Mantid PMB Meeting  
Minutes of Meeting 8  
29th Jan 2015, 1400-1700

Present from SNS: Garrett Granroth, Thomas Proffen (TP), Timmy Ramirez-Cuesta and Stuart Campbell (TSC chair)

Present from ISIS: Ross Stewart, Toby Perring (TGP) (Chair), Debbie Greenfield, Nick Draper (PM) and Anders Markvardsen (Secretary)

Present from ESS: Jon Taylor

# Links to reports

[www.github.com](http://www.github.com) is used for version control of documents. Note that when clicking on a link to a Word document, in most browsers, you will then need to download the document by clicking the ‘Raw’ button to the left of the ‘History’ button.

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| Minutes from last meeting | <https://github.com/mantidproject/documents/blob/master/Project-Management/PMB/Minutes/PMCMinutes21stJuly14.docx> |
| PM report | These are expected about 1-2 week following this year joint Mantid meetings |
| Technical Steering Committee (TSC) report | <https://github.com/mantidproject/documents/blob/master/Project-Management/TechnicalSteeringCommittee/reports/TSC-PMB-report-2015-01-29.md> |

# Changes to the PMB

Timmy Ramirez-Cuesta replaced Galen Shipman on the PMB.

# Minutes from the last meeting

TGP went through the minutes from the last meetings, see the link above. The paragraph on the PMB’s desire to have a clearer presentation of progress with respect to the project plan was reiterated.

For the section on usage monitoring, it was commented that no negative feedback was expressed during this year SSC concerning Mantid capturing usage data.

For outcomes from actions 7.1 and 7.2 see sections 4 and 5 respectively. In discussing action 6.3 “to discuss the wider options for MantidPlot upgrade/replacement” it was commented that web based type interfaces had been discussed at this year SSC meeting.

The minutes were approved.

# PM report

ND presented slides from this year SSC meeting. A full PM report is expected to be circulated within 1-2 weeks.

**Action PM to circulate the PM report within 1-2 weeks**

SSC requirements from last year were presented.

The feedback from this year SSC on the progress made on documentation and plotting was positive.

A Mantid API to instrument controls was discussed. A first step for an interface will be to enable a controls ‘stop button’, which can be called from Mantid. A Mantid instrument controls API is also anticipated to become important for ESS.

JT expressed that for ESS the highest concern is the handling of live/real time data analysis and the performance of this; and being able to test this before the first neutrons are produced at ESS.

The question was asked whether Mantid could make better use of multiple processors? It was commented that in some instances the bottle neck is more data volume than data processing.

Positive comments were given to Ross’ report presented at the SSC, summarising ISIS’s Mantid requirements. In general, the question of how the PMB best decides on where to focus work was discussed. It was agreed that a similar style report to Ross’ report should be provided by ESS and SNS for the next PMB, and an item for future PMB agendas will be to discuss and compare such reports.

**Action RS to distribute ISIS requirement report**

**Action GG and JT to distribute SNS and ESS requirement reports before the next PMB**

**Action: AM to ensure that a discussion of facilities strategies in the light of the ISIS, SNS and ESS requirements reports is an agenda item for the next PMB.**

A theme of this year SSC meeting was absorption and multiple scattering corrections. One work, which has begun on absorption is between Alan Soper from ISIS, Kate Page from SNS and a developer at SNS. Absorption and multiple corrections are topics of research and hence for the development of code to calculate such corrections it was agreed it is important to have close interactions with instrument scientists. It was commented that code, which has been given the stamp of an expert instrument scientist, likely would get more traction in the user community. Code for absorption and multiple scattering corrections may be better driving more as research projects. A suggested acceptance criterion for absorption and multiple scattering type codes is for one expert scientist at each member facility to give her/his approval stamp. For none research type code, the question was raised what needs validation.

**Action TSC to determine what code in Mantid needs validation by scientific expert**

How Mantid best integrate none Mantid code into Mantid was discussed. It was agreed that it would be good to have some worked examples, which demonstrate recommendations for how to best integrate none Mantid code with the Mantid project.

