



INTO-CPS

Digital Twin as a Service (DTaaS)

DTaaS Development Team

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1. What is DTaaS

The Digital Twin as a Service (DTaaS) software platform is useful to **Build, Use and Share** digital twins (DTs).

 **Build:** The DTs are built on the software platform using the reusable DT components available on the platform.

 **Use:** Use the DTs on the software platform.

 **Share:** Share ready to use DTs with other users. It is also possible to share the services offered by one DT with other users.

There is an overview of the software available in the form of [slides](#), [video](#), and [feature walkthrough](#).

1.1 License

This software is owned by [The INTO-CPS Association](#) and is available under [the INTO-CPS License](#).

The DTaaS software platform uses [Traefik](#), [ML Workspace](#), [Grafana](#), [InfluxDB](#), [MQTT](#) and [RabbitMQ](#) open-source components. These software components have their own licenses.

2. Admin

2.1 OAuth Authentication for React Client Website

The react client website uses OAuth authentication protocol for user authentication. The PKCE authentication flow of OAuth protocol is used for the client website. The authentication has to be setup on a gitlab server. **An oauth application needs to be created on a gitlab instance under admin user.** Then all other users can use the same gitlab instance for oauth authentication. This means commercial gitlab.com can not be used for multi-user authentication system required by DTaaS. You will need to run an on-premise instance of gitlab. You can use [gitlab omnibus docker](#) for this purpose. Please setup OAuth application as [instance wide authentication type](#).

Before setting up oauth application on gitlab, you need to first decide on the hostname for your website. We recommend using a self-hosted gitlab instance which will be used in the other parts of the DTaaS application.

Two more URLs are required for the PKCE authentication flow to work properly. They are the **callback URL** and **logout URL**. The callback URL tells the oauth provider the URL of the page that all the signed in users are shown. This URL will be different from the landing homepage of the DTaaS application. The logout URL is the URL that will be shown after a user logs out.

Here is an example for hosting a DTaaS application without any basenamespace.

```
1 DTaaS application URL: https://foo.com
2 Gitlab instance URL: https://foo.gitlab.com
3 Callback URL: https://foo.com/Library
4 Logout URL: https://foo.com
```

During the creation of oauth application on gitlab, you need to decide on the scope of this oauth application. Choose `openid profile read_user read_repository api` scopes.

After successful creation of oauth application, gitlab generates an application ID. This application ID is a long string of HEX values. You need to note this down and use in configuration files. An example oauth Client ID is:

```
934b98f03f1b6f743832b2840bf7cccaed93c3bfe579093dd0942a433691ccc0 .
```

You need the following information from the OAuth application registered on Gitlab:

Gitlab Variable Name	Variable name in Client env.js	Default Value
OAuth Provider	REACT_APP_AUTH_AUTHORITY	https://gitlab.foo.com/
Application ID	REACT_APP_CLIENT_ID	
Callback URL	REACT_APP_REDIRECT_URI	https://foo.com/Library
Scopes	REACT_APP_GITLAB_SCOPES	openid, profile, read_user, read_repository, api

The same **URLs** and **Client ID** are useful for both the regular hosting of DTaaS application and also as the CI/CD server to be used for the development work.

2.1.1 Development Environment

There needs to be a valid callback and logout URLs for development and testing purposes. You can use the same oauth application id for both development, testing and deployment scenarios. Only the callback and logout URLs change. It is possible to register multiple callback URLs in one oauth application. In order to use oauth for development and testing on developer computer (localhost), you need to add the following to oauth callback URL.

```
1 DTaaS application URL: http://localhost:4000
2 Callback URL: http://localhost:4000/Library
3 Logout URL: http://localhost:4000
```

The port 4000 is the default port for running the client website.

2.1.2 Multiple DTaaS applications

The DTaaS is a regular web application. It is possible to host multiple DTaaS applications on the same server. The only requirement is to have a distinct URLs. You can have three DTaaS applications running at the following URLs.

```
1 https://foo.com/au
2 https://foo.com/acme
3 https://foo.com/bar
```

All of these instances can use the same gitlab instance for authentication.

DTaaS application URL	Gitlab Instance URL	Callback URL	Logout URL	Application ID
https://foo.com/au	https://foo.gitlab.com	https://foo.com/au/Library	https://foo.com/au	autogenerated by gitlab
https://foo.com/acme	https://foo.gitlab.com	https://foo.com/au/Library	https://foo.com/au	autogenerated by gitlab
https://foo.com/bar	https://foo.gitlab.com	https://foo.com/au/Library	https://foo.com/au	autogenerated by gitlab

If you are hosting multiple DTaaS instances on the same server, do not a DTaaS with a null basename on the same server. Even though it works well, the setup is confusing to setup and may lead to maintenance issues.

If you choose to host your DTaaS application with a basename (say bar), then the URLs in `env.js` change to:

```
1 DTaaS application URL: https://foo.com/bar
2 Gitlab instance URL: https://foo.gitlab.com
3 Callback URL: https://foo.com/bar/Library
4 Logout URL: https://foo.com/bar
```

2.2 Host Install

2.2.1 Trial Installation

The software can be installed either on Ubuntu Server 22.04 Operating System or on vagrant virtual machine(s).

A single step install script is helpful in performing a trial run of the software. This script installs DTaaS software with default credentials and users on a Ubuntu server 22.04 Operating System. You can use it to check a test installation of DTaaS software.

Pre-requisites

DOMAIN NAME

You need a domain name to run the application. The install script assumes **foo.com** to be your domain name. Please change it to a relevant one.

GITLAB OAUTH APPLICATION

The DTaaS react website requires Gitlab OAuth provider. If you need more help with this step, please see the [Authentication page](#).

You need the following information from the OAuth application registered on Gitlab:

Gitlab Variable Name	Variable name in Client env.js	Default Value
OAuth Provider	REACT_APP_AUTH_AUTHORITY	https://gitlab.foo.com/
Application ID	REACT_APP_CLIENT_ID	
Callback URL	REACT_APP_REDIRECT_URI	https://foo.com/Library
Scopes	REACT_APP_GITLAB_SCOPES	openid, profile, read_user, read_repository, api

You can also see [Gitlab help page](#) for getting the Gitlab OAuth application details.

INSTALL

```
1 wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/INTO-CPS-Association/DTaaS/feature/distributed-demo/deploy/single-script-install.sh
2 bash single-script-install.sh
```

Warning

This test installation has default credentials and is thus highly insecure.

2.2.2 DTaaS on Linux Operating System

These are installation instructions for running DTaaS application on a Ubuntu Server 22.04 Operating System. The setup requires a machine which can spare 16GB RAM, 8 vCPUs and 50GB Hard Disk space.

A dummy **foo.com** URL has been used for illustration. Please change this to your unique website URL. It is assumed that you are going to serve the application in only HTTPS mode.

Please follow these steps to make this work in your local environment. Download the **DTaaS.zip** from the [releases page](#). Unzip the same into a directory named **DTaaS**. The rest of the instructions assume that your working directory is **DTaaS**.



Note

If you only want to test the application and are not setting up a production instance, you can follow the instructions of [trial installation](#).

Configuration

You need to configure the Traefik gateway, library microservice and react client website.

The first step is to decide on the number of users and their usernames. The traefik gateway configuration has a template for two users. You can modify the usernames in the template to the usernames chosen by you.

THE TRAEFIK GATEWAY SERVER

You can run the Run the Traefik gateway server in both HTTP and HTTPS mode to experience the DTaaS application. The installation guide assumes that you can run the application in HTTPS mode.

The Traefik gateway configuration is at *deploy/config/gateway/fileConfig.yml*. Change `foo.com` to your local hostname and `user1/` `user2` to the usernames chosen by you.



Tip

Do not use `http://` or `https://` in *deploy/config/gateway/fileConfig.yml*.

Authentication

This step requires `htpasswd` commandline utility. If it is not available on your system, please install the same by using

```
1 sudo apt-get install -y apache2-utils
```

You can now proceed with update of the gateway authentication setup. The dummy username is `foo` and the password is `bar`. Please change this before starting the gateway.

```
1 rm deploy/config/gateway/auth
2 touch deploy/config/gateway/auth
3 htpasswd deploy/config/gateway/auth <first_username>
4 password: <your password>
```

The user credentials added in *deploy/config/gateway/auth* should match the usernames in *deploy/config/gateway/fileConfig.yml*.

Configure lib microservice

The library microservice requires configuration. A template of this configuration file is given in *deploy/config/lib* file. Please modify this file as per your needs.

The first step in this configuration is to prepare the a filesystem for users. An example file system in `files/` directory. You can rename the top-level `user1/user2` to the usernames chosen by you.

An example `.env` file is given below. The simplest possibility is to use `local` mode with the following example. The filepath is the absolute filepath to `files/` directory. You can copy this configuration into `deploy/config/lib` file to get started.

```
1 PORT='4001'
2 MODE='local'
3 LOCAL_PATH='filepath'
4 LOG_LEVEL='debug'
5 APOLLO_PATH='/Lib'
6 GRAPHQL_PLAYGROUND='true'
```

Configure React Client Website

GITLAB OAUTH APPLICATION

The DTaaS react website requires Gitlab OAuth provider. If you need more help with this step, please see the [Authentication page](#).

You need the following information from the OAuth application registered on Gitlab:

Gitlab Variable Name	Variable name in Client <code>env.js</code>	Default Value
OAuth Provider	REACT_APP_AUTH_AUTHORITY	https://gitlab.foo.com/
Application ID	REACT_APP_CLIENT_ID	
Callback URL	REACT_APP_REDIRECT_URI	https://foo.com/Library
Scopes	REACT_APP_GITLAB_SCOPES	openid, profile, read_user, read_repository, api

You can also see [Gitlab help page](#) for getting the Gitlab OAuth application details.

UPDATE CLIENT CONFIG

Change the React website configuration in `deploy/config/client/env.js`.

```
1 window.env = {
2   REACT_APP_ENVIRONMENT: 'dev',
3   REACT_APP_URL: 'https://foo.com/',
4   REACT_APP_URL_BASENAME: 'dtaas',
5   REACT_APP_URL_DTLINK: '/lab',
6   REACT_APP_URL_LIBLINK: '',
7   REACT_APP_WORKBENCHLINK_TERMINAL: '/terminals/main',
8   REACT_APP_WORKBENCHLINK_VNCDESKTOP: '/tools/vnc/?password=vncpassword',
9   REACT_APP_WORKBENCHLINK_VSCODE: '/tools/vscode/',
10  REACT_APP_WORKBENCHLINK_JUPYTERLAB: '/lab',
11  REACT_APP_WORKBENCHLINK_JUPYTERNOTEBOOK: '',
12
13  REACT_APP_CLIENT_ID: '934b98f03f1b6f743832b2840bf7cceaed93c3bfe579093dd0942a433691ccc0',
14  REACT_APP_AUTH_AUTHORITY: 'https://gitlab.foo.com/',
15  REACT_APP_REDIRECT_URI: 'https://foo.com/Library',
16  REACT_APP_LOGOUT_REDIRECT_URI: 'https://foo.com/',
17  REACT_APP_GITLAB_SCOPES: 'openid profile read_user read_repository api',
18 };
```

Update the installation script

Open `deploy/install.sh` and update `user1/user2` to usernames chosen by you.

Perform the Installation

Go to the DTaaS directory and execute

```
1 source deploy/install.sh
```

You can run this script multiple times until the installation is successful.

Access the application

Now you should be able to access the DTaaS application at: *https://foo.com*

2.3 Vagrant

2.3.1 DTaaS Vagrant Box

This README provides instructions on creating a custom Operating System virtual disk for running the DTaaS software. The virtual disk is managed by **vagrant**. The purpose is two fold:

- Provide cross-platform installation of the DTaaS application. Any operating system supporting use of vagrant software utility can support installation of the DTaaS software.
- Create a ready to use development environment for code contributors.

There are two scripts in this directory:

Script name	Purpose	Default
<code>user.sh</code>	user installation	✓
<code>developer.sh</code>	developer installation	✗

If you are installing the DTaaS for developers, the default installation caters to your needs. You can skip the next step and continue with the creation of vagrant box.

If you are a developer and would like additional software installed, you need to modify `Vagrantfile`. The existing `Vagrantfile` has two lines:

```
1 config.vm.provision "shell", path: "user.sh"
2 #config.vm.provision "shell", path: "developer.sh"
```

Uncomment the second line to have more software components installed. If you are not a developer, no changes are required to the `Vagrantfile`.

This vagrant box installed for users will have the following items:

- docker v24.0
- nodejs v18.8
- yarn v1.22
- npm v10.2
- containers
- ml-workspace v0.13
- traefik v2.10
- gitlab-ce v16.4
- influxdb v2.7
- grafana v10.1
- rabbitmq v3-management
- eclipse-mosquitto (mqtt) v2

This vagrant box installed for developers will have the following items additional items:

- docker-compose v2.20
- microk8s v1.27
- jupyterlab
- mkdocs
- containers
- telegraf v1.28

The upcoming instructions will help with the creation of base vagrant box.

```

1  #create a key pair
2  ssh-keygen -b 4096 -t rsa -f key -q -N ""
3  mv key vagrant
4  mv key.pub vagrant.pub
5
6  vagrant up
7
8  # let the provisioning be complete
9  # replace the vagrant ssh key-pair with personal one
10 vagrant ssh
11
12 # install the oh-my-zsh
13 sh -c "$(curl -fsSL https://raw.githubusercontent.com/ohmyzsh/ohmyzsh/master/tools/install.sh)"
14 # install plugins: history, autosuggestions,
15 git clone https://github.com/zsh-users/zsh-autosuggestions ${ZSH_CUSTOM:-~/.oh-my-zsh/custom}/plugins/zsh-autosuggestions
16
17 # inside ~/.zshrc, modify the following line
18 plugins=(git zsh-autosuggestions history cp tmux)
19
20 # remove the vagrant default public key - first line of
21 # /home/vagrant/.ssh/authorized_keys
22
23 # exit vagrant guest machine and then
24 # copy own private key to vagrant private key location
25 cp vagrant .vagrant/machines/default/virtualbox/private_key
26
27 # check
28 vagrant ssh #should work
29
30 vagrant halt
31
32 vagrant package --base dtaas \
33 --info "info.json" --output dtaas.vagrant
34
35 # Add box to the vagrant cache in ~/.vagrant.d/boxes directory
36 vagrant box add --name dtaas ./dtaas.vagrant
37
38 # You can use this box in other vagrant boxes using
39 #config.vm.box = "dtaas"

```

2.3.2 DTaaS on Single Vagrant Machine

These are installation instructions for running DTaaS application inside one vagrant Virtual Machine. The setup requires a machine which can spare 16GB RAM, 8 vCPUs and 50GB Hard Disk space to the vagrant box.

A dummy **foo.com** URL has been used for illustration. Please change this to your unique website URL.

Please follow these steps to make this work in your local environment.

1. Create **dtaas Vagrant box**. You would have created an SSH key pair - *vagrant* and *vagrant.pub* for the vagrant box. The *vagrant* is the private SSH key; Copy *vagrant* SSH private key into the current directory (`deploy/vagrant/single-machine`). This shall be useful for logging into the vagrant machine created for single-machine deployment.
2. Update the **Vagrantfile**. Fields to update are:
 - a. Hostname (`node.vm.hostname = "foo.com"`)
 - b. MAC address (`:mac => "xxxxxxx"`). This change is required if you have a DHCP server assigning domain names based on MAC address. Otherwise, you can leave this field unchanged.
 - c. Other adjustments are optional.
3. Execute the following commands from terminal

```
1  vagrant up
2  vagrant ssh
```

Set a cronjob inside the vagrant virtual machine to remote the conflicting default route.

```
1  wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/INTO-CPS-Association/DTaaS/feature/distributed-demo/deploy/vagrant/route.sh
2  sudo bash route.sh
```

If you only want to test the application and are not setting up a production instance, you can follow the instructions of [single script install](#).

If you are not in a hurry and would rather have a production instance, follow the instructions of [regular server installation](#) setup to complete the installation.

2.3.3 DTaaS on Two Vagrant Machines

These are installation instructions for running DTaaS application in two vagrant virtual machines (VMs). In this setup, all the user workspaces shall be run on server1 while all the platform services will be run on server2.

The setup requires two server VMs with the following hardware configuration:

server1: 16GB RAM, 8 x64 vCPUs and 50GB Hard Disk space

server2: 6GB RAM, 3 x64 vCPUs and 50GB Hard Disk space

Under the default configuration, two user workspaces are provisioned on server1. The default installation setup also installs InfluxDB, Grafana and RabbitMQ services on server2. If you would like to install more services, you can create shell scripts to install the same on server2.

Create Base Vagrant Box

Create [dtaas Vagrant box](#). You would have created an SSH key pair - *vagrant* and *vagrant.pub*. The *vagrant* is the private SSH key and is needed for the next steps. Copy *vagrant* SSH private key into the current directory (`deploy/vagrant/single-machine`). This shall be useful for logging into the vagrant machines created for two-machine deployment.

Configure Server Settings

NOTE: A dummy **foo.com** and **services.foo.com** URLs has been used for illustration. Please change these to your unique website URLs.

The first step is to define the network identity of the two VMs. For that, you need *server name*, *hostname* and *MAC address*. The hostname is the network URL at which the server can be accessed on the web. Please follow these steps to make this work in your local environment.

Update the **boxes.json**. There are entries one for each server. The fields to update are:

1. `name` - name of server1 (`"name" = "dtaas"`)
2. `hostname` - hostname of server1 (`"name" = "foo.com"`)
3. MAC address (`:mac => "xxxxxxx"`). This change is required if you have a DHCP server assigning domain names based on MAC address. Otherwise, you can leave this field unchanged.
4. `name` - name of server2 (`"name" = "services"`)
5. `hostname` - hostname of server2 (`"name" = "services.foo.com"`)
6. MAC address (`:mac => "xxxxxxx"`). This change is required if you have a DHCP server assigning domain names based on MAC address. Otherwise, you can leave this field unchanged.
7. Other adjustments are optional.

Launch platform default services

RabbitMQ, Grafana and InfluxDB services are provisioned on this server. InfluxDB and visualization service will be available at: *services.foo.com*. The RabbitMQ service and its management interface shall be available at 5672 and 15672 TCP ports respectively. The Grafana service shall be available at TCP port 3000.

The firewall and network access settings of corporate / cloud network need to be configured to allow external access to the services. Otherwise the users of DTaaS will not be able to utilize these services from their user workspaces.

Execute the following commands from terminal to start the machine.

```
1 vagrant up --provision services
2 vagrant ssh services
3 wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/INTO-CPS-Association/DTaaS/feature/distributed-demo/deploy/vagrant/two-machine/services.sh
4 bash services.sh
5 wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/INTO-CPS-Association/DTaaS/feature/distributed-demo/deploy/vagrant/route.sh
6 sudo bash route.sh
```

After the server is up and running, you can see the following services active within server2.

service	external url
InfluxDB and visualization service	services.foo.com
Grafana visualization service	services.foo.com:3000
RabbitMQ communication service	services.foo.com:5672
RabbitMQ management service	services.foo.com:15672

Launch DTaaS application

Execute the following commands from terminal

```
1 vagrant up --provision dtaas
2 vagrant ssh dtaas
3 wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/INTO-CPS-Association/DTaaS/feature/distributed-demo/deploy/vagrant/route.sh
4 sudo bash route.sh
```

If you only want to test the application and are not setting up a production instance, you can follow the instructions of [single script install](#).

If you are not in a hurry and would rather have a production instance, follow the instructions of [regular server installation](#) setup to complete the installation.

