

LSST Data Management Working Group Report

Data Archiving and Distribution

Membership

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Scope of the Task

- Create an efficient, scalable environment for PB scale data exploration
- Preserve all legacy information about the project
- Interoperate with the world – VO compliance
- Ensure early community involvement
 - Users group, workshops, summer schools
 - Get NSF involved in supporting archival research

Where do we need to be at the end of R&D?

- Understand the precise responsibilities of LSST in providing data access
 - cost/benefits analysis
- Have clear idea where archive is in the SYSTEM
- Understand roles of persistent storage vs DB
- 100TB prototype DB built on precursor projects
- Risk analysis wrt rapidly changing technology
- Decision about inclusion of other datasets

Issues Addressed

- Scope of Archive
- Impacts of technology
- Need geoplexed mirror
- Bottlenecks – moving the data, loading the data
- Usage modes/power users
- Stream subscription vs workbench, multi-tier
- How to deal with rapidly changing environment
- Multiple databases (telescope, provenance, data)
- Scale-up vs **scale out**
- How to capture all relevant information

Technology Restrictions

- Main obstacle is data transmission
 - From telescope to processing (site selection!)
 - From processing to users
 - Within archive
- IO scaling slower than CPU or disk capacity
 - Random access 10ms? 5ms in 10 years
 - Sequential IO 10MBps? 60MBps in 10 years
 - Needs to be understood more in detail
 - Reliability of large disk farms poorly understood

Technology Opportunities

- Biggest difference: move computation as close to data as possible
- Multi-Tier Hierarchy (like HEP-LHC model)
 - At the top: involvement of NCSA, SDSC
 - Divides the effort, allows scientific expertise to be co-located with a specific data product
 - Broader community involvement
 - Solves impedance mismatch
 - Replaces BYOC (bring-your-own-computer)

User Access to Data

- Low latency: Stream subscriptions to alerts
 - Of the order of 10 stream types
- Fast response simple query system
 - Simple object and image extraction, single time series
- High-Latency: Workbench environment
 - Happens outside the mission critical circle
 - Users typically submit workflows
 - Can keep their own temporary data on-site
 - Users can contribute modules
 - Formal acceptance process

Unresolved Issues

- Multi-Tier vs Single
 - Amount of “outsourcing” – cost-benefit
- Authentication, traffic monitoring, logging
- Fault tolerance (thousands of disks...)
- Data validation (the moment of truth...)
- How stable will the data model be?
- How much redundant capability needs to be built in?
 - As a function of time?
- How many time will we reprocess everything in full?
 - How many versions of the data will be there?
- Everything will change – will switch DB several times
 - How to minimize the impact of such transitions?

R&D Tasks / Milestones

- Year 1
 - Experiment with data loading/scrubbing strategies
 - Work with DM group to map onto RDB
 - Start process of community buildup
- Year 2
 - First prototype system, maybe several platforms
 - Scalability tests, parallelization
 - Experiment with a prototype streaming system
 - Design workbench prototype, look for code reuse
- Year 3
 - Build a 100TB functional prototype
 - Simple workbench on top

Tiers and Their Usage

- Tier 0 Usage
 - Mission critical
 - Quality Assurance
- Tier 1 Usage
 - Collaboration
 - Power users
- Tier 2 Usage
 - Astronomers, public

Data Products

- Raw images
- Calibrated data
- Instrumental and environmental data
 - Alerts and events
- Provenance information
 - pipeline pmts, calibration...
- Value added data
 - Cumulative sky, catalogs...

