totally impossible with the current implementation

In late November, it was decided:

- To leave the current interface lives its life until a complete audit of the code is done
- To prepare ICARE from fresh ground, with an updated database structure
- To keep the possibility at any time to apply the new ICARE to the current project

Audit of the code

It took a lot of time!

Code version as of 10/12/2019

The code was studied from all parts

- Database, web interface, scripts, documentation, everything was checked
- It took more than 1 month!

Results:

- Documentation: useless in most of its aspects, except if you know what you want to do.
- Database: not adapted to the goals of the interface
- Scripts: most of them are not documented or commented
- Web Interface: its customization needs a 6-month training and a good knowledge of grep to find the code to modify; its use is complex; its installation is impossible without a 6 dans-black belt of Apache managing.

Decisions taken

The current GRANDMA interface

- The end of the run O3 is now in 2 months
- The modifications of the database will need more than 2 months of corrections
- The current interface will stay as it with only punctual modifications when appropriate

The ICARE project

- Will use the new database
- Several tools have to be modified
- It will fit better non-GW events, such as neutrinos, high energy particles, GRBs...
- The release of ICARE will be incremental, with the first version by July
- All the settings for a Grandma II collaboration will be ready by then

So, now, ICARE

Houston, we found the latex2pdf command!

- A large part of January was devoted to some basic documentation
- A lot of jargon has been explicated.
- This is not finished, this is a long process

Houston, we have also found the users!

- ICARE is there to allow the shifters to coordinate the observations
- Example: creation of scripts to enter into the DB the content of the GCNs and a button to launch it.
- Inputs from the TAROT, Zadko and Spain teams.
- Other teams are welcome to help also: send comments

The jargon

Most of the issues we had are due to a misunderstanding of what is what. These are the essential concepts:

- Observation Plan. This is one single plan made to observe an event. It does not depend on a telescope nor a revision of the error box.
- Tile: this is a shape in the sky. Nothing physical, and albeit linked to some field of view parameters, is independent of a telescope
- Observation: this is an image of the sky. Can be linked (or not) to a tile, but is linked to an Observation Plan (by definition).

Obvious consequences:

- It is now possible to update an observation plan, and not to reset everything
- It is now possible to re-assign an observation request if a telescope is not operational
- The FA now has a real coordination role to play, requesting the updates and the observations

Install and configuration

It is a small step for a coder, but a huge leap forward for the users!

- There is now instructions to install and configure ICARE
- There is an installation procedure using your browser
- There is a check page to be sure everything is OK

Except two files with the path to the executables and the passwords, everything is stored into the database

Consequences:

- A modification of any setting is done via several webpages on the administration part
- All scripts which were using configuration files will need to use now the database
- A good practice consequence: you do not modify the database to fit your tool, you modify your tool to fit the database!

What is going next

- I will show you a demo
 - Remember that this is not finished, we still have a lot to do
 - I will also explain the "new" structure of the repository, and what we should distribute.

The questions are allowed, the discussion also, but please once I have finished.

• Because of the lack of slides, I may go back if I've forgotten something

Last, I put my feet into the shoes of a lambda user or a new project leader, so do not argue that "yes, but we know it should be like this despite that". A new project may need something different, I've tried to think about all possible cases.