2.4 Separate Packages

2.4.1 Host the DTaaS Client Website

To host DTaaS client website on your server, follow these steps:

- Download the **DTaaS-client.zip** from the [releases page](#).
- Inside the `DTaaS-client` directory, there is `site` directory. The `site` directory contains all the optimized static files that are ready for deployment.
- Setup the oauth application on gitlab instance. See the instructions in [authentication page](#) for completing this task.
- Locate the file `site/env.js` and replace the example values to match your infrastructure. The constructed links will be `"REACT_APP_URL / REACT_APP_URL_BASENAME / {username} / {Endpoint}"`. See the definitions below:

```

1  window.env = {
2    REACT_APP_ENVIRONMENT: "prod | dev",
3    REACT_APP_URL: "URL for the gateway",
4    REACT_APP_URL_BASENAME: "Base URL for the client website"(optional),
5    REACT_APP_URL_DTLINK: "Endpoint for the Digital Twin",
6    REACT_APP_URL_LIPLINK: "Endpoint for the Library Assets",
7    REACT_APP_WORKBENCHLINK_TERMINAL: "Endpoint for the terminal link",
8    REACT_APP_WORKBENCHLINK_VNCDESKTOP: "Endpoint for the VNC Desktop link",
9    REACT_APP_WORKBENCHLINK_VSCODE: "Endpoint for the VS Code link",
10   REACT_APP_WORKBENCHLINK_JUPYTERLAB: "Endpoint for the Jupyter Lab link",
11   REACT_APP_WORKBENCHLINK_JUPYTERNOTEBOOK:
12     "Endpoint for the Jupyter Notebook link",
13   REACT_APP_CLIENT_ID: 'AppID generated by the gitlab OAuth provider',
14   REACT_APP_AUTH_AUTHORITY: 'URL of the private gitlab instance',
15   REACT_APP_REDIRECT_URI: 'URL of the homepage for the logged in users of the website',
16   REACT_APP_LOGOUT_REDIRECT_URI: 'URL of the homepage for the anonymous users of the website',
17   REACT_APP_GITLAB_SCOPES: 'OAuth scopes. These should match with the scopes set in gitlab OAuth provider',
18 };
19
20 // Example values with no base URL. Trailing and ending slashes are optional.
21 window.env = {
22   REACT_APP_ENVIRONMENT: 'prod',
23   REACT_APP_URL: 'https://foo.com/',
24   REACT_APP_URL_BASENAME: '',
25   REACT_APP_URL_DTLINK: '/lab',
26   REACT_APP_URL_LIPLINK: '',
27   REACT_APP_WORKBENCHLINK_TERMINAL: '/terminals/main',
28   REACT_APP_WORKBENCHLINK_VNCDESKTOP: '/tools/vnc/?password=vncpassword',
29   REACT_APP_WORKBENCHLINK_VSCODE: '/tools/vscode/',
30   REACT_APP_WORKBENCHLINK_JUPYTERLAB: '/lab',
31   REACT_APP_WORKBENCHLINK_JUPYTERNOTEBOOK: '',
32   REACT_APP_CLIENT_ID: '934b98f03f1b6f743832b2840bf7cccaed93c3bfe579093dd0942a433691ccc0',
33   REACT_APP_AUTH_AUTHORITY: 'https://gitlab.foo.com/',
34   REACT_APP_REDIRECT_URI: 'https://foo.com/Library',
35   REACT_APP_LOGOUT_REDIRECT_URI: 'https://foo.com/',
36   REACT_APP_GITLAB_SCOPES: 'openid profile read_user read_repository api',
37 };
38
39 // Example values with "bar" as basename URL.
40 //Trailing and ending slashes are optional.
41 window.env = {
42   REACT_APP_ENVIRONMENT: "dev",
43   REACT_APP_URL: 'https://foo.com/',
44   REACT_APP_URL_BASENAME: 'bar',
45   REACT_APP_URL_DTLINK: '/lab',
46   REACT_APP_URL_LIPLINK: '',
47   REACT_APP_WORKBENCHLINK_TERMINAL: '/terminals/main',
48   REACT_APP_WORKBENCHLINK_VNCDESKTOP: '/tools/vnc/?password=vncpassword',
49   REACT_APP_WORKBENCHLINK_VSCODE: '/tools/vscode/',
50   REACT_APP_WORKBENCHLINK_JUPYTERLAB: '/lab',
51   REACT_APP_WORKBENCHLINK_JUPYTERNOTEBOOK: '',
52   REACT_APP_CLIENT_ID: '934b98f03f1b6f743832b2840bf7cccaed93c3bfe579093dd0942a433691ccc0',
53   REACT_APP_AUTH_AUTHORITY: 'https://gitlab.foo.com/',
54   REACT_APP_REDIRECT_URI: 'https://foo.com/bar/Library',
55   REACT_APP_LOGOUT_REDIRECT_URI: 'https://foo.com/bar',
56   REACT_APP_GITLAB_SCOPES: 'openid profile read_user read_repository api',
57 };

```

- Copy the entire contents of the build folder to the root directory of your server where you want to deploy the app. You can use FTP, SFTP, or any other file transfer protocol to transfer the files.
- Make sure your server is configured to serve static files. This can vary depending on the server technology you are using, but typically you will need to configure your server to serve files from a specific directory.
- Once the files are on your server, you should be able to access your app by visiting your server's IP address or domain name in a web browser.

 The website depends on **Traefik gateway** and **ML Workspace** components to be available. Otherwise, you only get a skeleton non-functional website.

Complementary Components

The website requires background services for providing actual functionality. The minimum background service required is at least one [ML Workspace](#) serving the following routes.

```
1 https:foo.com/<username>/lab
2 https:foo.com/<username>/terminals/main
3 https:foo.com/<username>/tools/vnc/?password=vncpassword
4 https:foo.com/<username>/tools/vscode/
```

The `username` is the user workspace created using ML Workspace docker container. Please follow the instructions in [README](#). You can create as many user workspaces as you want. If you have two users - alice and bob - on your system, then the following the commands in will instantiate the required user workspaces.

```
1 mkdir -p files/alice files/bob files/common
2
3 printf "\n\n start the user workspaces"
4 docker run -d \
5   -p 8090:8080 \
6   --name "ml-workspace-alice" \
7   -v "$(pwd)/files/alice:/workspace" \
8   -v "$(pwd)/files/common:/workspace/common" \
9   --env AUTHENTICATE_VIA_JUPYTER="" \
10  --env WORKSPACE_BASE_URL="alice" \
11  --shm-size 512m \
12  --restart always \
13  mltooling/ml-workspace:0.13.2
14
15 docker run -d \
16   -p 8091:8080 \
17   --name "ml-workspace-bob" \
18   -v "$(pwd)/files/bob:/workspace" \
19   -v "$(pwd)/files/common:/workspace/common" \
20   --env AUTHENTICATE_VIA_JUPYTER="" \
21   --env WORKSPACE_BASE_URL="bob" \
22   --shm-size 512m \
23   --restart always \
24   mltooling/ml-workspace:0.13.2
```

Given that multiple services are running at different routes, a reverse proxy is needed to map the background services to external routes. You can use Apache, NGINX, Traefik or any other software to work as reverse proxy.

2.4.2 Host Library Microservice

The **lib microservice** is a simplified file manager providing graphql API. It has three features:

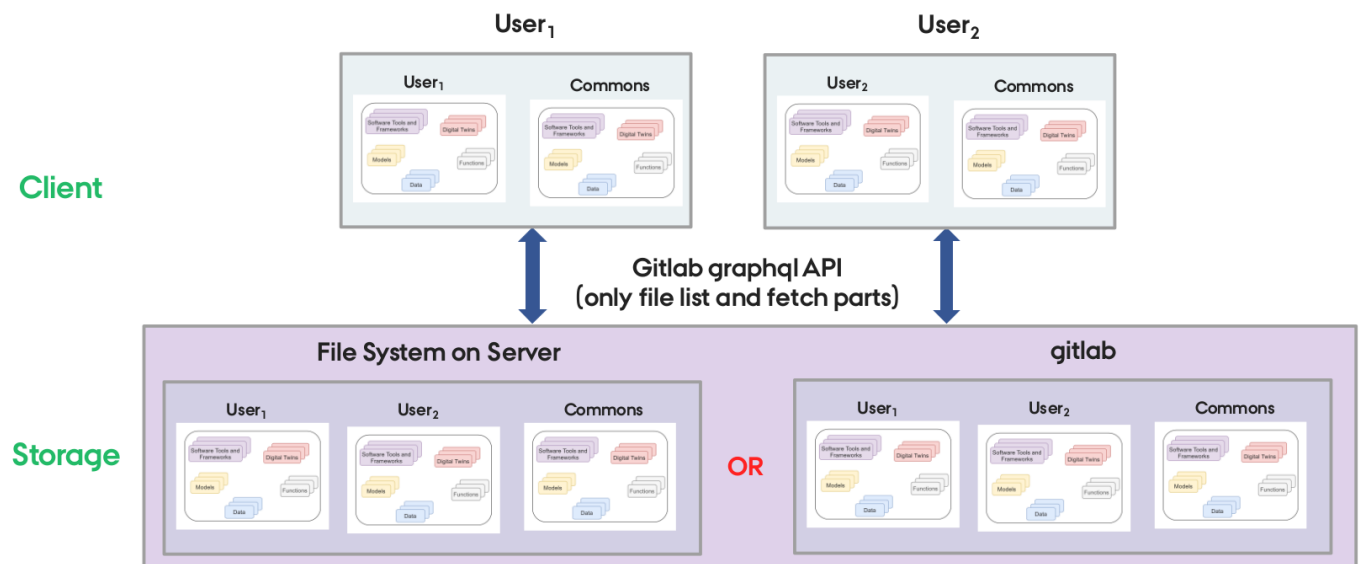
- provide a listing of directory contents.
- transfer a file to user.
- Source files can either come from local file system or from a gitlab instance.

The library microservice is designed to manage and serve files, functions, and models to users, allowing them to access and interact with various resources.

This document provides instructions for running a stand alone library microservice.

Setup the File System

The users expect the following file system structure for their reusable assets.



There is a skeleton file structure in [DTaaS codebase](#). You can copy and create file system for your users.

Gitlab setup (optional)

For this microservice to be functional, a certain directory or gitlab project structure is expected. The microservice expects that the gitlab consisting of one group, DTaaS, and within that group, all of the projects be located, **user1**, **user2**, ... , as well as a **commons** project. Each project corresponds to files of one user. A sample file structure can be seen in [gitlab dtaas group](#). You can visit the gitlab documentation on [groups](#) for help on the management of gitlab groups.

You can clone the git repositories from the `dtaas` group to get a sample file system structure for the lib microservice.

Setup Microservice

To set up the lib microservice, follow these steps:

Download the **lib-microservice.zip** from the [releases page](#).

Configuration setup

The microservices uses `.env` environment files to receive configuration.

To set up the environment variables for the lib microservice, create a new file named `.env` in the `lib-ms` directory. Then, add the following variables and their respective values. Below you can see and how, with included examples:

```
1 PORT='4001'
2 MODE='local' or 'gitlab'
3 LOCAL_PATH='/Users/<Username>/DTaaS/files'
4 GITLAB_GROUP='dtaas'
5 GITLAB_URL='https://gitlab.com/api/graphql'
6 TOKEN='123-sample-token'
7 LOG_LEVEL='debug'
8 APOLLO_PATH='/Lib' or ''
9 GRAPHQL_PLAYGROUND='false' or 'true'
```

The `LOCAL_PATH` variable is the absolute filepath to the location of the local directory which will be served to users by the Library microservice.

The `GITLAB_URL`, `GITLAB_GROUP` and `TOKEN` are only relevant for `gitlab` mode. The `TOKEN` should be set to your GitLab Group access API token. For more information on how to create and use your access token, [gitlab page](#).

Once you've generated a token, copy it and replace the value of `TOKEN` with your token for the gitlab group, can be found.

Replace the default values the appropriate values for your setup.

NOTE:

1. When `MODE=local`, only `LOCAL_PATH` is used. Other environment variables are unused.
2. When `MODE=gitlab`, `GITLAB_URL`, `TOKEN`, and `GITLAB_GROUP` are used; `LOCAL_PATH` is unused.

START MICROSERVICE

```
1 yarn install # Install dependencies for the microservice
2 yarn build   # build the application
3 yarn start   # start the application
```

You can press `Ctrl+C` to halt the application. If you wish to run the microservice in the background, use

```
1 nohup yarn start & disown
```

The lib microservice is now running and ready to serve files, functions, and models.

Users can access the library microservice at URL: `http://localhost:<PORT>/Lib`.

Service Endpoint

The URL endpoint for this microservice is located at: `localhost:PORT/Lib`

GraphQL API Calls

The lib microservice supports two GraphQL queries.

DIRECTORY LISTING

Query: List of Files

To retrieve a list of files in a directory, use the following GraphQL query. Replace `path` with the desired directory path.

```
1  query {
2    listDirectory(path: "user1") {
3      repository {
4        tree {
5          blobs {
6            edges {
7              node {
8                name
9                type
10             }
11          }
12        }
13        trees {
14          edges {
15            node {
16              name
17              type
18            }
19          }
20        }
21      }
22    }
23  }
24 }
```

Response: List of Files

This query returns the list of files and subdirectories in the specified directory. The response will include the name and type of each item.

```

1  {
2    "data": {
3      "listDirectory": {
4        "repository": {
5          "tree": {
6            "blobs": {
7              "edges": []
8            },
9            "trees": {
10             "edges": [
11               {
12                 "node": {
13                   "name": "common",
14                   "type": "tree"
15                 }
16               },
17               {
18                 "node": {
19                   "name": "data",
20                   "type": "tree"
21                 }
22               },
23               {
24                 "node": {
25                   "name": "digital twins",
26                   "type": "tree"
27                 }
28               },
29               {
30                 "node": {
31                   "name": "functions",
32                   "type": "tree"
33                 }
34               },
35               {
36                 "node": {
37                   "name": "models",
38                   "type": "tree"
39                 }
40               },
41               {
42                 "node": {
43                   "name": "tools",
44                   "type": "tree"
45                 }
46             ]
47           }
48         }
49       }
50     }
51   }
52 }
53 }
```

FETCHING A FILE**Query: Get File Contents**

This query receives directory path and send the file contents to user in response.

To check this query, create a file `files/user2/data/welcome.txt` with content of `hello world`.

```

1  query {
2    readFile(path: "user2/data/sample.txt") {
3      repository {
4        blobs {
5          nodes {
6            name
7            rawBlob
8            rawTextBlob
9          }
10         }
11       }
12     }
13   }
```

Response: Get File Contents

This query returns the name, raw binary blob, and raw text blob of the specified file. The `rawBlob` field contains the file contents in binary format, while the `rawTextBlob` field contains the file contents as plain text.

```

1  {
2    "data": {
3      "readFile": {
4        "repository": {
5          "blobs": {
6            "nodes": [
7              {
8                "name": "sample.txt",
9                "rawBlob": "hello world",
10               "rawTextBlob": "hello world"
11             }
12           ]
13         }
14       }
15     }
16   }
17 }

```

HTTP API Calls

The lib microservice also supports making API calls using HTTP POST requests. Simply send a POST request to the URL endpoint with the GraphQL query in the request body. Make sure to set the Content-Type header to "application/json".

The easiest way to perform HTTP requests is to use [HTTPie](#) desktop application. You can download the Ubuntu AppImage and run it. Select the following options:

```

1  Method: POST
2  URL: localhost:4001
3  Body: <<copy the json code from example>>
4  Content Type: text/json

```

Here are examples of the HTTP requests and responses for the HTTP API calls.

DIRECTORY LISTING

```

1  POST /lib HTTP/1.1
2  Host: localhost:4001
3  Content-Type: application/json
4  Content-Length: 388
5  {"query":{"query {\n  listDirectory(path: \"user1\") {\n    repository {\n      tree {\n        blobs {\n          edges {\n            node {\n              name\n              type\n            }\n          }\n        }\n      }\n    }\n  }\n}}}}

```

This HTTP POST request will generate the following HTTP response message.

```

1  HTTP/1.1 200 OK
2  Access-Control-Allow-Origin: *
3  Connection: close
4  Content-Length: 306
5  Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
6  Date: Tue, 26 Sep 2023 20:26:49 GMT
7  X-Powered-By: Express
8  {"data":{"listDirectory":{"repository":{"tree":{"blobs":{"edges":[]},"trees":{"edges":[{"node":{"name":"data","type":"tree"}},{node":{"name":"digital twins","type":"tree"}},{node":{"name":"functions","type":"tree"}},{node":{"name":"models","type":"tree"}},{node":{"name":"tools","type":"tree"}}]}}}}}}

```

FETCH A FILE

This query receives directory path and send the file contents to user in response.

To check this query, create a file `files/user2/data/welcome.txt` with content of `hello world`.

```

1 POST /lib HTTP/1.1
2 Host: localhost:4001
3 Content-Type: application/json
4 Content-Length: 217
5 {"query":{"query {\n  readFile(path: \"user2/data/welcome.txt\") {\n    repository {\n      blobs {\n        nodes {\n          name\n          rawBlob\n          rawTextBlob\n        }\n      }\n    }\n  }\n}}}
```

```

1 HTTP/1.1 200 OK
2 Access-Control-Allow-Origin: *
3 Connection: close
4 Content-Length: 134
5 Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
6 Date: Wed, 27 Sep 2023 09:17:18 GMT
7 X-Powered-By: Express
8 {"data":{"readFile":{"repository":{"blobs":{"nodes":[{"name":"welcome.txt","rawBlob":"hello world","rawTextBlob":"hello world"}]}}}}}
```

2.5 Third-party Services

The DTaaS software platform uses third-party software services to provide enhanced value to users.

InfluxDB, RabbitMQ and Grafana are default services integrated into the DTaaS software platform.

The InfluxDB service requires a dedicated hostname. The management interface of RabbitMQ service requires a dedicated hostname as well.

Thus successful installation of these services is dependent on your ability to use multiple hostnames for different services. You can download the required services using the docker commands.

```
1 docker pull grafana/grafana:10.1.4
2 docker pull influxdb:2.7
3 docker pull telegraf:1.28.2
4 docker pull rabbitmq:3-management
5 docker pull eclipse-mosquitto:2
```

The two-machine vagrant deployment scenario installs the RabbitMQ, Grafana, and InfluxDB services on the second vagrant machine.

If you would like to install some of these services for native OS installation or single vagrant machine, you can do this as well.

2.5.1 RabbitMQ

Start the RabbitMQ service with

```
1 docker run -d \
2   --name rabbitmq-server \
3   -p 15672:15672 -p 5672:5672 \
4   rabbitmq:3-management
```

Users and the vhosts need to be setup on the server. Sample commands to do so are:

```
1 docker exec rabbitmq-server rabbitmqctl add_user <username> <password>
2 docker exec rabbitmq-server rabbitmqctl set_permissions -p "/<vhost>" <username> ".*" ".*" ".*"
```

The RabbitMQ service requires raw TCP/UDP protocol access to network. The default Traefik configuration of DTaaS does not permit TCP/UDP traffic. There are two possible choices here:

- Configure Traefik gateway to permit TCP/UDP traffic
- Bypass Traefik altogether for RabbitMQ service

Unless you are an informed user of Traefik, we recommend bypassing traefik for RabbitMQ service.

