A Method for Creating and Maintaining an Inventory of an Institution's Scientific Data

The problem:

 Scientific institutions archive massive amounts of data, much of it only known about by a single project.

The goal:

 Make all the archived data discoverable and accessible by everyone at the institution.





The Parts of our Method and the Tools They Use

- DataIngest/data_inventory
 - Accesses the data archives and populates the inventory database
 - Uses: LAMP (Linux, Apache, MySQL and PHP)
- The Data Inventory restful web API
 - Provides a restful application interface into the inventory DB
 - Uses: LAMP and the "slim" rest framework
- The search CIRA Data web application
 - Uses the the data inventory web API to search the inventory for specific data files
 - Uses: PHP, jQuery(javascript) and AJAX

The Development Tools

- Zend Studio
 - Eclipse with the PHP Development Tools plugin
 - Includes a javaScript editor, PHPunit and a PHP debugger
- Subversion for revision control
- phpMyAdmin: A web GUI for MySQL Administration



DataIngest: the first part of DataIngest/data_inventory

- Purpose: To ingest the files from any data collection or analysis project and to add the files' metadata to any database
- Loads metadata obtained from a client project's path names into a database
- Optionally moves the files to specified directories
- Highly configurable: Uses configuration files to specify how the data files' metadata is obtained, and how to add it to a DB
- Caveat: All the metadata needed for the DB must be available from the file path names

Data_inventory: the second part of DataIngest/data_inventory

- The DataIngest configuration environment for populating the data inventory database
- Just a directory that contains configuration files
 - It contains the database configuration file config.xml and the product configuration files
 - The DataIngest executables run in this directory



DataIngest/data_inventory

DataIngest — config.xml product1.xml product2.xml





The data_ingest DB Fields

collections:
 collection name
 public/private flag
 notes

products:
 product name
 description

product_versions:
 product version
 (e.g. 006 or P2_R04)
 public/private flag
 notes

files:
 file name
 file location
 start time
 end time
 file size
 time inventoried





A Product Configuration File

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
cproduct xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance" xsi:noNamespaceSchemaLocation="product.xsd">
  <!-- TMI.3B.GPR10.V1.20130101.BIN.gz -->
  <codedname><![CDATA[TMI.3B.GPR10.<c*(version)>.<0i6><0d>.BIN.gz]]></codedname>
  <full ingest day of month>
    23^{\overline{}}
  </full ingest day of month>
  <input dirs>
    <from><![CDATA[ftp://rain.atmos.colostate.edu/RAINMAP10v2/data/tmi/<Y>/<0i2><0M>]]></from>
  </input dirs>
  < !-- valid for this product, same for every file -->
    <field name="public">1</field> <!-- Yes, public -->
    <field name="cnotes">TRMM does not have collections in the way CloudSat does, so one is created for all of TRMM.</field>
    <field name="vnotes">See http://rain.atmos.colostate.edu/RAINMAP10</field>
    <field name="collection">TRMM</field>
    <field name="prodname">TMI Rainfall</field>
    <field name="proddescr">TMI Rainfall</field>
  <file fields> <!-- different for every file. Product specific - include constant values for the product -->
    <field name="prodversion">[version]</field>
    <field name="end datetime" modify="add 86400">[Y]-[0M]-[0d] [0H]:[0m]:[0s]</field>
  </file fields>
```





A Coded File Name





A Coded Input Directory





The Product Fields

```
cproduct>
 file -->
   <field name="public">1</field> <!-- Yes, public -->
   <field name="collection">TRMM</field>
   <field name="prodname">TMI Rainfall</field>
   <field name="proddescr">TMI Rainfall</field>
 </product fields>
</product>
```





The File Fields





The Database Configuration File

- The database name
- The database credentials
- The list of common DB field names
 - Specific to the target DB and are the same for every file
- The list of file fields
 - DB specific and different for every file
- The DB querys that specify, in sql, how metadata are added to the DB



The DB File Fields

```
<config>
  <database name="data inventory">
    <file fields> <!-- different for every file. DB specific only.
                     The same for every product -->
       <field name="productid" modify="sql" noresult="insert product">
         select productid from products where products.prodname='{prodname}'
       </field>
       <field name="filename">{filename}</field>
       <field name="start datetime">[Y]-[0M]-[0d] [0H]:[0m]:[0s]</field>
    </file fields>
  </database>
</config>
```





The DB Query Fields

```
<queries>
  <query tag="insert product">
    <sql result="productid">
       insert into products set prodname='{prodname}', proddescr='{proddescr}'
    </sql>
  </query>
  <query tag="insertfile">
    <sql result="fileid">
       insert into files set filename='{filename}',
        product versionid='{product versionid}', filelocation='{filelocation}',
        start time='{start datetime}', end time='{end datetime}',
        volume='{volume}', creation time='{creation time}'
    </sql>
  </query>
</queries>
```





The Data Inventory Restful WEB API

- Provides a restful application interface into the data_inventory DB
- Written in PHP
- Uses the "slim" framework
 - Slim is a PHP micro framework that helps you quickly write simple yet powerful web applications and APIs http://www.slimframework.com
- Based on Brian Mulloy's web book
 - http://info.apigee.com/Portals/62317/docs/web %20api.pdf

Data Inventory API Examples

- Products
 - List all: GET /products
 - Get a product: GET /products/{productId}
- Files
 - List the files for a product:
 - GET /product/{productId}/files
 - Get file details:
 - GET /files/{fileId}





The search CIRA Data web application

- Uses the the data inventory web API to search the inventory for specific data files
- Dynamically displays hierarchal lists of the collections, products and files
- Allows the user to select a subset of the items at each level
 - Uses: PHP, jQuery(javascript) and AJAX



The search CIRA Data app tools

- PHP for the server side initialization
- jQuery(javascript) for most of the UI
- AJAX to make the data_inventory API calls



Summary

- Successfully inventoried, and continuing to inventory, a significant amount of the satellite data archived at CIRA
 - Will inventory more data sets and more types of data
- Implemented a partial restful API for accessing the inventory
 - Will implement additional resources and search parameters
 - Will make the API accessible to all of CIRA
- Implemented a prototype web app that uses the API and allows a user to search the inventory
 - We might add features and make it more usable
 - We will provide documentation and training to help other CIRA developers write their own applications