**Action TSC to create a user example for how to integrate none Mantid code with Mantid**

The PMB agreed it would like more Mantid on-line material describing the data correction process for specific science technique areas, and that such material is best generated by instrument scientists. SNS and ISIS agreed to drive the adding of material for powder diffraction and direct inelastic scattering respectively.

**Action RS and TP (Toby) to drive the adding of Mantid training material for direct inelastic scattering**

**Action GG and TP (Thomas) to drive the adding of Mantid training material for powder diffraction**

Better visibility of what is added to Mantid was discussed.

It was agreed to go ahead and create a Mantid forum. In this forum, an icon may be used to identify a Mantid developer.

**Action PM to have a Mantid forum in use a month before the next PMB**

It was agreed that developers should be more visible, a forum may go some way in providing this across member facilities. It was agreed to add information about the developers working in the ISIS Mantid office to the doors of this office. Ross will involve developers in the ISIS neutron training courses. The benefit of identifying instrument scientist ambassadors was mentioned, for example for ISIS suggestions were: Russell for Vates and Tim for IPython nootbooks. In general, the benefit of Mantid supporting cross facility interactions among instrument scientists was agreed to be beneficial. DG agreed she could make funding available for this and TP (Thomas) the same for SNS.

# Technical Steering Committee (TSC) report

SC presented the TSC report to the board, see the link above. He reported on work done for the development workshop, better understanding of performance of loaders, move to pull requests and associated Mantid/systemtest merge, cmake/paraview quicker builds, and the work the TSC had done to identify use cases use for a 2nd version of the IDL that included discussions with Tim Charlton and Timmy Ramirez-Cuesta.

The PMB agreed to follow TSC recommendation to drop support for 10.8 iOS.

The PMB agreed to follow TSC recommendation to move to use github issues instead of trac tickets.

The TSC welcomed Tobias Richter (ESS) as a new member and AM was elected new chair of the TSC.

# Other facility news

ILL was reported to have made the decision to join the Mantid collaboration and is expected to join formally within 6-8 month timescale.

# AOB

The Tessella logo on the splash screen was discussed. On the Mantid web page partners and contributors are listed separately. It was suggested that a natural time to update the splash screen could be when the ILL join. It was decided to add an agenda item for the next PMB to discuss this further.

Toby reported that AM had asked the PMB if the chair of the TSC can be the secretary of the PMB, and if the role of secretary of the PMB should be rotated. About the former question, the PMB agreed that they did not see as a concern with this. About the latter question, it was mentioned that a secretary may be chosen from a facility such as to have about the same number of staff from each facility attending the PMB meetings. AM agreed to continue as secretary until further notice

# Next Meeting

Towards the end of April.

# New and Ongoing Actions

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| 8.1 | Circulate the PM report within 1-2 weeks | ND |
| 8.2 | Distribute ISIS requirement report | RS |
| 8.3 | Distribute SNS and ESS requirement reports before the next PMB | GG, JT |
| 8.4 | Ensure that a discussion of facilities strategies in the light of the ISIS, SNS and ESS requirements reports is an agenda item for the next PMB | AM |
| 8.5 | Determine what code in Mantid needs validation by scientific expert | TSC |
| 8.6 | Create a user example for how to integrate none Mantid code with Mantid | TSC |
| 8.7 | Drive the adding of Mantid training material for direct inelastic scattering | RS, TP (Toby) |
| 8.8 | Drive the adding of Mantid training material for powder diffraction | GG, TP (Thomas) |
| 8.9 | Have a Mantid forum in use a month before the next PMB | ND |

# Completed Actions

Completed actions will remain in this list for one meeting then will be removed.

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| 7.1 | Present progress update, with reference to the agreed list from last SSC, to this year’s SSC | ND |
| 7.2 | To look into identifying/documenting use cases that can guide the direction of creating a 2nd version of the IDL | TSC |
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