2.5.2 Grafana

Grafana service can run well behind Traefik gateway. Here is a sample docker command to run Grafana service at port 3000:

```
1  docker run -d \
2  -p 3000:3000 \
3  --name=grafana \
4  -e "GF_SERVER_SERVE_FROM_SUB_PATH=true" \
5  -e "GF_SERVER_DOMAIN=localhost" \
6  -e "GF_SERVER_ROOT_URL=\\(protocol)s://(domain)s:$(http_port)s" \
7  -e "GF_AUTH_BASIC_ENABLED=false" \
8  -e "GF_AUTH_PROXY_ENABLED=false" \
9  -e "GF_SECURITY_ADMIN_PASSWORD=DtaaSGrafana" \
10 -e "GF_SECURITY_ALLOW_EMBEDDING=true" \
11 -e "GF_SECURITY_ALLOW_EMBEDDING=true" \
12 -e "GF_AUTH_ANONYMOUS_ENABLED=true" \
13 -e "GF_AUTH_ANONYMOUS_ORG_NAME=Main" \
14 -e "GF_AUTH_ANONYMOUS_ORG_ROLE=Editor" \
15 -e "GF_USERS_ALLOW_SIGN_UP=false" \
16 -e "GF_FEATURE_TOGGLES_ENABLE=publicDashboards" \
17 -e "GF_PATHS_CONFIG=/etc/grafana/grafana.ini" \
18 -e "GF_PATHS_DATA=/var/lib/grafana" \
19 -e "GF_PATHS_HOME=/usr/share/grafana" \
20 -e "GF_PATHS_LOGS=/var/log/grafana" \
21 -e "GF_PATHS_PLUGINS=/var/lib/grafana/plugins" \
22 -e "GF_PATHS_PROVISIONING=/etc/grafana/provisioning" \
23 -e "HOME=/home/grafana" \
24 grafana/grafana
25 printf "Complete the setup from GUI"
```

The user credentials have also been set in the command as:

username: admin

password: DTaaSGrafana

Remember to change these credentials before starting the docker container.

2.5.3 InfluxDB

The barebones InfluxDB service can be installed using:

```
1  INFLUXDB_DATA="{PWD}/data/influxdb2"
2  mkdir -p "$INFLUXDB_DATA"
3
4  # Remember to change the settings
5  docker run -d -p 80:8086 \
6  --name influxdb24 \
7  -v "$INFLUXDB_DATA/data":/var/lib/influxdb2 \
8  -v "$INFLUXDB_DATA/config":/etc/influxdb2 \
9  -e DOCKER_INFLUXDB_INIT_MODE=setup \
10 -e DOCKER_INFLUXDB_INIT_USERNAME=dtaas \
11 -e DOCKER_INFLUXDB_INIT_PASSWORD=dtaas1357 \
12 -e DOCKER_INFLUXDB_INIT_ORG=dtaas \
13 -e DOCKER_INFLUXDB_INIT_BUCKET=dtaas \
14 influxdb:2.4
```

The user credentials have also been set in the command as:

username: dtaas

password: dtaas1357

Remember to change these credentials before starting the docker container.

3. User

3.1 Motivation

How can DT software platforms enable users collaborate to:

- Build digital twins (DTs)
- Use DTs themselves
- Share DTs with other users
- Provide the existing DTs as Service to other users

In addition, how can the DT software platforms:

- Support DT lifecycle
- Scale up rather than scale down (flexible convention over configuration)

3.1.1 Existing Approaches

There are quite a few solutions proposed in the recent past to solve this problem. Some of them are:

- Focus on data from Physical Twins (PTs) to perform analysis, diagnosis, planning etc...
- Share DT assets across the upstream, downstream etc....
- Evaluate different models of PT
- DevOps for Cyber Physical Systems (CPS)
- Scale DT / execution of DT / ensemble of related DTs
- Support for PT product lifecycle

3.1.2 Our Approach

- Support for transition from existing workflows to DT frameworks
- Create DTs from reusable assets
- Enable users to share DT assets
- Offer DTs as a service
- Integrate the DTs with external software systems
- Separate configurations of independent DT components

3.2 Overview

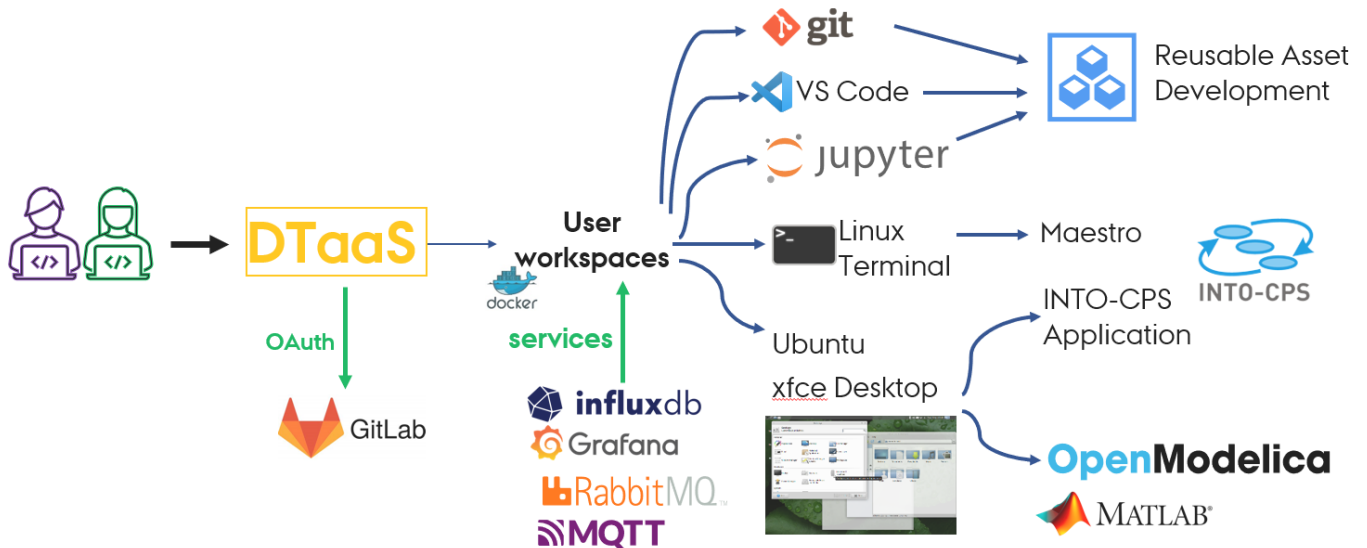
3.2.1 Advantages

The DTaaS software platform provides certain advantages to users:

- Support for different kinds of Digital Twins
- CFD, Simulink, co-simulation, FEM, ROM, ML etc.
- Integrates with other Digital Twin frameworks
- Facilitate availability of Digital Twin as a service
- Collaboration and reuse
- Private workspaces for authoring and verification of reusable assets, trial run DTs
- Cost effectiveness

3.2.2 Software Features

Each installation of DTaaS platform comes with the features highlighted in the following picture.



All the users have dedicated workspaces. These workspaces are dockerized versions of Linux Desktops. The user desktops are isolated so the installations and customizations done in one user workspace do not effect the other user workspaces.

Each user workspace comes with some development tools pre-installed. These tools are directly accessible from web browser. The following tools are available at present:

Tool	Advantage
Jupyter Lab	Provides flexible creation and use of digital twins and their components from web browser. All the native Jupyterlab usecases are supported here.
Jupyter Notebook	Useful for web-based management of their files (library assets)
VS Code in the browser	A popular IDE for software development. Users can develop their digital twin-related assets here.
ungit	An interactive git client. Users can work with git repositories from web browser

In addition, users have access to xfce-based remote desktop via VNC client. The VNC client is available right in the web browser. The xfce supported desktop software can also be run in their workspace.

The DTaaS software platform has some pre-installed services available. The currently available services are:

Service	Advantage
InfluxDB	Time-series database primarily for storing time-series data from physical twins. The digital twins can use an already existing data. Users can also create visualization dashboards for their digital twins.
RabbitMQ	Communication broker for communication between physical and digital twins
Grafana	Visualization dashboards for their digital twins.
MQTT	Lightweight data transfer broker for IoT devices / physical twins feeding data into digital twins.

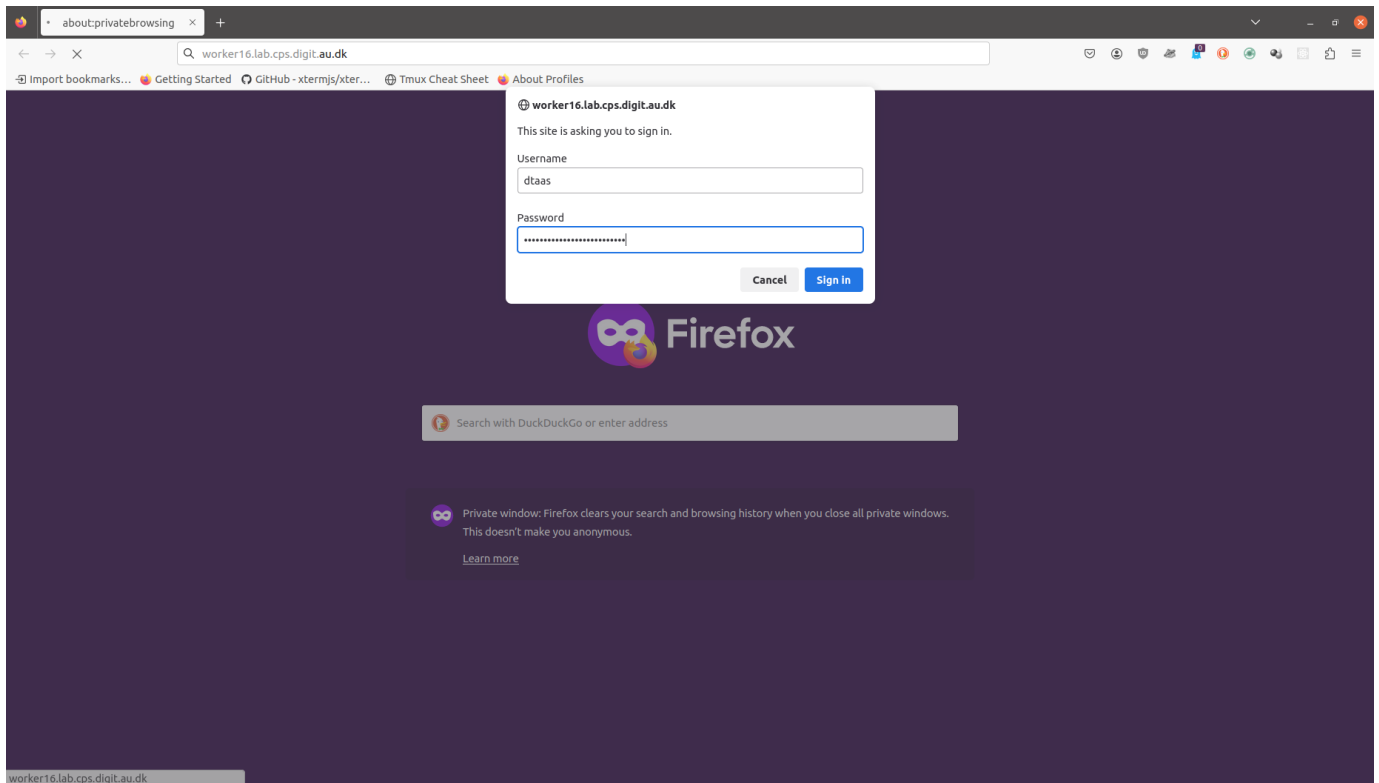
In addition, the workspaces are connected to the Internet so all the Digital Twins run within their workspace can interact with both the internal and external services.

The users can publish and reuse the digital twin assets available on the platform. In addition, users can run their digital twins and make these live digital twins available as services to their clients. The clients need not be users of the DTaaS software installation.

3.3 DTaaS Website Screenshots

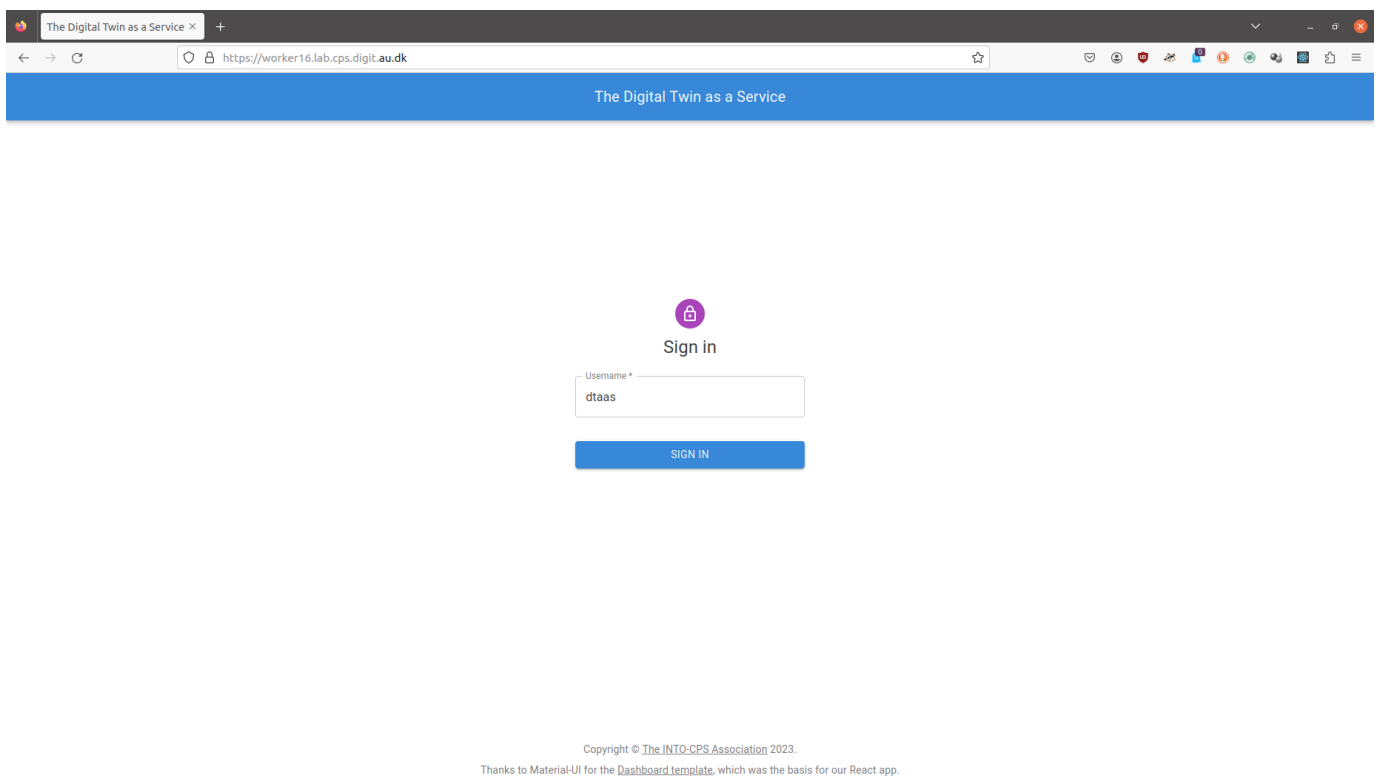
This page contains a screenshot driven preview of the website serving the DTaaS software platform.

3.3.1 Login to enter the DTaaS software platform



The screen presents with HTTP authentication form. You can enter the user credentials. You will be using HTTPS secure communication so the username and password are secure.

3.3.2 Enter username again



The Digital Twin as a Service

Sign in


Username *
dtaas

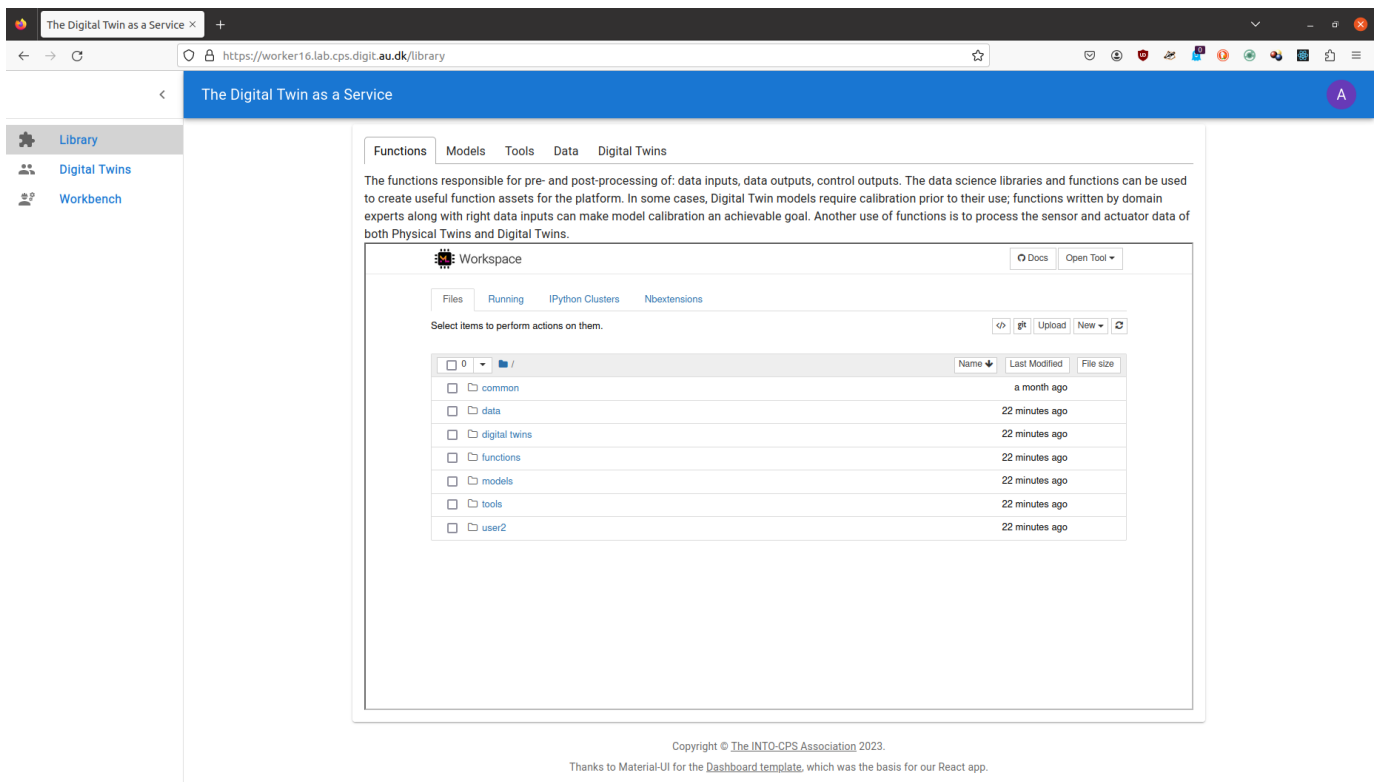
SIGN IN

Copyright © The INTO-CPS Association 2023.
Thanks to Material-UI for the [Dashboard template](#), which was the basis for our React app.

You are now logged into the server. You can enter the same username again to log into your workspace.

3.3.3 Overview of menu items

The menu is hidden by default. Only the icons of menu items are visible. You can click on the  icon in the top-left corner of the page to see the menu.



