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SciCat Project: Data Catalog System



- 2 Data Catalog Purpose
- 3 Data Model
- 4 Architecture Goals and Rationale
- 5 Architecture Overview
- 6 How do we run it?
- 7 Development Process



- A collaboration between PSI and ESS (and MaxIV) to create a data catalog management system
- Supporting the management of the whole data lifecycle
- Open source (https://github.com/scicatproject)
- Built with the requirements of scientists in the early stages
- Microservice architecture with the latest technologies



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- Manage the meta data of raw and derived data which is taken at experiment facilities
- Meta data
 - administrative : data management lifecycle, ownership, filecatalog
 - scientific: describing the sample, beamline and experiment parameters relevant for the users data analysis
- Enables management of the lifecycle of the data from creation , data analysis and eventual deletion
 - Data can be linked to proposals and samples
 - Data can be linked to publications (DOI, PID)
 - Data can be migrated to and from longterm storage on tape
- Helps keeping track of data provenance (i.e. the steps leading to the final results)
- Allows to check scientific integrity (checksum of data)
- Allows to find data based on the meta data (your own data and other peoples public data)
- In the long term:
 - help to automate standardized analysis workflows
 - support the standardization of data formats



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Dataset Concept and Access Policy

- Meta data is linked to Datasets, which are collection of files, e.g. all files produced during a data taking run
- Each dataset gets a globally unique persistent identifier (PID)
- Each dataset is uniquely assigned to one pgroup
- Only members of the pgroup have access to the raw data and meta data belonging to the pgroup
- Only after the embargo period (typically 3 years) the data becomes public
- The pgroup membership can be defined via processes supported by the digital user office DUO (Roles: BM, PI, MP)
- The pgroups are stored centrally in the AD Identity Management system
- Data model: Define common generic (fixed) meta data and allow at the same time completely flexible and rich structured (beamline, instrument specific) scientific meta data



Administrative data model





- Scientific meta data is up to the beamline managers to define (in collaboration with the users)
- Aim for standardization, e.g. via use of HDF5 and Nexus formats
- The catalog per se does not pose any limits here
- See example on next page...



Example of Scientific Meta Data

BDruh B	Datafiles	
Principal Dreatigator	slettandra.pateraljpti.ch	
End Time	04/04/2017 22:54	
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(Non-functional) Goals and Challenges

Flexibility in terms of

- covering the needs of the researchers, especially in terms of scientific meta data handling
- integration into existing environments
- ease of interfacing
- from the beginning have customization to and deployments in other sites in mind
- Speed of changes
 - allow to add new instruments easily
 - allow to add new features in short time
- Longterm stability without being constrained in meeting new requirements
 - allow for constant evolution both in terms of features and volume. This concerns the whole DevOps processes
- Optionally: enable users to make customizations themselves



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Architecture Graph and Data Flows





- MongoDB backend
- NoSQL no fixed structure and common data format (kind of)
- Map/Reduce queries and the option to use Javascript as the query language
- Powerful indexing and support for file storage
- Fault tolerant and drivers for most languages





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- Loopback (API creation framework based on NodeJS and Express)
- APIs auto generated from JSON configuration to configure data model
 - Can create SDKs for many target languages
- Plugins for authentication and backend agnostic
- Logic can be added in Javascript files
- Auto documenting
- Swagger based API creation (open format)
- User accounts (through Active Directory) and System accounts (with roles for different administrative activities within the system i.e. Archiving)
- Many authorisation methods available through NPM packages



Screenshot of API Explorer

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- RabbitMQ queuing system
- Data published to queues using many protocols
- Data source and format does not matter

Message broker RabbitMQ Managament - Ingestin from Beamlines

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Node-RED

- Javascript visual programming flow framework for the Internet of Things
- Data received from RabbitMQ and formatted according to the data model
- Flows publish formatted data to API server



Node-Red Dataflow based coding



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- Built using Angular and Ngrx
- Created with Typescript
- Component based architecture to reuse throughout the application
- Responsive, Standards compliant and all other hip, web development words



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Help



Managment and deployment

- Kubernetes cluster (5 nodes)
- Each microservice is built into a docker file and saved in a registry
- Kubernetes and Helm package manager deploys the containers and handles:
 - Routing
 - Scaling
 - Server failures
 - Updates





Kubernetes Management Dashboard

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- Each beamline makes a cURL request to a predefined endpoint (language agnostic)
- There is one separate (node-red) container for each beamline, to maximize independence
- There is one "Virtual host" for the message broker for each facility



- 1 Data captured at beamline and cURL command publishes data (in any format) to RabbitMQ
- 2 Node-RED flow consumes data from the queue and formats according to RawDataset model
- 3 API server receives call and saves to MongoDB
- 4 Frontend website queries for datasets and presents to the logged in user with access
- 5 User chooses to archive dataset and command is sent to the API server
- 6 API server submits job to the archive system. Archive system updates the DatasetLifecycle



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- We use a Kubernetes Cluster as the basis for the deployment
- Do you have a Kubernetes cluster?
 - YES! Clone it and run it!
 - NO! Then grab a spare computer with a load of computing power
 - localdeploy is a prebuilt tool to create a Kubernetes cluster on your machine and deploy the basic services



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Development principles and concepts

- We apply the "lazyness principle": avoid own coding wherever possible (e.g. use configuration driven development)
- Development and QA version for testing, Production version rolled out to beamline scientists
- Agile development with ESS and Max IV
- Regular meetings with scientists and requirements gathering. Issues created in repo.



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- SciCat Project https://github.com/scicatproject
- Dedicated development started only about 6 months ago and we would like to see if our development can provide mutual benefits
- We want your feedback and experiences, as well as to identify areas with similar goals
- Standard Github procedure collaborate with merge requests
- PSI is very open to suggestions for improvements and welcomes concrete contributions, ideally in form of reusable components
- We prefer to actually have a common code base, not a "one-time fork-and-forget" situation





Data policy defines (long term) goals concerning data storage, life cycle management, data access and ownership

Implementation of data policy needs a central data catalog



Prototype Tests/Planned Features