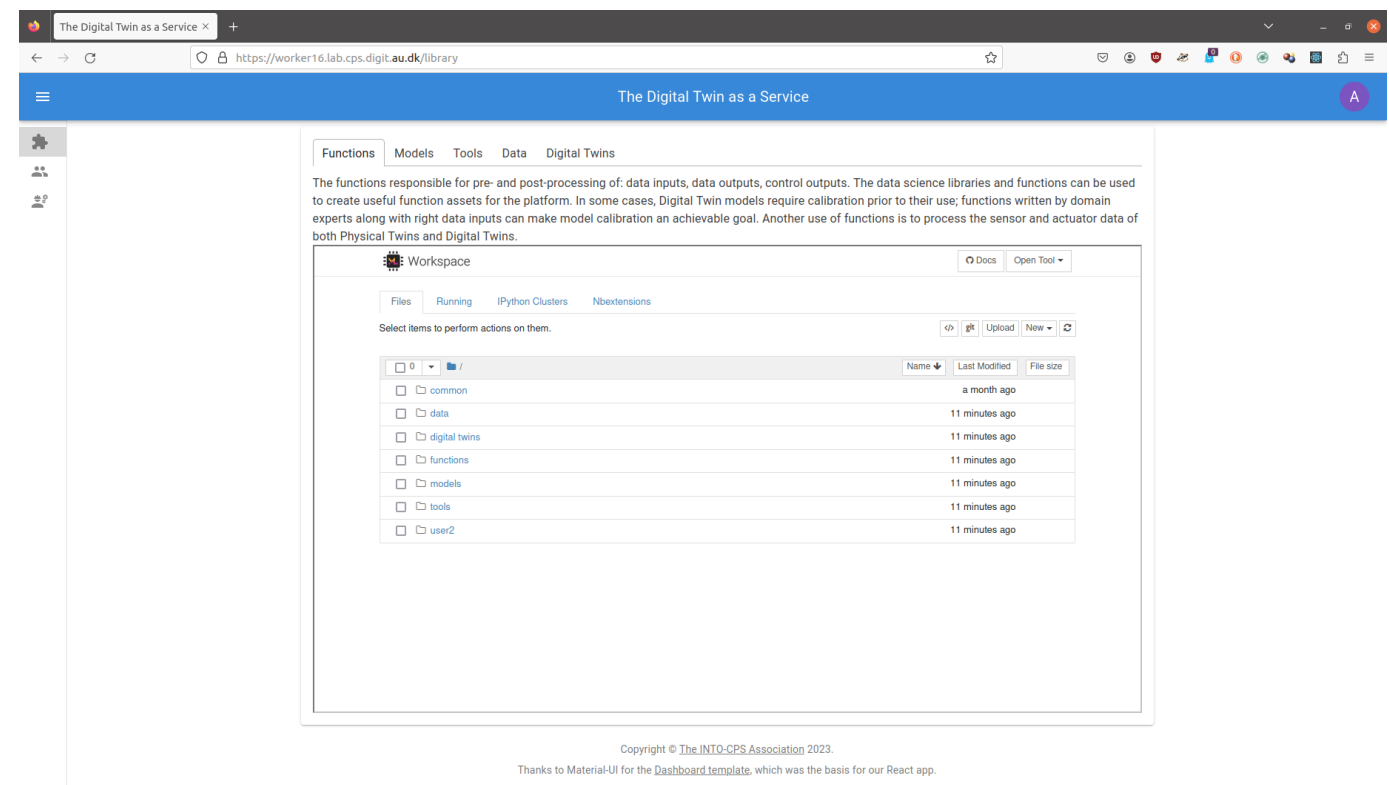
There are three menu items:

Library: for management of reusable library assets. You can upload, download, create and modify new files on this page.

Digital Twins: for management of digital twins. You are presented with the Jupyter Lab page from which you can run the digital twins.

Workbench: Not all digital twins can be managed within Jupyter Lab. You have more tools at your disposal on this page.

3.3.4 Library tabs and their help text



You can see the file manager and five tabs above the library manager. Each tab provides help text to guide users in the use of different directories in their workspace.

Functions

The functions responsible for pre- and post-processing of: data inputs, data outputs, control outputs. The data science libraries and functions can be used to create useful function assets for the platform. In some cases, Digital Twin models require calibration prior to their use; functions written by domain experts along with right data inputs can make model calibration an achievable goal. Another use of functions is to process the sensor and actuator data of both Physical Twins and Digital Twins.

Data

The data sources and sinks available to a digital twins. Typical examples of data sources are sensor measurements from Physical Twins, and test data provided by manufacturers for calibration of models. Typical examples of data sinks are visualization software, external users and data storage services. There exist special outputs such as events, and commands which are akin to control outputs from a Digital Twin. These control outputs usually go to Physical Twins, but they can also go to another Digital Twin.

Models

The model assets are used to describe different aspects of Physical Twins and their environment, at different levels of abstraction. Therefore, it is possible to have multiple models for the same Physical Twin. For example, a flexible robot used in a car production plant may have structural model(s) which will be useful in tracking the wear and tear of parts. The same robot can have a behavioural model(s) describing the safety guarantees provided by the robot manufacturer. The same robot can also have a functional model(s) describing the part manufacturing capabilities of the robot.

Tools

The software tool assets are software used to create, evaluate and analyze models. These tools are executed on top of a computing platforms, i.e., an operating system, or virtual machines like Java virtual machine, or inside docker containers. The tools tend to be platform specific, making them less reusable than models. A tool can be packaged to run on a local or distributed virtual machine environments thus allowing selection of most suitable execution environment for a Digital Twin. Most models require tools to evaluate them in the context of data inputs. There exist cases where executable packages are run as binaries in a computing environment. Each of these packages are a pre-packaged combination of models and tools put together to create a ready to use Digital Twins.

Digital


These are ready to use digital twins created by one or more users. These digital twins can be reconfigured later for specific use cases.

In addition to the five directories, there is also **common** directory in which five sub-directories exist. These sub-directories are: data, functions, models, tools and digital twins.

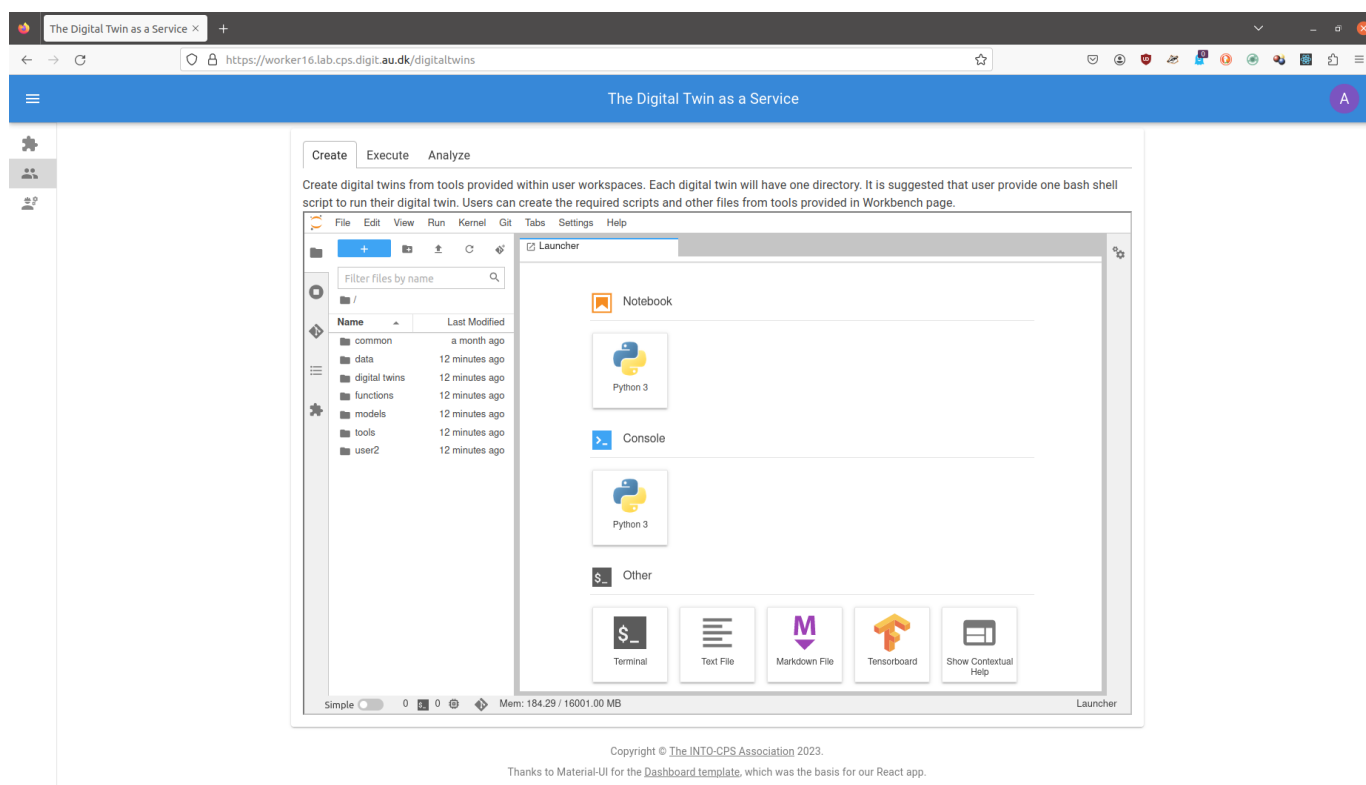
Common

The common directory again has four sub-directories: * data * functions * models * tools * digital twins The assets common to all users are placed in **common**.

The items used by more than one user are placed in **common**. The items in the **common** directory are available to all users. Further explanation of directory structure and placement of reusable assets within the the directory structure is in the [assets page](#)

 The file manager is based on Jupyter notebook and all the tasks you can perform in the Jupyter Notebook can be undertaken here.

3.3.5 Digital Twins page



The digital twins page has three tabs and the central pane opens Jupyter lab. There are three tabs with helpful instructions on the suggested tasks you can undertake in the **Create - Execute - Analyze** life cycle phases of digital twin. You can see more explanation on the [life cycle phases of digital twin](#).

Create

Create digital twins from tools provided within user workspaces. Each digital twin will have one directory. It is suggested that user provide one bash shell script to run their digital twin. Users can create the required scripts and other files from tools provided in Workbench page.

Execute

Digital twins are executed from within user workspaces. The given bash script gets executed from digital twin directory. Terminal-based digital twins can be executed from VSCode and graphical digital twins can be executed from VNC GUI. The results of execution can be placed in the data directory.

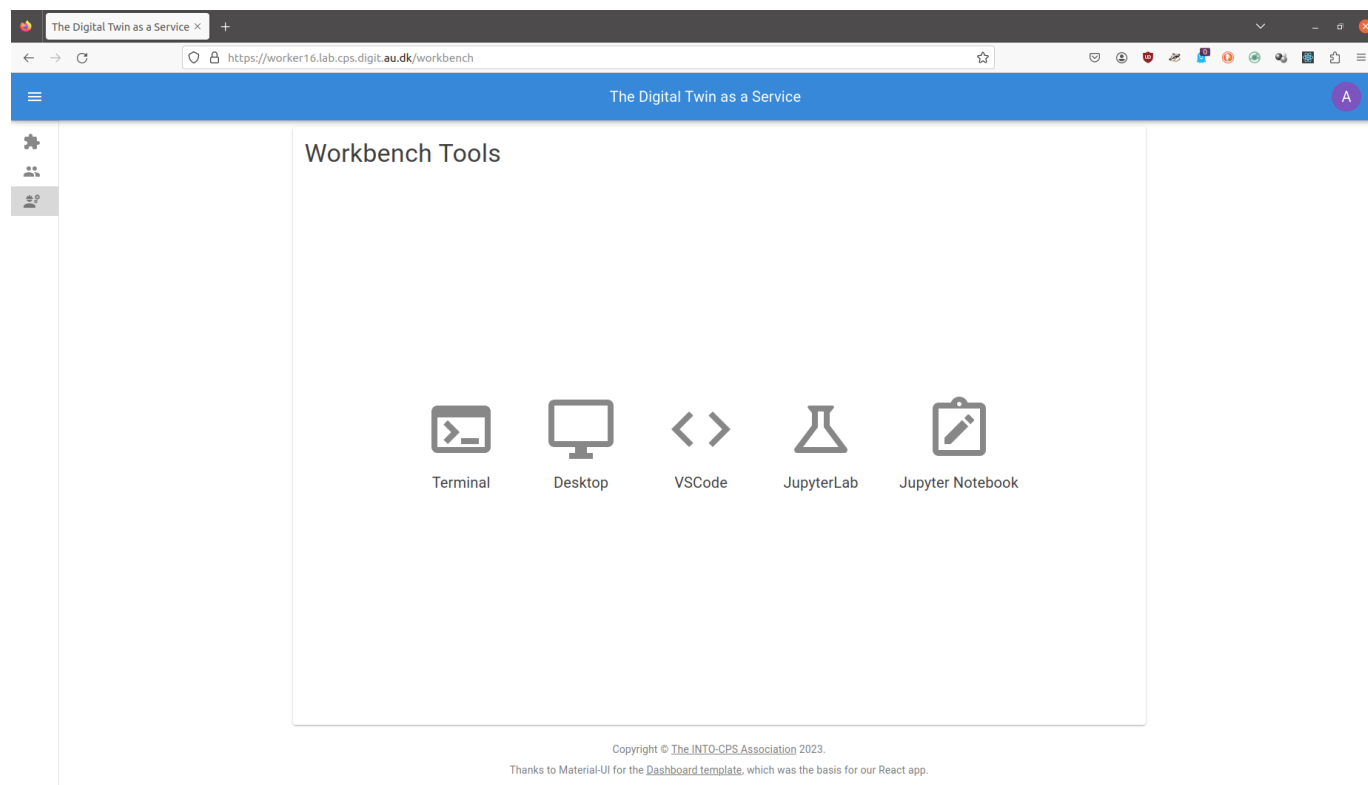
Analyze

The analysis of digital twins requires running of digital twin script from user workspace. The execution results placed within data directory are processed by analysis scripts and results are placed back in the data directory. These scripts can either be executed from VSCode and graphical results or can be executed from VNC GUI. The analysis of digital twins requires running of digital twin script from user workspace. The execution results placed within data directory are processed by analysis scripts and results are placed back in the data directory. These scripts can either be executed from VSCode and graphical results or can be executed from VNC GUI.

i The reusable assets (files) seen in the file manager are available in the Jupyter Lab. In addition, there is a git plugin installed in the Jupyter Lab using which you can link your files with the external git repositories.

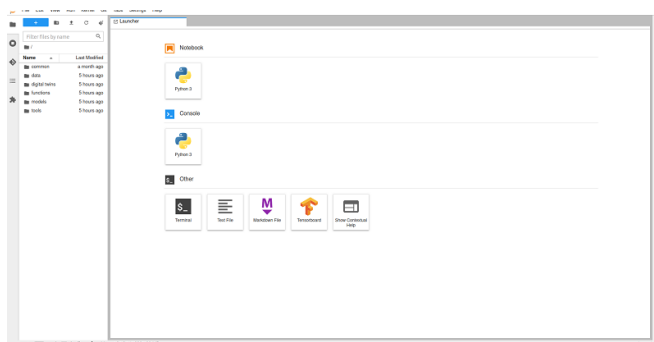
3.3.6 Workbench

The **workbench** page provides links to four integrated tools.



The hyperlinks open in new browser tab. The screenshots of pages opened in new browser are:

```
(base)
/workspace
└─ ls
common data 'digital twins' functions models tools
(base)
/workspace
└─
```

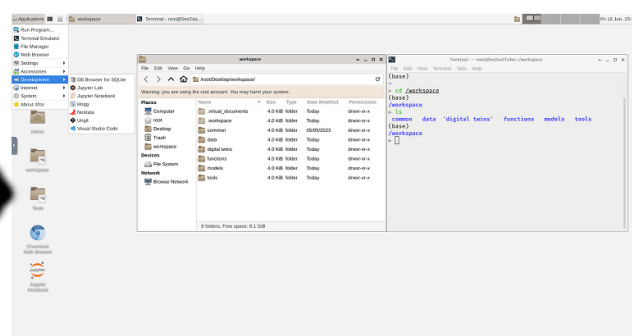


Workspace

Files Running IPython Clusters Nbextensions

Select items to perform actions on them.

	Name	Last Modified	File size
<input type="checkbox"/>	common	a month ago	
<input type="checkbox"/>	data	23 days ago	
<input type="checkbox"/>	digital twins	12 days ago	
<input type="checkbox"/>	functions	a month ago	
<input type="checkbox"/>	models	23 days ago	
<input type="checkbox"/>	tools	a month ago	
<input type="checkbox"/>	prasad tar.gz	11 days ago	56.9 MB



The Terminal hyperlink does not always work reliably. If you want terminal. Please use the tools dropdown in the Jupyter Notebook. The Terminal hyperlink does not always work reliably. If you want terminal. Please use the tools dropdown in the Jupyter Notebook.

3.3.7 Finally logout

The Digital Twin as a Service

Functions Models Tools Data Digital Twins

The functions responsible for pre- and post-processing of: data inputs, data outputs, control outputs. The data science libraries and functions can be used to create useful function assets for the platform. In some cases, Digital Twin models require calibration prior to their use; functions written by domain experts along with right data inputs can make model calibration an achievable goal. Another use of functions is to process the sensor and actuator data of both Physical Twins and Digital Twins.

Workspace

Files Running IPython Clusters Nbextensions

Select items to perform actions on them.

	Name	Last Modified	File size
<input type="checkbox"/>	/		
<input type="checkbox"/>	common	a month ago	
<input type="checkbox"/>	data	4 hours ago	
<input type="checkbox"/>	digital twins	4 hours ago	
<input type="checkbox"/>	functions	4 hours ago	
<input type="checkbox"/>	models	4 hours ago	
<input type="checkbox"/>	tools	4 hours ago	
<input type="checkbox"/>	user2	4 hours ago	

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Thanks to Material-UI for the [Dashboard template](#), which was the basis for our React app.

You have to close the browser in order to completely exit the DTaaS software platform.

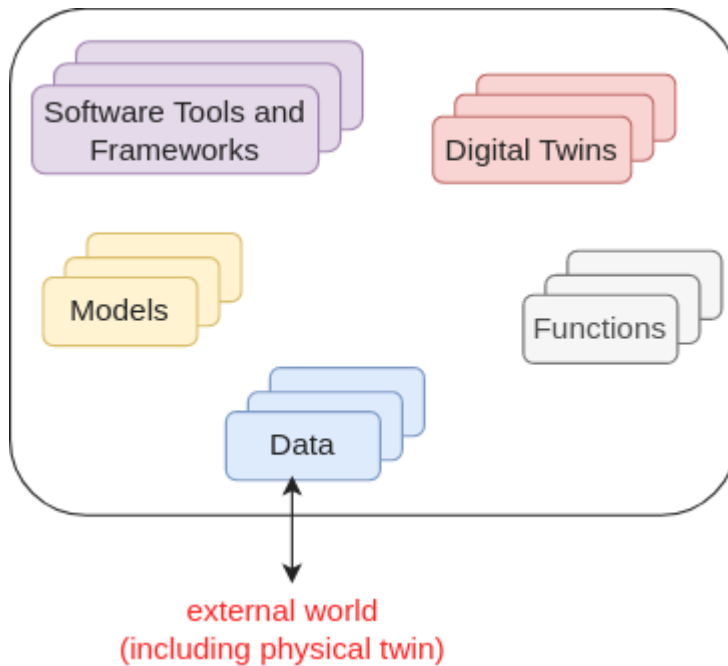
3.4 Library

3.4.1 Reusable Assets

The reusability of digital twin assets makes it easy for users to work with the digital twins. The reusability of assets is a fundamental feature of the platform.

Kinds of Reusable Assets

The DTaaS software categorizes all the reusable library assets into five categories:



FUNCTIONS

The functions responsible for pre- and post-processing of: data inputs, data outputs, control outputs. The data science libraries and functions can be used to create useful function assets for the platform. In some cases, Digital Twin models require calibration prior to their use; functions written by domain experts along with right data inputs can make model calibration an achievable goal. Another use of functions is to process the sensor and actuator data of both Physical Twins and Digital Twins.

DATA

The data sources and sinks available to a digital twins. Typical examples of data sources are sensor measurements from Physical Twins, and test data provided by manufacturers for calibration of models. Typical examples of data sinks are visualization software, external users and data storage services. There exist special outputs such as events, and commands which are akin to control outputs from a Digital Twin. These control outputs usually go to Physical Twins, but they can also go to another Digital Twin.

MODELS

The model assets are used to describe different aspects of Physical Twins and their environment, at different levels of abstraction. Therefore, it is possible to have multiple models for the same Physical Twin. For example, a flexible robot used in a car production plant may have structural model(s) which will be useful in tracking the wear and tear of parts. The same robot can have a behavioural model(s) describing the safety guarantees provided by the robot manufacturer. The same robot can also have a functional model(s) describing the part manufacturing capabilities of the robot.

TOOLS

The software tool assets are software used to create, evaluate and analyze models. These tools are executed on top of a computing platforms, i.e., an operating system, or virtual machines like Java virtual machine, or inside docker containers. The tools tend to be platform specific, making them less reusable than models. A tool can be packaged to run on a local or distributed virtual machine environments thus allowing selection of most suitable execution environment for a Digital Twin. Most models require tools to evaluate them in the context of data inputs. There exist cases where executable packages are run as binaries in a computing environment. Each of these packages are a pre-packaged combination of models and tools put together to create a ready to use Digital Twins.

DIGITAL TWINS

These are ready to use digital twins created by one or more users. These digital twins can be reconfigured later for specific use cases.

File System Structure

Each user has their assets put into five different directories named above. In addition, there will also be common library assets that all users have access to. A simplified example of the structure is as follows:

```

1  workspace/
2  data/
3    data1/ (ex: sensor)
4      filename (ex: sensor.csv)
5      README.md
6    data2/ (ex: turbine)
7      README.md (remote source; no local file)
8    ...
9  digital twins/
10   digital twin-1/ (ex: incubator)
11     code and config
12     README.md (usage instructions)
13   digital twin-2/ (ex: mass spring damper)
14     code and config
15     README.md (usage instructions)
16   digital twin-3/ (ex: model swap)
17     code and config
18     README.md (usage instructions)
19   ...
20  functions/
21   function1/ (ex: graphs)
22     filename (ex: graphs.py)
23     README.md
24   function2/ (ex: statistics)
25     filename (ex: statistics.py)
26     README.md
27   ...
28  models/
29   model1/ (ex: spring)
30     filename (ex: spring.fmu)
31     README.md
32   model2/ (ex: building)
33     filename (ex: building.skp)
34     README.md
35   model3/ (ex: rabbitmq)
36     filename (ex: rabbitmq.fmu)
37     README.md
38   ...
39  tools/
40   tool1/ (ex: maestro)
41     filename (ex: maestro.jar)
42     README.md
43   ...
44  common/
45   data/
46   functions/
47   models/
48   tools/

```

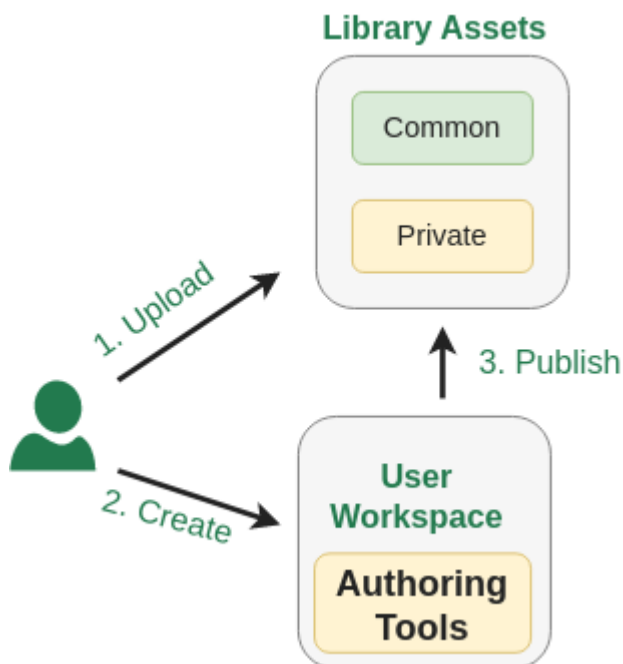


The DTaaS is agnostic to the format of your assets. The only requirement is that they are files which can be uploaded on the Library page. Any directories can be compressed as one file and uploaded. You can decompress the file into a directory from a Terminal or xfce Desktop available on the Workbench page.

A recommended file system structure for storing assets is also available in [DTaaS examples](#).

Create Assets

The DTaaS software allows users to create new library assets on the platform.



Users can install asset authoring tools in their own workspace. These authoring tools can then be used to create and publish new assets. User workspaces are private and are not shared with other users. Thus any licensed software tools installed in their workspace is only available to them.

Upload Assets

Users can upload assets into their workspace using Library page of the website.

The screenshot shows the 'Library' page of the 'The Digital Twin as a Service' application. The 'Functions' tab is selected, displaying a description of functions and a 'Workspace' section. The 'Workspace' section shows a list of files and folders, including 'common', 'data', 'digital twins', 'functions', 'models', 'tools', and 'user2'. The 'Files' tab is active within the workspace, showing a table of files with their names, last modified times, and file sizes.

Name	Last Modified	File size
common	a month ago	
data	11 minutes ago	
digital twins	11 minutes ago	
functions	11 minutes ago	
models	11 minutes ago	
tools	11 minutes ago	
user2	11 minutes ago	

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Thanks to Material-UI for the [Dashboard template](#), which was the basis for our React app.

You can go into a directory and click on the **upload** button to upload a file or a directory into your workspace. This asset is then available in all the workbench tools you can use. You can also create new assets on the page by clicking on **new** drop down menu. This is a simple web interface which allows you to create text-based files. You need to upload other files using **upload** button.

3.4.2 Library Microservice

i The library microservice provides an API interface to reusable assets library. This is only for expert users who need to integrate the DTaaS with their own IT systems. Regular users can safely skip this page.

The lib microservice is responsible for handling and serving the contents of library assets of the DTaaS platform. It provides API endpoints for clients to query, and fetch these assets.

This document provides instructions for using the library microservice.

Please see [assets](#) for a suggested storage conventions of your library assets.

Once the assets are stored in the library, you can access the server's endpoint by typing in the following URL: `http://foo.com/lib`.

The URL opens a graphql playground. You can check the query schema and try sample queries here. You can also send graphql queries as HTTP POST requests and get responses.

API Queries

The library microservice services two API calls:

- Provide a list of contents for a directory
- Fetch a file from the available files

The API calls are accepted over GraphQL and HTTP API end points. The format of the accepted queries are:

PROVIDE LIST OF CONTENTS FOR A DIRECTORY

To retrieve a list of files in a directory, use the following GraphQL query.

Replace `path` with the desired directory path.

send requests to: <https://foo.com/lib>

GraphQL Query	GraphQL Response	HTTP Request	HTTP Response
---------------	------------------	--------------	---------------

```

1 query {
2   listDirectory(path: "user1") {
3     repository {
4       tree {
5         blobs {
6           edges {
7             node {
8               name
9               type
10            }
11          }
12        }
13        trees {
14          edges {
15            node {
16              name
17              type
18            }
19          }
20        }
21      }
22    }
23  }
24 }

```

```

1 {
2   "data": {
3     "listDirectory": {
4       "repository": {
5         "tree": {
6           "blobs": {
7             "edges": []
8           },
9           "trees": {
10            "edges": [
11              {
12                "node": {
13                  "name": "common",
14                  "type": "tree"
15                }
16              },
17              {
18                "node": {
19                  "name": "data",
20                  "type": "tree"
21                }
22              },
23              {
24                "node": {
25                  "name": "digital twins",
26                  "type": "tree"
27                }
28              },
29              {
30                "node": {
31                  "name": "functions",
32                  "type": "tree"
33                }
34              },
35              {
36                "node": {
37                  "name": "models",
38                  "type": "tree"
39                }
40              },
41              {
42                "node": {
43                  "name": "tools",
44                  "type": "tree"
45                }
46              }
47            ]
48          }
49        }
50      }
51    }
52  }
53 }

```

```

1 POST /lib HTTP/1.1
2 Host: foo.com
3 Content-Type: application/json
4 Content-Length: 388
5
6 {
7   "query": "query {\n  listDirectory(path: \"user1\") {\n    repository {\n      tree {\n        blobs {\n          edges {\n            node {\n              name\n            }\n          }\n        }\n      }\n    }\n  }\n}"
8 }

```

```

1 HTTP/1.1 200 OK
2 Access-Control-Allow-Origin: *
3 Connection: close
4 Content-Length: 306
5 Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
6 Date: Tue, 26 Sep 2023 20:26:49 GMT
7 X-Powered-By: Express
8 {"data":{"listDirectory":{"repository":{"tree":{"blobs":{"edges":[]},"trees":{"edges":[{"node":{"name":"data","type":"tree"}},{"node":{"name":"digital twins","type":"tree"}},{"node":{"name":"functions","type":"tree"}},{"node":{"name":"models","type":"tree"}},{"node":{"name":"tools","type":"tree"}}]}}}}}

```

FETCH A FILE FROM THE AVAILABLE FILES

This query receives directory path and send the file contents to user in response.

To check this query, create a file `files/user2/data/welcome.txt` with content of `hello world`.

GraphQL Request	GraphQL Response	HTTP Request	HTTP Response
<pre> 1 query { 2 readFile(path: "user2/data/sample.txt") { 3 repository { 4 blobs { 5 nodes { 6 name 7 rawBlob 8 rawTextBlob 9 } 10 } 11 } 12 } 13 } </pre>	<pre> 1 { 2 "data": { 3 "readFile": { 4 "repository": { 5 "blobs": { 6 "nodes": [7 { 8 "name": "sample.txt", 9 "rawBlob": "hello world", 10 "rawTextBlob": "hello world" 11 } 12] 13 } 14 } 15 } 16 } 17 } </pre>	<pre> 1 POST /lib HTTP/1.1 2 Host: foo.com 3 Content-Type: application/json 4 Content-Length: 217 5 { 6 "query": "query {\n readFile(path: \"user2/data/welcome.txt\") {\n repository {\n blobs {\n nodes {\n name\n rawBlob\n rawTextBlob\n }\n }\n }\n }" 7 } </pre>	<pre> 1 HTTP/1.1 200 OK 2 Access-Control-Allow-Origin: * 3 Connection: close 4 Content-Length: 134 5 Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8 6 Date: Wed, 27 Sep 2023 09:17:18 GMT 7 X-Powered-By: Express 8 {"data":{"readFile":{"repository":{"blobs":{"nodes":[{"name":"welcome.txt","rawBlob":"hello world","rawTextBlob":"hello world"}]}}}}} </pre>

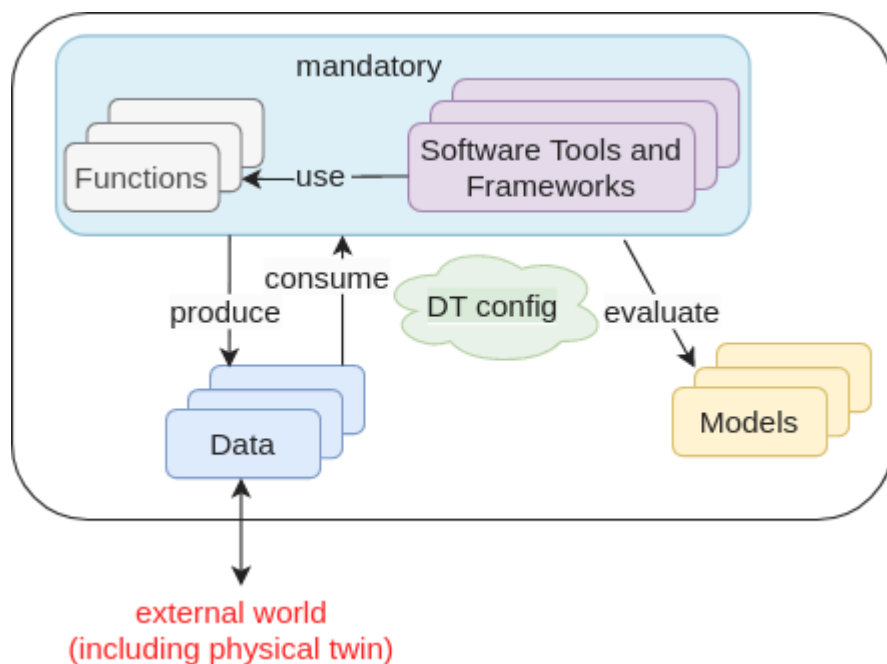
The *path* refers to the file path to look at: For example, *user1* looks at files of **user1**; *user1/functions* looks at contents of *functions/* directory.

3.5 Digital Twins

3.5.1 Create a Digital Twin

The first step in digital twin creation is to use the available assets in your workspace. If you have assets / files in your computer that need to be available in the DTaaS workspace, then please follow the instructions provided in [library assets](#).

There are dependencies among the library assets. These dependencies are shown below.



A digital twin can only be created by linking the assets in a meaningful way. This relationship can be expressed using a mathematical equation:

where D denotes data, M denotes models, F denotes functions, T denotes tools, denotes DT configuration and is a symbolic notation for a digital twin itself. The expression denotes composition of DT from D,M,T and F assets. The indicates zero or one more instances of an asset and indicates one or more instances of an asset.

The DT configuration specifies the relevant assets to use, the potential parameters to be set for these assets. If a DT needs to use RabbitMQ, InfluxDB like services supported by the platform, the DT configuration needs to have access credentials for these services.

This kind of generic DT definition is based on the DT examples seen in the wild. You are at liberty to deviate from this definition of DT. The only requirement is the ability to run the DT from either commandline or desktop.



If you are stepping into the world of Digital Twins, you might not have distinct digital twin assets. You are likely to have one directory of everything in which you run your digital twin. In such a case we recommend that you upload this monolithic digital twin into **digital twin/your_digital_twin_name** directory.

Example

The [Examples](#) repository contains a co-simulation setup for mass spring damper. The complete details on this example are available on [github](#).

This example illustrates the potential of using co-simulation for digital twins.

The file system contents for this example are:

```

1  workspace/
2    data/
3      mass-spring-damper
4        input/
5        output/
6
7    digital twins/
8      mass-spring-damper/
9        cosim.json
10       time.json
11       lifecycle/
12         analyze
13         clean
14         evolve
15         execute
16         save
17         terminate
18       README.md
19
20     functions/
21     models/
22       MassSpringDamper1.fmu
23       MassSpringDamper2.fmu
24
25     tools/
26
27     common/
28       data/
29       functions/
30       models/
31       tools/
32       maestro-2.3.0-jar-with-dependencies.jar

```

The `workspace/data/mass-spring-damper/` contains `input` and `output` data for the mass-spring-damper digital twin.

The two FMU models needed for this digital twin are in `models/` directory.

The co-simulation digital twin needs Maestro co-simulation orchestrator. Since this is a reusable asset for all the co-simulation based DTs, the tool has been placed in `common/tools/` directory.

The actual digital twin configuration is specified in `digital twins/mass-spring-damper` directory. The co-simulation configuration is specified in two json files, namely `cosim.json` and `time.json`. A small explanation of digital twin for its users can be placed in `digital twins/mass-spring-damper/README.md`.

The launch program for this digital twin is in `digital twins/mass-spring-damper/lifecycle/execute`. This launch program runs the co-simulation digital twin. The co-simulation runs till completion and then ends. The programs in `digital twins/mass-spring-damper/lifecycle` are responsible for lifecycle management of this digital twin. The [lifecycle page](#) provides more explanation on these programs.

Execution of a Digital Twin

A frequent question arises on the run time characteristics of a digital twin. The natural intuition is to say that a digital twin must operate as long as its physical twin is in operation. **If a digital twin runs for a finite time and then ends, can it be called a digital twin? The answer is a resounding YES.** The Industry 4.0 usecases seen among SMEs have digital twins that run for a finite time. These digital twins are often run at the discretion of the user.

You can run this digital twin by,

1. Go to Workbench tools page of the DTaaS website and open VNC Desktop. This opens a new tab in your browser
2. A page with VNC Desktop and a connect button comes up. Click on Connect. You are now connected to the Linux Desktop of your workspace.
3. Open a Terminal (black rectangular icon in the top left region of your tab) and type the following commands.
4. Download the [example files](#)

```
1 wget https://github.com/INTO-CPS-Association/DTaaS-examples/archive/refs/heads/main.zip
2 unzip main.zip
```

1. Open a file browser and copy the files from this uncompressed folder into your workspace folder (`/workspace`). Make sure that the file placement matches the one given above.
2. Go to the digital twin directory and run

```
1 cd /workspace/digital\ twins/mass-spring-damper
2 lifecycle/execute
```

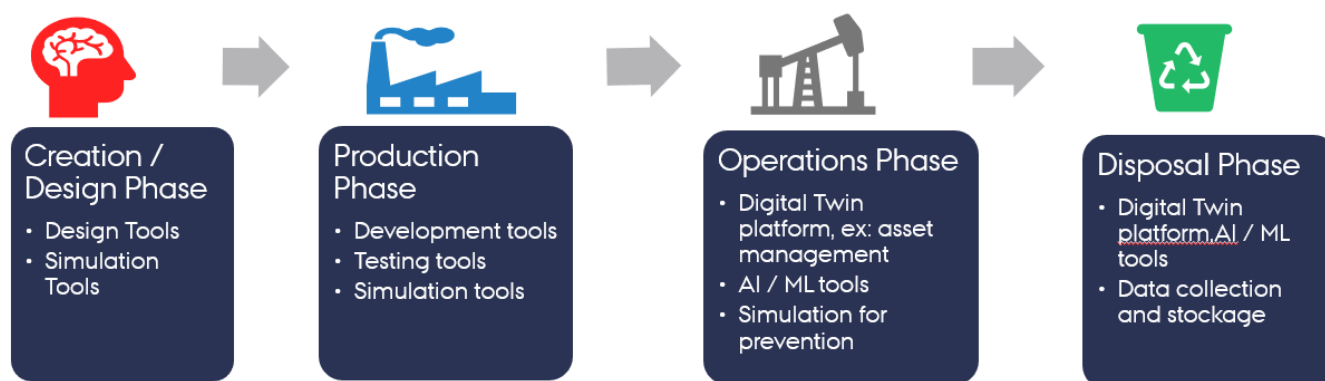
The last command executes the mass-spring-damper digital twin and stores the co-simulation output in `data/mass-spring-damper/output` .

3.5.2 Digital Twin Lifecycle

The physical products in the real world have product lifecycle. A simplified four-stage product life is illustrated here.

A digital twin tracking the physical products (twins) need to track and evolve in conjunction with the corresponding physical twin.

The possible activities undertaken in each lifecycle phases are illustrated in the figure.



Lifecycle Phases

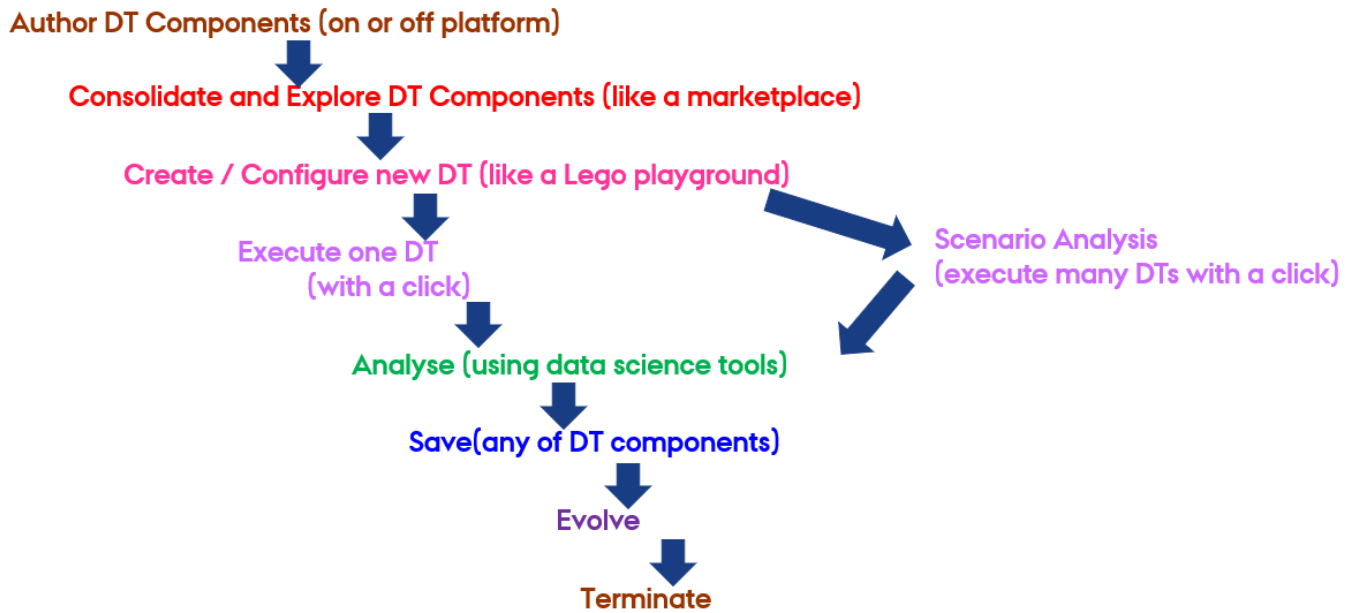
The four phase lifecycle has been extended to a lifecycle with eight phases. The new phase names and the typical activities undertaken in each phase are outlined in this section.

A DT lifecycle consists of **explore**, **create**, **execute**, **save**, **analyse**, **evolve** and **terminate** phases.

Phase	Main Activities
explore	selection of suitable assets based on the user needs and checking their compatibility for the purposes of creating a DT.
create	specification of DT configuration. If DT already exists, there is no creation phase at the time of reuse.
execute	automated / manual execution of a DT based on its configuration. The DT configuration must be checked before starting the execution phase.
analyse	checking the outputs of a DT and making a decision. The outputs can be text files, or visual dashboards.
evolve	reconfigure DT primarily based on analysis.
save	involves saving the state of DT to enable future recovery.
terminate	stop the execution of DT.

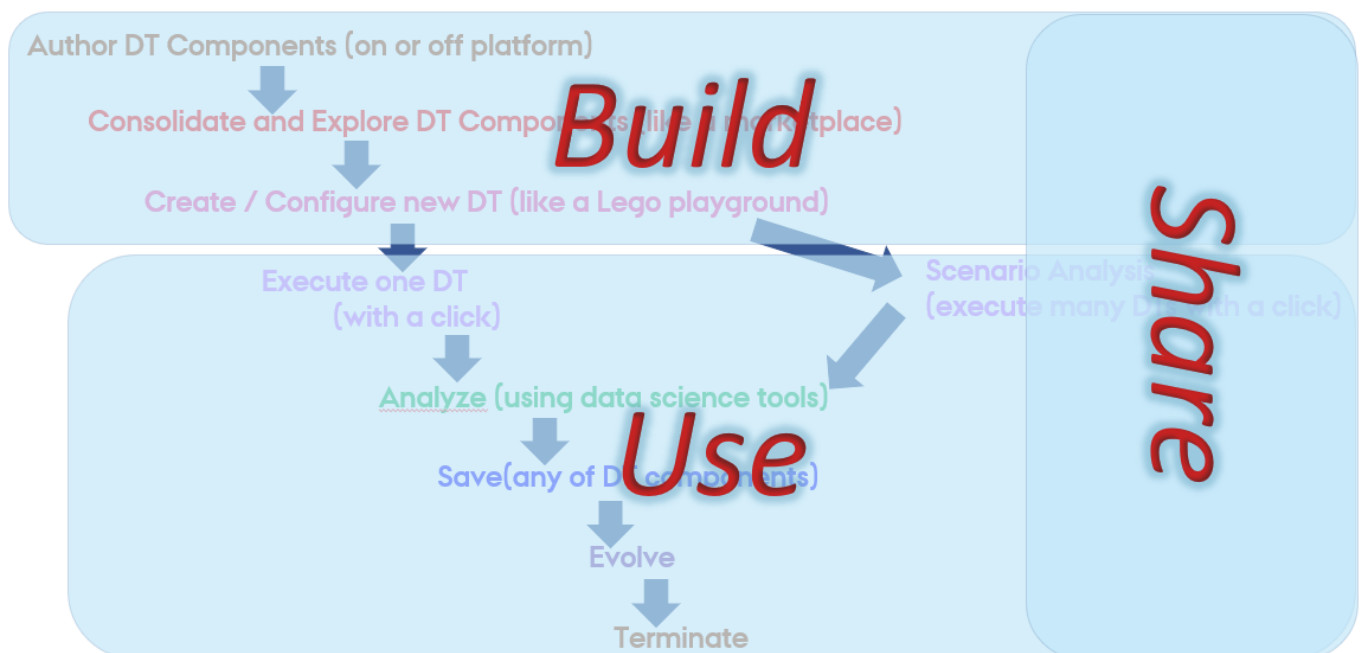
A digital twin faithfully tracking the physical twin lifecycle will have to support all the phases. It is also possible for digital twin engineers to add more phases to digital twins they are developing. Thus it is important for the DTaaS software platform needs to accommodate the needs of different DTs.

A potential linear representation of the tasks undertaken in a digital twin lifecycle are shown here.



Again this is only a one possible pathway. Users are at liberty to alter the sequence of steps.

It is possible to map the lifecycle phases identified so far with the **Build-Use-Share** approach of the DTaaS software platform.



Even though not mandatory, having a matching coding structure makes it easy for users to create and manage their DTs within the DTaaS. It is recommended to have the following structure:

```

1 workspace/
2   digital twins/
3     digital-twin-1/
4       lifecycle/
5         analyze
6         clean
7         evolve
8         execute
9         save
10        terminate
  
```

A dedicated program exists for each phase of DT lifecycle. Each program can be as simple as a script that launches other programs or sends messages to a live digital twin.

Examples

Here are the programs / scripts to manage three phases in the lifecycle of **mass-spring-damper DT**.

```
1  #!/bin/bash
2  mkdir -p /workspace/data/mass-spring-damper/output
3  #cd ..
4  java -jar /workspace/common/tools/maestro-2.3.0-jar-with-dependencies.jar \
5      import -output /workspace/data/mass-spring-damper/output \
6      --dump-intermediate sgl cosim.json time.json -i -vi FMI2 \
7      output-dir>debug.log 2>&1
```

The execute phases uses the DT configuration, FMU models and Maestro tool to execute the digital twin. The script also stores the output of cosimulation in `/workspace/data/mass-spring-damper/output`.

It is possible for a DT not to support a specific lifecycle phase. This intention can be specified with an empty script and a helpful message if deemed necessary.

```
1  #!/bin/bash
2  printf "operation is not supported on this digital twin"
```

The lifecycle programs can call other programs in the code base. In the case of `lifecycle/terminate` program, it is calling another script to do the necessary job.

```
1  #!/bin/bash
2  lifecycle/clean
```

4. Frequently Asked Questions

4.1 Abbreviations

Term	Full Form
DT	Digital Twin
DTaaS	Digital Twin as a Service
PT	Physical Twin

4.2 General Questions

? What is DTaaS?

DTaaS is software platform on which you can create and run digital twins. Please see the [features](#) page to get a sense of the things you can do in DaaS.

? Are there any Key Performance / Capability Indicators for DTaaS?

Key Performance Indicator	Value
Processor	Two AMD EPYC 7443 24-Core Processors
Maximum Storage Capacity	4TB SSD, RAID 0 configuration
Storage Type	File System
Maximum file size	10 GB
Data transfer speed	100 Mbps
Data Security	Yes
Data Privacy	Yes
Redundancy	None
Availability	It is a matter of human resources. If you have human resources to maintain DTaaS round the clock, upwards 95% is easily possible.

? Do you provide licensed software like Matlab?

The licensed software are not available on the software platform. But users have private workspaces which are based on Linux-based xfce Desktop environment. Users can install software in their workspaces. The licensed software installed by one user is not available to another user.

4.3 Digital Twin Models

Can DTaaS create new DT models?

DTaaS is not a model creation tool. You can put model creation tool inside DTaaS and create new models. The DTaaS itself does not create digital twin models but it can help users create digital twin models. You can run Linux desktop / terminal tools inside the DTaaS. So you can create models inside DTaaS and run them using tools that can run in Linux. The Windows only tools can not run in DTaaS.

How can DTaaS help to design geometric model? Does it support 3D modeling and simulation?

Well, DTaaS by itself does not produce any models. DTaaS only provides a platform and an ecosystem of services to facilitate digital twins to be run as services. Since each user has a Linux OS at their disposal, they can also run digital twins that have graphical interface. In summary, DTaaS is neither a modeling nor simulation tool. If you need these kinds of tools, you need to bring them onto the platform. For example, if you need Matlab for your work, you need to bring the licensed Matlab software.

Commercial DT platforms in market provide modelling and simulation alongside integration and UI. DTaaS is not able to do any modelling or simulation on its own like other commercial platforms. Is this a correct understanding?

Yes, you are right

Can DTaaS support only the information models (or behavioral models) or some other kind of models?

The DTaaS as such is agnostic to the kind of models you use. DTaaS can run all kinds of models. This includes behavioral and data models. As long as you have models and the matching solvers that can run in Linux OS, you are good to go in DTaaS. In some cases, models and solvers (tools) are bundled together to form monolithic DTs. The DTaaS does not limit you from running such DTs as well. DTaaS does not provide dedicated solvers. But if you can install a solver in your workspace, then you don't need the platform to provide one.

Does it support XML-based representation and ontology representation?

Currently No. **We are looking for users needing this capability. If you have concrete requirements and an example, we can discuss a way of realizing it in DTaaS.**

4.4 Communication Between Physical Twin and Digital Twin

How would you measure a physical entity like shape, size, weight, structure, chemical attributes etc. using DTaaS? Any specific technology used in this case?

The real measurements are done at physical twin which are then communicated to the digital twin. Any digital twin platform like DTaaS can only facilitate this communication of these measurements from physical twin. The DTaaS provides InfluxDB, RabbitMQ and Mosquitto services for this purpose. These three are probably most widely used services for digital twin communication. Having said that, DTaaS allows you to utilize other communication technologies and services hosted elsewhere on the Internet.

How a real-time data can be differed from static data and what is the procedure to identify dynamic data? Is there any UI or specific tool used here?

DTaaS can not understand the static or dynamic nature of data. It can facilitate storing names, units and any other text description of interesting quantities (weight of batter, voltage output etc). It can also store the data being sent by the physical twin. The distinction between static and dynamic data needs to be made by the user. Only metadata of the data can reveal such more information about the nature of data. A tool can probably help in very specific cases, but you need metadata. If there is a human being making this distinction, then the need for metadata goes down but does not completely go away. In some of the DT platforms supported by manufacturers, there is a tight integration between data and model. In this case, the tool itself is taking care of the metadata. The DTaaS is a generic platform which can support execution of digital twins. If a tool can be executed on a Linux desktop / commandline, the tool can be supported within DTaaS. The tool (ex. Matlab) itself can take care of the metadata requirements.

How can DTaaS control the physical entity? Which technologies it uses for controlling the physical world?

At a very abstract level, there is a communication from physical entity to digital entity and back to physical entity. How this communication should happen is decided by the person designing the digital entity. The DTaaS can provide communication services that can help you do this communication with relative ease. You can use InfluxDB, RabbitMQ and Mosquitto services hosted on DTaaS for two communication between digital and physical entities.

4.5 Data Management

Does DTaaS support data collection from different sources like hardware, software and network? Is there any user interface or any tracking instruments used for data collection?

The DTaaS provides InfluxDB, RabbitMQ, MQTT services. Both the physical twin and digital twin can utilize these protocols for communication. The IoT (time-series) data can be collected using InfluxDB and MQTT broker services. There is a user interface for InfluxDB which can be used to analyze the data collected. Users can also manually upload their data files into DTaaS.

Which transmission protocol does DTaaS allow?

InfluxDB, RabbitMQ, MQTT and anything else that can be used from Cloud service providers.

Does DTaaS support multisource information and combined multi sensor input data? Can it provide analysis and decision-supporting inferences?

You can store information from multiple sources. The existing InfluxDB services hosted on DTaaS already has a dedicated Influx / Flux query language for doing sensor fusion, analysis and inferences.

Which kinds of visualization technologies DTaaS can support (e.g. graphical, geometry, image, VR/AR representation)?

Graphical, geometric and images. If you need specific licensed software for the visualization, you will have to bring the license for it. DTaaS does not support AR/VR.

Can DTaaS collect data directly from sensors?

Yes

2 Is DTaaS able to transmit data to cloud in real time?

Yes

4.6 Platform Native Services on DTaaS Platform

2 Is DTaaS able to detect the anomalies about-to-fail components and prescribe solutions?

This is the job of a digital twin. If you have a ready to use digital twin that does the job, DTaaS allows others to use your solution.

4.7 Comparison with other DT Platforms

2 All the DT platforms seem to provide different features. Is there a comparison chart?

Here is a qualitative comparison of different DT integration platforms:

Legend: high performance (**H**), mid performance (**M**) and low performance (**L**)

DT Platforms	License	DT Development Process	Connectivity	Security	Processing power, performance and Scalability	Data Storage	V
Microsoft Azure DT	Commercial Cloud	H	H	H	M	H	H
AWS IOT Greengrass	Open source commercial	H	H	H	M	H	H
Eclipse Ditto	Open source	M	H	M	H	H	L
Asset Administration Shell	Open source	H	H	L	H	M	L
PTC Thingworx	Commercial	H	H	H	H	H	M
GE Predix	Commercial	M	H	H	M	L	M
AU's DTaaS	Open source	H	H	L	L	M	M

Adopted by Tanusree Roy from Table 4 and 5 of the following paper.

Ref: Naseri, F., Gil, S., Barbu, C., Cetkin, E., Yarimca, G., Jensen, A. C., ... & Gomes, C. (2023). Digital twin of electric vehicle battery systems: Comprehensive review of the use cases, requirements, and platforms. Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews, 179, 113280.

**All the comparisons between DT platforms seems so confusing. Why?**

The fundamental confusion comes from the fact that different DT platforms (Azure DT, GE Predix) provide different kind of DT capabilities. You can run all kinds of models natively in GE Predix. In fact you can run models even next to (on) PTs using GE Predix. But you cannot natively do that in Azure DT service. You have to do the leg work of integrating with other Azure services or third-party services to get the kind of capabilities that GE Predix natively provides in one interface. The takeaway is that we pick horses for the courses.

5. Developer

5.1 Developers Guide

This guide is to help developers get familiar with the project. Please see developer-specific [Slides](#), [Video](#), and [Research paper](#).

5.1.1 Development Environment

Ideally, developers should work on Ubuntu/Linux. Other operating systems are not supported inherently and may require additional steps.

To start with, install the required software and git-hooks.

```
1 bash script/env.sh
2 bash script/configure-git-hooks.sh
```

The git-hooks will ensure that your commits are formatted correctly and that the tests pass before you push the commits to remote repositories.

Be aware that the tests may take a long time to run. If you want to skip the tests or formatting, you can use the `--no-verify` flag on `git commit` or `git push`. Please use this option with care.

There is a script to download all the docker containers used in the project. You can download them using

```
1 bash script/docker.sh
```

⚠ The docker images are large and are likely to consume about 5GB of bandwidth and 15GB of space. You will have to download the docker images on a really good network.

5.1.2 Development Workflow

To manage collaboration by multiple developers on the software, a development workflow is in place. Each developer should follow these steps:

1. Fork of the main repository into your github account.
2. Setup [Code Climate](#) and [Codecov](#) for your fork. The codecov does not require secret token for public repositories.
3. Install git-hooks for the project.
4. Use [Fork](#), [Branch](#), [PR](#) workflow.
5. Work in your fork and open a PR from your working branch to your `feature/distributed-demo` branch. The PR will run all the github actions, code climate and codecov checks.
6. Resolve all the issues identified in the previous step.
7. If you have access to the [integration server](#), try your working branch on the integration server.
8. Once changes are verified, a PR should be made to the `feature/distributed-demo` branch of the upstream [DTaaS repository](#).
9. The PR will be merged after checks by either the project administrators or the maintainers.

Remember that every PR should be meaningful and satisfies a well-defined user story or improve the code quality.

5.1.3 🧐 Code Quality

The project code qualities are measured based on:

- Linting issues identified by [Code Climate](#)
- Test coverage report collected by [Codecov](#)
- Successful [github actions](#)

Code Climate

Code Climate performs static analysis, linting and style checks. Quality checks are performed by codeclimate are to ensure the best possible quality of code to add to our project.

While any new issues introduced in your code would be shown in the PR page itself, to address any specific issue, you can visit the issues or code section of the codeclimate page.

It is highly recommended that any code you add does not introduce new quality issues. If they are introduced, they should be fixed immediately using the appropriate suggestions from Code Climate, or in worst case, adding a ignore flag (To be used with caution).

Codecov

Codecov keeps track of the test coverage for the entire project. For information about testing and workflow related to that, please see the [testing page](#).

Github Actions

The project has multiple [github actions](#) defined. All PRs and direct code commits must have successful status on github actions.

5.2 System

5.2.1 System Overview

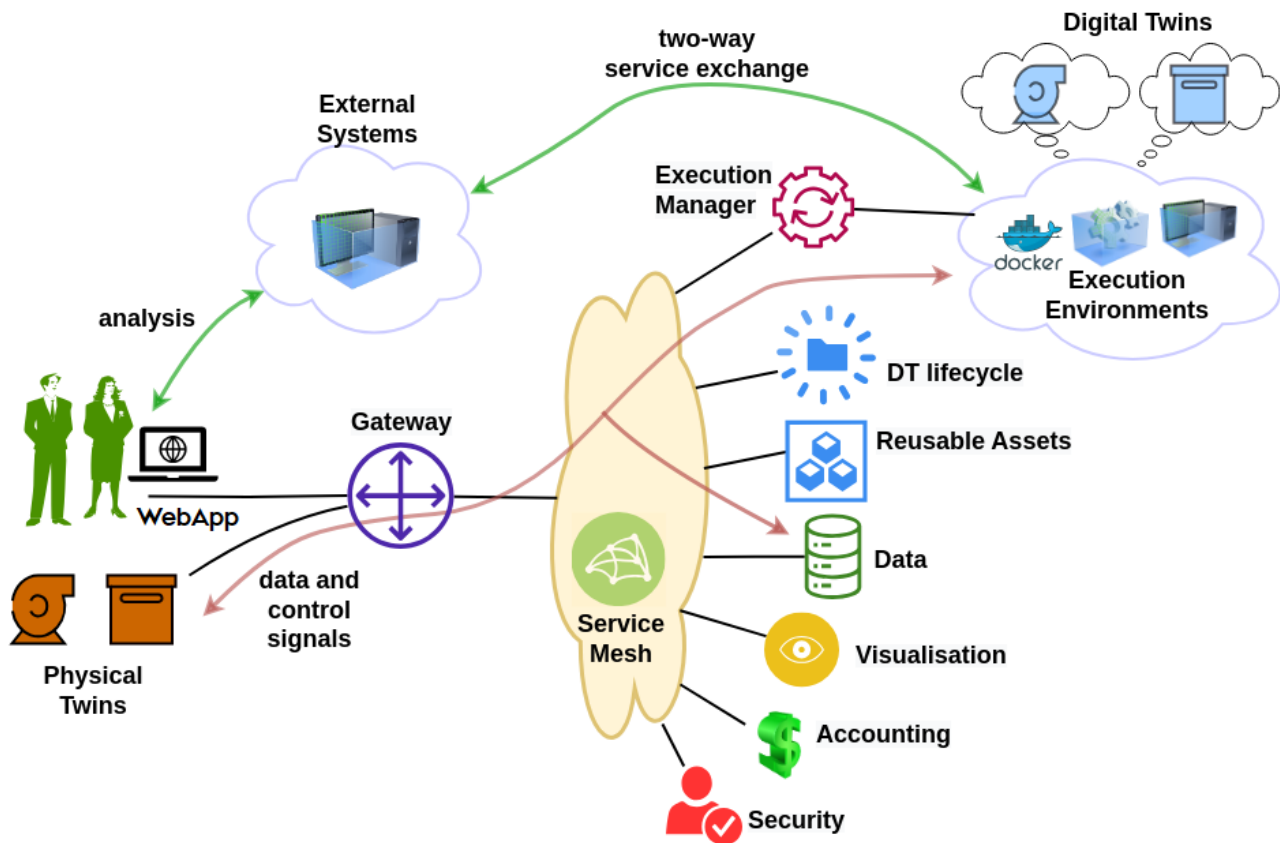
User Requirements

The DTaaS software platform users expect a single platform to support the complete DT lifecycle. To be more precise, the platform users expect the following features:

1. **Author** - create different assets of the DT on the platform itself. This step requires use of some software frameworks and tools whose sole purpose is to author DT assets.
2. **Consolidate** - consolidate the list of available DT assets and authoring tools so that user can navigate the library of reusable assets. This functionality requires support for discovery of available assets.
3. **Configure** - support selection and configuration of DTs. This functionality also requires support for validation of a given configuration.
4. **Execute** - provision computing infrastructure on demand to support execution of a DT.
5. **Explore** - interact with a DT and explore the results stored both inside and outside the platform. Exploration may lead to analytical insights.
6. **Save** - save the state of a DT that's already in the execution phase. This functionality is required for on demand saving and re-spawning of DTs.
7. **What-if analysis** - explore alternative scenarios to (i) plan for an optimal next step, (ii) recalibrate new DT assets, (iii) automated creation of new DTs or their assets; these newly created DT assets may be used to perform scientifically valid experiments.
8. **Share** - share a DT with other users of their organisation.

System Architecture

The figure shows the system architecture of the the DTaaS software platform.



SYSTEM COMPONENTS

The users interact with the software platform using a website. The gateway is a single point of entry for direct access to the platform services. The gateway is responsible for controlling user access to the microservice components. The service mesh enables discovery of microservices, load balancing and authentication functionalities.

In addition, there are microservices for catering to author, store, explore, configure, execute and scenario analysis requirements. The microservices are complementary and composable; they fulfil core requirements of the system.

The microservices responsible for satisfying the user requirements are:

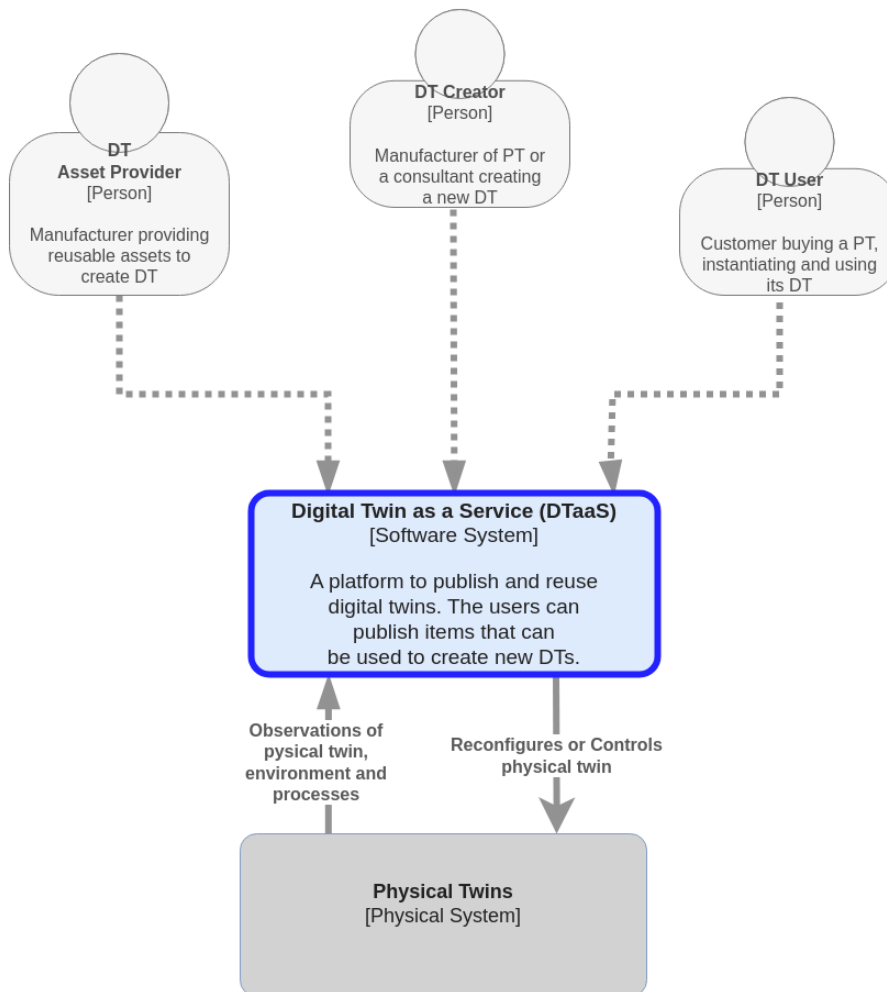
1. **The security microservice** implements role-based access control (RBAC) in the platform.
2. **The accounting microservice** is responsible for keeping track of the platform, DT asset and infrastructure usage. Any licensing, usage restrictions need to be enforced by the accounting microservice. Accounting is a pre-requisite to commercialisation of the platform. Due to significant use of external infrastructure and resources via the platform, the accounting microservice needs to interface with accounting systems of the external services.
3. **The data microservice** is a frontend to all the databases integrated into the platform. A time-series database and a graph database are essential. These two databases store timeseries data from PT, events on PT/DT, commands sent by DT to PT. The PTs uses these databases even when their respective DTs are not in the execute phase.
4. **The visualisation microservice** is again a frontend to visualisation software that are natively supported inside the platform. Any visualisation software running either on external systems or on client browsers do not need to interact with this microservice. They can directly use the data provided by the data microservice.

C4 Architectural Diagrams

The C4 architectural diagrams of the DTaaS software are presented here.

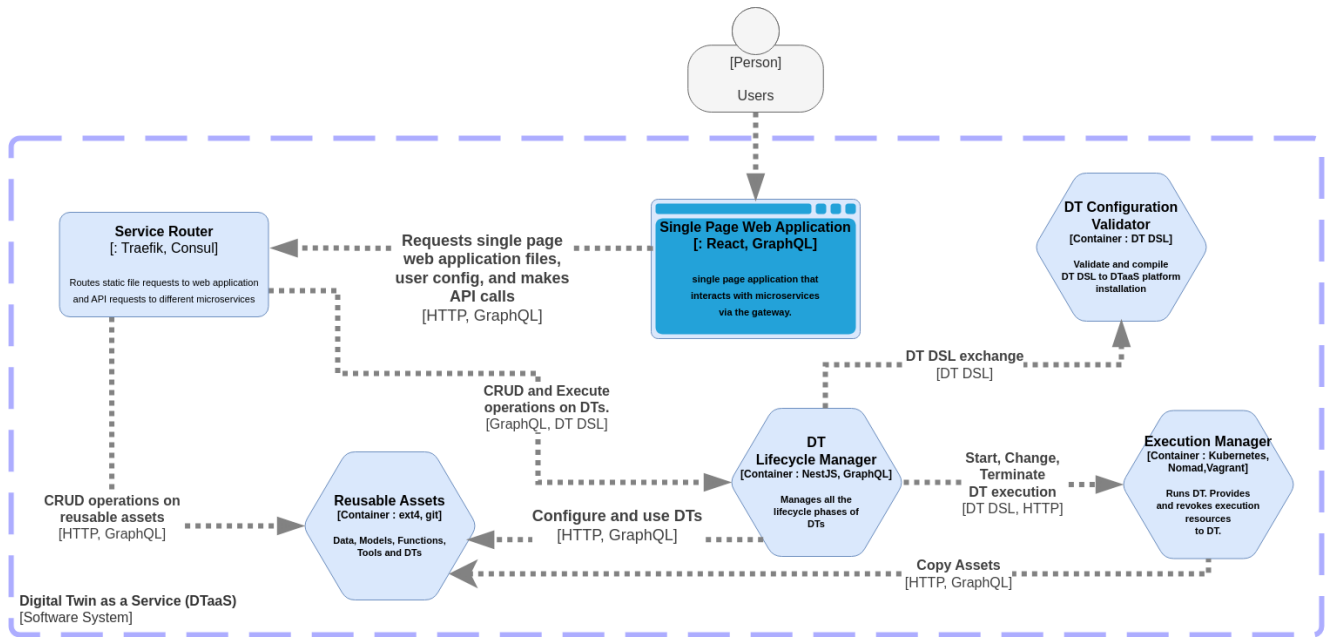
LEVEL 1

This Level 1 diagram only shows the users and the roles they play in the DTaaS software.



LEVEL 2

This simplified version of Level 2 diagram shows the software containers of the DTaaS software.



If you are interested, please take a look at the [detailed diagram](#).

Please note that the given diagram only covers DT Lifecycle, Reusable Assets and Execution Manager.

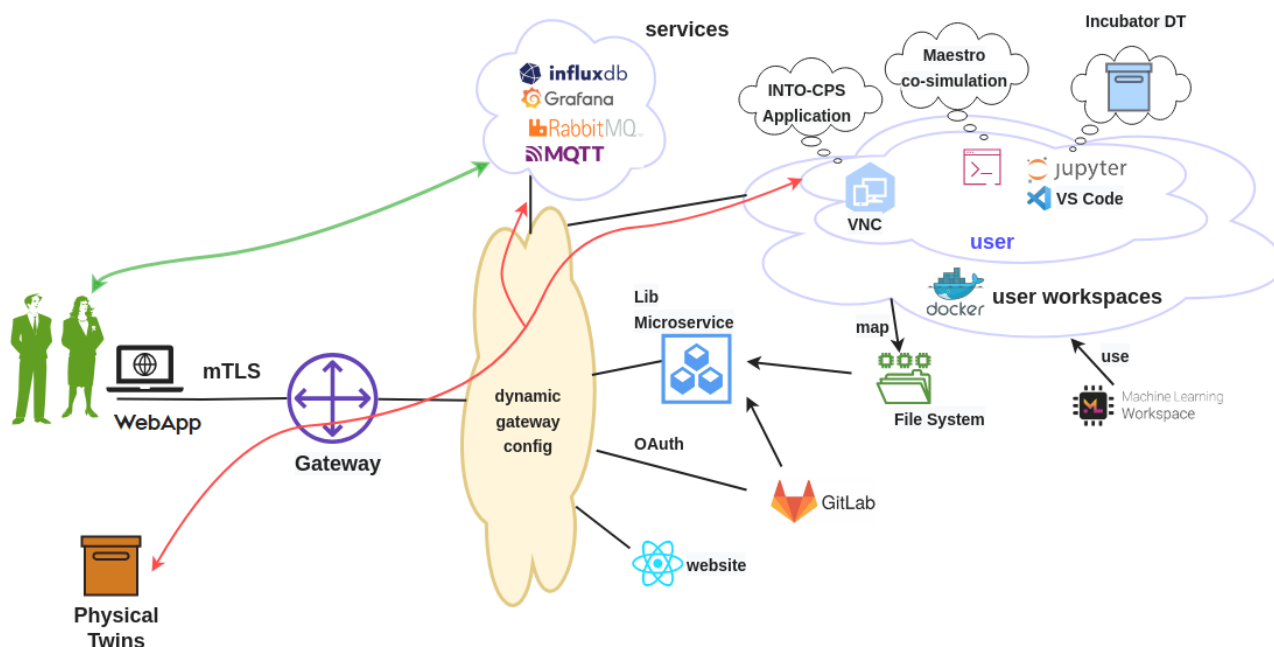
Mapping

A mapping of the C4 level 2 containers to components identified in the system architecture is also available in the table.

System Component	Container(s)
Gateway	Traefik Gateway
Unified Interface	React Webapplication
Reusable Assets	Library Microservice
Data	MQTT, InfluxDB, and RabbitMQ (not shown in the C4 Level 2 diagram)
Visualization	InfluxDB (not shown in the C4 Level 2 diagram)
DT Lifecycle	DT Lifecycle Manager and DT Configuration Validator
Security	Gitlab OAuth
Accounting	None
Execution Manager	Execution Manager

5.2.2 Current Status

The DTaaS software platform is currently under development. Crucial system components are in place with ongoing development work focusing on increased automation and feature enhancement. The figure below shows the current status of the development work.



User Security

There is authentication mechanisms in place for the react website and the Traefik gateway.

The react website component uses Gitlab for user authentication using OAuth protocol.

GATEWAY AUTHENTICATION

The Traefik gateway has HTTP basic authentication enabled by default. This authentication on top of HTTPS connection can provide a good protection against unauthorized use.

Warning

Please note that HTTP basic authentication over insecure non-TLS is insecure.

There is also a possibility of using self-signed mTLS certificates. The current security functionality is based on signed Transport Layer Security (TLS) certificates issued to users. The TLS certificate based mutual TLS (mTLS) authentication protocol provides better security than the usual username and password combination. The mTLS authentication takes place between the users browser and the platform gateway. The gateway federates all the backend services. The service discovery, load balancing, and health checks are carried by the gateway based on a dynamic reconfiguration mechanism.

Note

The mTLS is not enabled in the default install. Please use the scripts in `ssl/` directory to generate the required certificates for users and Traefik gateway.

User Workspaces

All users have dedicated dockerized-workspaces. These docker-images are based on container images published by [mltooling group](#).

Thus DT experts can develop DTs from existing DT components and share them with other users. A file server has been setup to act as a DT asset repository. Each user gets space to store private DT assets and also gets access to shared DT assets. Users can synchronize their private DT assets with external git repositories. In addition, the asset repository transparently gets mapped to user workspaces within which users can perform DT lifecycle operations. There is also a [library microservice](#) which in the long-run will replace the file server.

Users can run DTs in their workspaces and also permit remote access to other users. There is already shared access to internal and external services. With these two provisions, users can treat live DTs as service components in their own software systems.

Platform Services

There are four external services integrated with the DTaaS software platform. They are: [InfluxDB](#), [Grafana](#), [RabbitMQ](#) and [MQTT](#).

These services can be used by DTs and PTs for communication, storing and visualization of data. There can also be monitoring services setup based on these services.

Development Priorities

The development priorities for the DTaaS software development team are:

- [DT Runner](#) (API Interface to DT)
- Multi-user and microservice security
- Increased automation of installation procedures
- DT Configuration DSL in the form of YAML schema
- UI for DT creation
- DT examples

Your contributions and collaboration are highly welcome.

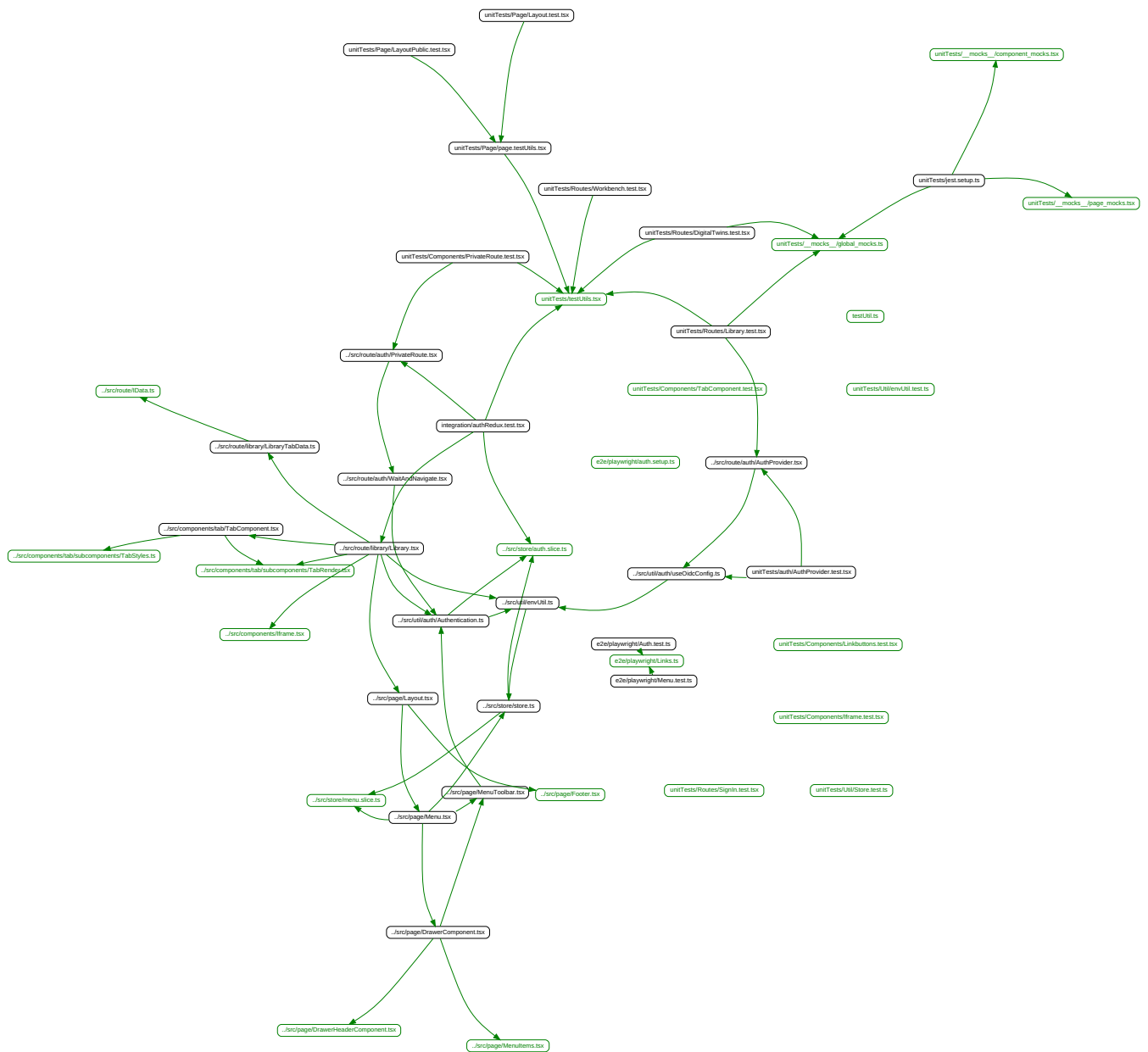
The [Website](#) is how the end-users interact with the software platform. The website is being developed as a React single page web application.

Dependency Graphs

SRC DIRECTORY



TEST DIRECTORY



5.3.2 Library Microservice

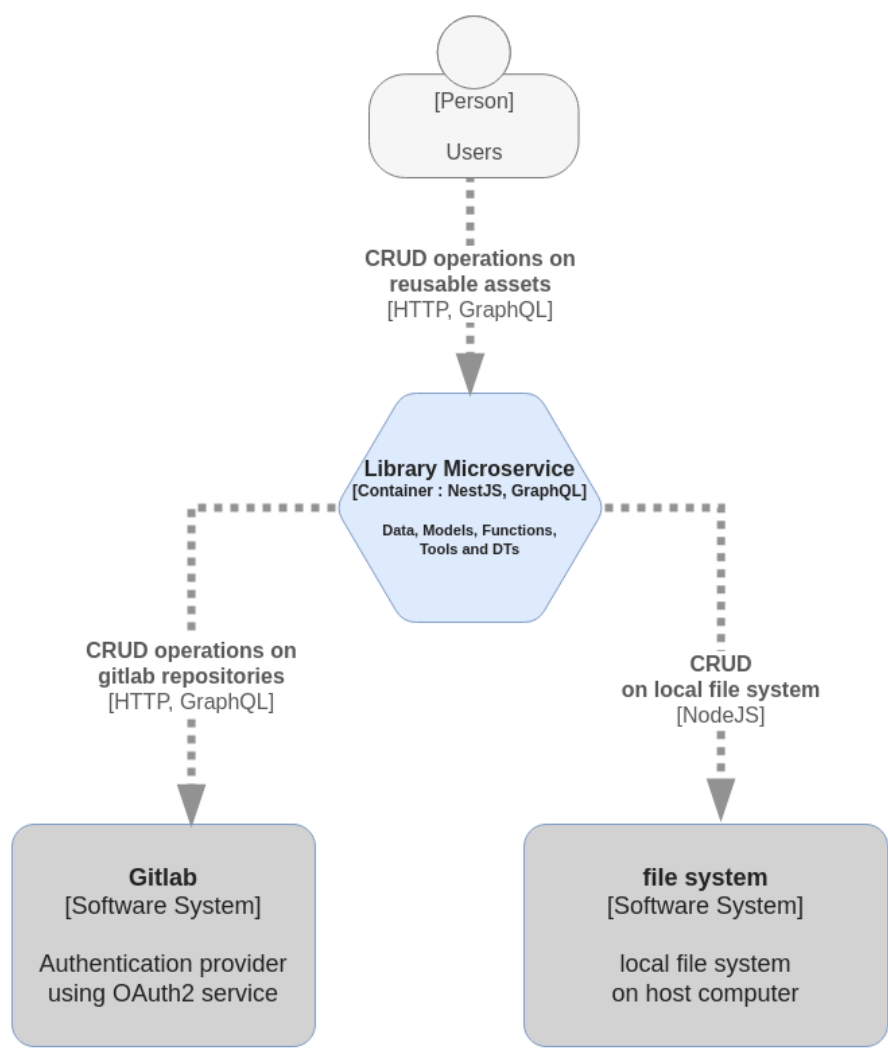
The [Library Microservices](#) - provides users with access to files in user workspaces via API. This microservice will interface with local file system and Gitlab to provide uniform Gitlab-compliant API access to files.

Warning

This microservice is still under heavy development. It is still not a good replacement for file server we are using now.

Architecture and Design

The C4 level 2 diagram of this microservice is:



The GraphQL API provided by the library microservice shall be compliant with the Gitlab GraphQL service.

UML Diagrams

CLASS DIAGRAM

```
classDiagram
class FilesResolver {
```

```

-filesystem: IFileService
+listDirectory(path: string): Promise<Project>
+readFile(path: string): Promise<Project>
}

class FileServiceFactory {
  -configService: ConfigService
  -gitlabFileService: GitlabFileService
  -localFileService: LocalFileService
  +create(): IFileService
}

class GitlabFileService {
  -configService: ConfigService
  -parseArguments(path: string): Promise<domain: string; parsedPath: string>
  -sendRequest(query: string): Promise<Project>
  -executeQuery(path: string, getQuery: QueryFunction): Promise<Project>
  +listDirectory(path: string): Promise<Project>
  +readFile(path: string): Promise<Project>
}

class LocalFileService {
  -configService: ConfigService
  -getFileStats(fullPath: string, file: string): Promise<Project>
  +listDirectory(path: string): Promise<Project>
  +readFile(path: string): Promise<Project>
}

class ConfigService {
  +get(propertyPath: string): any
}

class IFileService{
  listDirectory(path: string): Promise<Project>
  readFile(path: string): Promise<Project>
}

IFileService <|-- FileResolver: uses
IFileService <|.. GitlabFileService: implements
IFileService <|.. LocalFileService: implements
IFileService <|-- FileServiceFactory: creates
ConfigService <|-- FileServiceFactory: uses
ConfigService <|-- GitlabFileService: uses
ConfigService <|-- LocalFileService: uses

```

SEQUENCE DIAGRAM

```

sequenceDiagram
    actor Client
    actor Traefik

    box LightGreen Library Microservice
        participant FR as FileResolver
        participant FSF as FileServiceFactory
        participant CS as ConfigService
        participant IFS as IFileService
        participant LFS as LocalFileService
        participant GFS as GitlabFileService
    end

    participant FS as Local File System DB
    participant GAPI as GitLab API DB

    Client ->> Traefik : HTTP request
    Traefik ->> FR : GraphQL query
    activate FR

    FR ->> FSF : create()
    activate FSF

    FSF ->> CS : getConfiguration("MODE")
    activate CS

    CS -->> FSF : return configuration value
    deactivate CS

    alt MODE = Local
        FSF ->> FR : return fileService (LFS)
        deactivate FSF

    FR ->> IFS : listDirectory(path) or readFile(path)
    activate IFS

    IFS ->> LFS : listDirectory(path) or readFile(path)
    activate LFS

    LFS ->> CS : getConfiguration("LOCAL_PATH")
    activate CS

    CS -->> LFS : return local path
    deactivate CS

    LFS ->> FS : Access filesystem

```

```

alt Filesystem error
  FS -->> LFS : Filesystem error
  LFS --> LFS : Throw new InternalServerErrorException
  LFS -->> IFS : Error
else Successful file operation
  FS -->> LFS : Return filesystem data
  LFS --> IFS : return Promise<Project>
end
deactivate LFS
else MODE = GitLab
  FSF --> FR : return filesService (GFS)
  %%deactivate FSF

FR --> IFS : listDirectory(path) or readFile(path)
activate IFS

IFS --> GFS : listDirectory(path) or readFile(path)
activate GFS

GFS --> GFS : parseArguments(path)
GFS --> GFS : executeQuery()

GFS --> CS : getConfiguration("GITLAB_API_URL", "GITLAB_TOKEN")
activate CS

CS -->> GFS : return GitLab API URL and Token
deactivate CS

GFS --> GAPI : sendRequest()
alt GitLab API error
  GAPI -->> GFS : API error
  GFS --> GFS : Throw new Error("Invalid query")
  GFS -->> IFS : Error
else Successful GitLab API operation
  GAPI -->> GFS : Return API response
  GFS --> IFS : return Promise<Project>
end
deactivate GFS
end

alt Error thrown
IFS --> FR : return Error
deactivate IFS
FR --> Traefik : return Error
Traefik --> Client : HTTP error response
else Successful operation
IFS --> FR : return Promise<Project>
deactivate IFS
FR --> Traefik : return Promise<Project>
Traefik --> Client : HTTP response
end

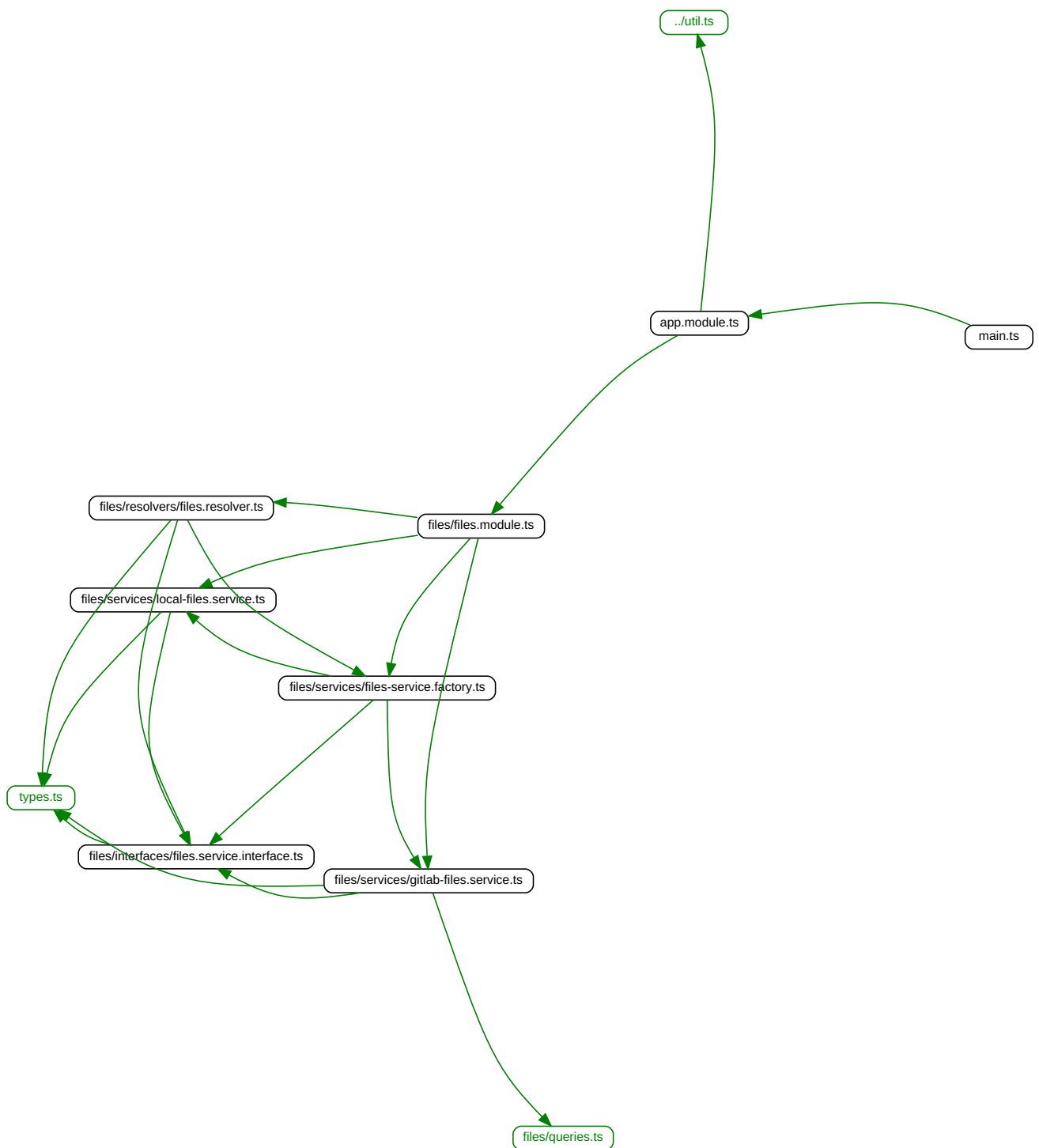
deactivate FR

```

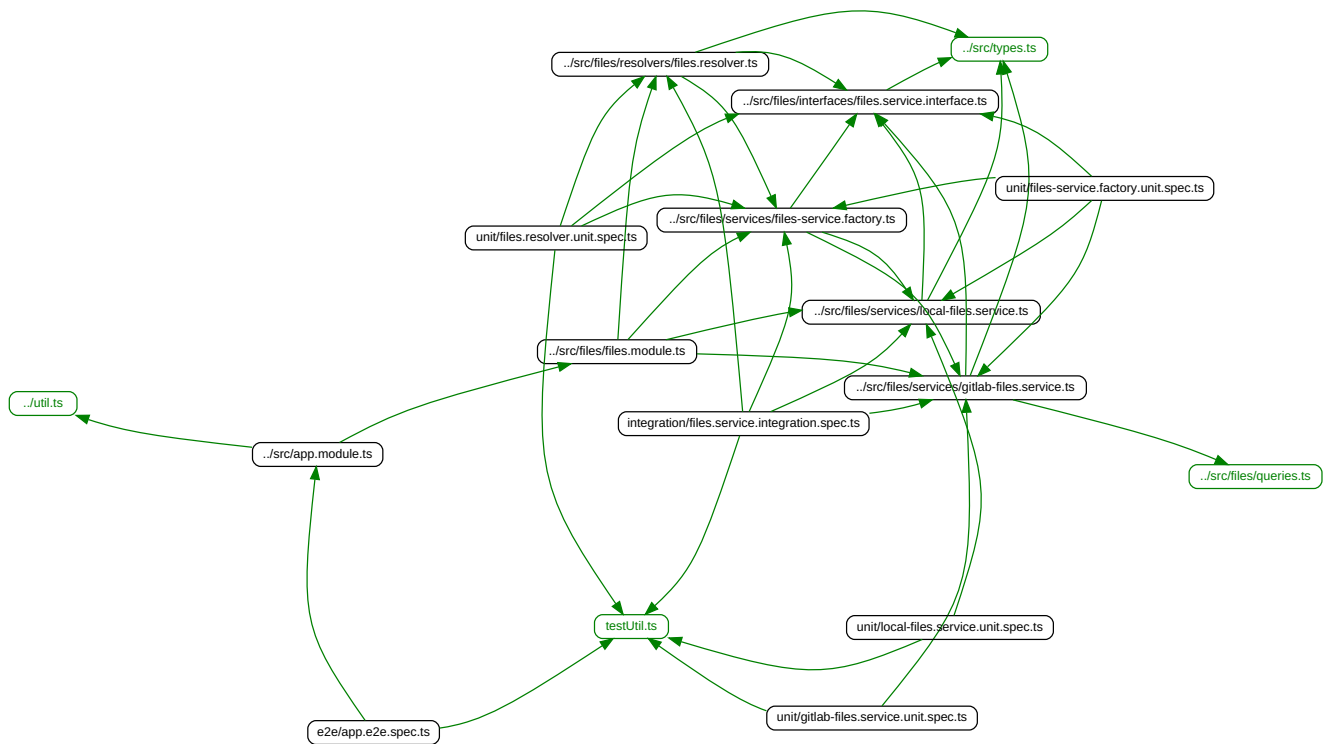
Dependency Graphs

The figures are the dependency graphs generated from the code.

SRC DIRECTORY



TEST DIRECTORY



5.4 Testing

5.4.1 ? Common Questions on Testing

What is Software Testing

Software testing is a procedure to investigate the quality of a software product in different scenarios. It can also be stated as the process of verifying and validating that a software program or application works as expected and meets the business and technical requirements that guided design and development.

Why Software Testing

Software testing is required to point out the defects and errors that were made during different development phases. Software testing also ensures that the product under test works as expected in all different cases – stronger the test suite, stronger is our confidence in the product that we have built. One important benefit of software testing is that it facilitates the developers to make incremental changes to source code and make sure that the current changes are not breaking the functionality of the previously existing code.

What is TDD

TDD stands for **Test Driven Development**. It is a software development process that relies on the repetition of a very short development cycle: first the developer writes an (initially failing) automated test case that defines a desired improvement or new function, then produces the minimum amount of code to pass that test, and finally refactors the new code to acceptable standards. The goal of TDD can be viewed as specification and not validation. In other words, it's one way to think through your requirements or design before you write your functional code.

What is BDD

BDD stands for “Behaviour Driven Development”. It is a software development process that emerged from TDD. It includes the practice of writing tests first, but focuses on tests which describe behavior, rather than tests which test a unit of implementation. This provides software development and management teams with shared tools and a shared process to collaborate on software development. BDD is largely facilitated through the use of a simple domain-specific language (DSL) using natural language constructs (e.g., English-like sentences) that can express the behavior and the expected outcomes. Mocha and Cucumber testing libraries are built around the concepts of BDD.

5.4.2 🏗️ Testing workflow

We follow a testing workflow in accordance with [The Test Pyramid](#), starting with isolated tests and moving towards complete integration for any new feature changes. The different types of tests (in the order that they should be performed) are explained below:

Unit Tests

Unit testing is a level of software testing where individual units/ components of a software are tested. The objective of Unit Testing is to isolate a section of code and verify its correctness.

Ideally, each test case is independent from the others. Substitutes such as method stubs, mock objects, and spies can be used to assist testing a module in isolation.

BENEFITS OF UNIT TESTING

- Unit testing increases confidence in changing/ maintaining code. If good unit tests are written and if they are run every time any code is changed, we will be able to promptly catch any defects introduced due to the change.
- If codes are already made less interdependent to make unit testing possible, the unintended impact of changes to any code is less.

- The cost, in terms of time, effort and money, of fixing a defect detected during unit testing is lesser in comparison to that of defects detected at higher levels.

UNIT TESTS IN DTAAAS

Each component DTaaS project uses unique technology stack. Thus the packages used for unit tests are different. Please check the `test/` directory of a component to figure out the unit test packages used.

Integration tests

Integration testing is the phase in software testing in which individual software modules are combined and tested as a group. In DTaaS, we use an [integration server](#) for software development as well as such tests.

The existing integration tests are done at the component level. There are no integration tests between the components. This task has been postponed to future.

End-to-End tests

Testing any code changes through the end user interface of your software is essential to verify if your code has the desired effect for the user. [End-to-End tests in DTaaS](#) a functional setup. For more information [visit here](#).

There are end-to-end tests in the DTaaS. This task has been postponed to future.

Feature Tests

A Software feature can be defined as the changes made in the system to add new functionality or modify the existing functionality. Each feature is said to have a characteristics that is designed to be useful, intuitive and effective. It is important to test a new feature when it has been added. We also need to make sure that it does not break the functionality of already existing features. Hence feature tests prove to be useful.

The DTaaS project does not have any feature tests yet. [Cucumber](#) shall be used in future to implement feature tests.

6. Few issues in the Software

6.1 Some limitations

- The complete DTaaS software requires multiple docker containers and one client website. All of these can work together only on a server with a proper domain name. The complete application does not work on localhost.

6.2 Third-Party Software

- We use third-party software which have certain known issues. Some of the issues are listed below.

6.2.1 ML Workspace

- the docker container loses network connectivity after three days. The only known solution is to restart the docker container. You don't need to restart the complete DTaaS platform, restart of the docker container of ml-workspace is sufficient.
- the terminal tool doesn't seem to have the ability to refresh itself. If there is an issue, the only solution is to close and reopen the terminal from "open tools" drop down of notebook
- terminal app does not show at all after some time: terminal always comes if it is open from drop-down menu of Jupyter Notebook, but not as a direct link.

6.3 Gitlab

- The gitlab oauth authentication service does not have a way to sign out of a third-party application. Even if you sign out of DTaaS, the gitlab still shows user as signed in. The next time you click on the sign in button on the DTaaS page, user is not shown the login page. Instead user is directly taken to the **Library** page. So close the browser window after you are done. Another way to overcome this limitation is to open your gitlab instance (<https://gitlab.foo.com>) and signout from there. Thus user needs to sign out of two places, namely DTaaS and gitlab, in order to completely exit the DTaaS application.

7. Contributors

[code contributors](#)

7.1 Users

Cláudio Ângelo Gonçalves Gomes, Dmitri Tcherniak, Elif Ecem Bas, Giuseppe Abbiati, Hao Feng, Henrik Ejersbo, Tanusree Roy, Farshid Naseri

7.2 Documentation

1. Talasila, P., Gomes, C., Mikkelsen, P. H., Arboleda, S. G., Kamburjan, E., & Larsen, P. G. (2023). Digital Twin as a Service (DTaaS): A Platform for Digital Twin Developers and Users [arXiv preprint arXiv:2305.07244](#).
2. Astitva Sehgal
3. Tanusree Roy
4. Farshid Naseri

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