EDM to CS-Studio conversion at Diamond Light Source

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(thanks to Matthew Furseman for slides)



Starting point

- We've used EDM since Diamond started
- It is stable and we have been happy with its performance
- It is a bit quirky
- We have multiple thousand screens in use



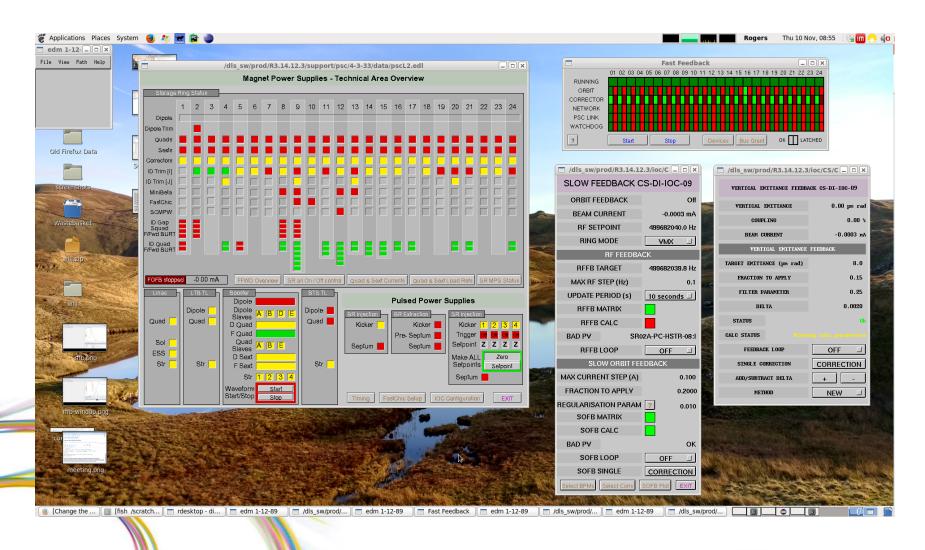


Motivation for moving from EDM to CS-Studio

- EDM is nearing end of life
- EDM's libraries are being phased out.
- EDM is supported by one person, CS-Studio has community support due to use at many sites.
- We could benefit from the rest of the infrastructure that CS-Studio provides, such as BEAST on beamlines and V4 compatibility.
- Potential to integrate into DAWN and GDA; Diamond's data analysis and data acquisition software is also built on Eclipse RCP.

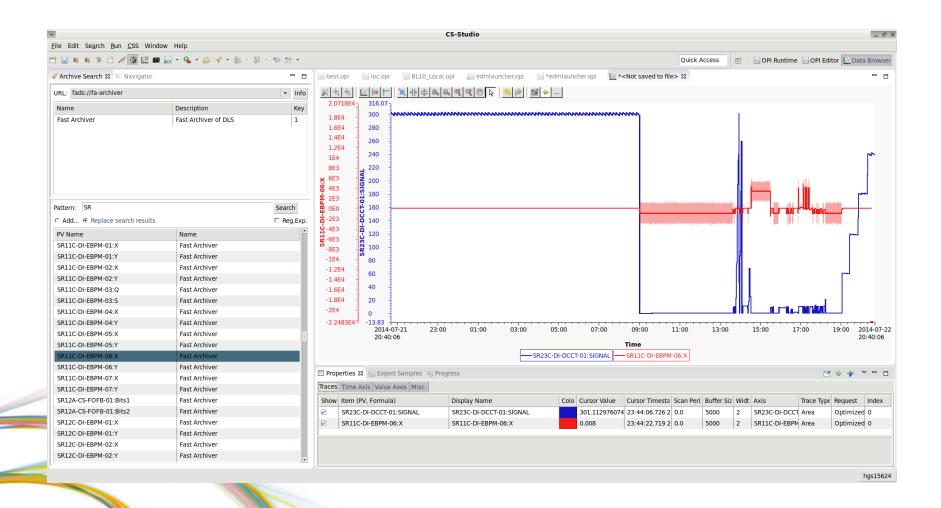


EDM





CS-Studio





Aside: philosophy of conversion

Guiding principle:

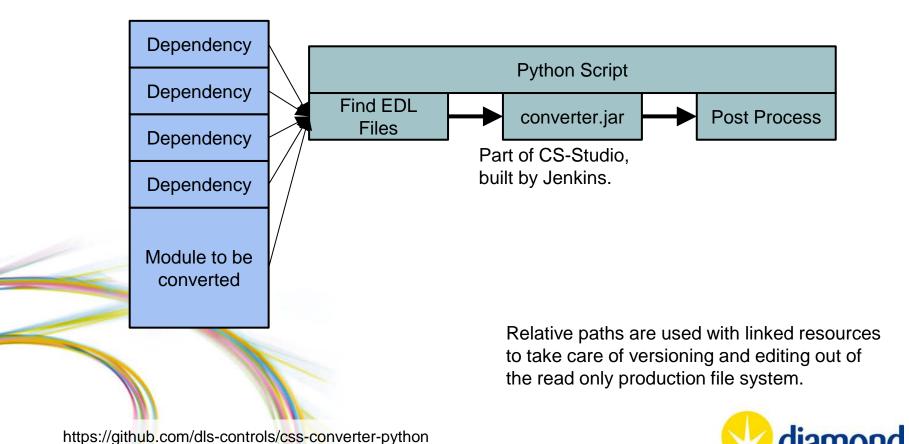
Provide the operators with a familiar environment

- 1. One EDM screen to one CS-Studio screen
 - A converter was already available
- 2. Standalone windows
 - Operators can keep their layouts
- 3. Keep up-to-date with the collaboration
 - This takes time and effort
- 4. Never try to format anything in Powerpoint



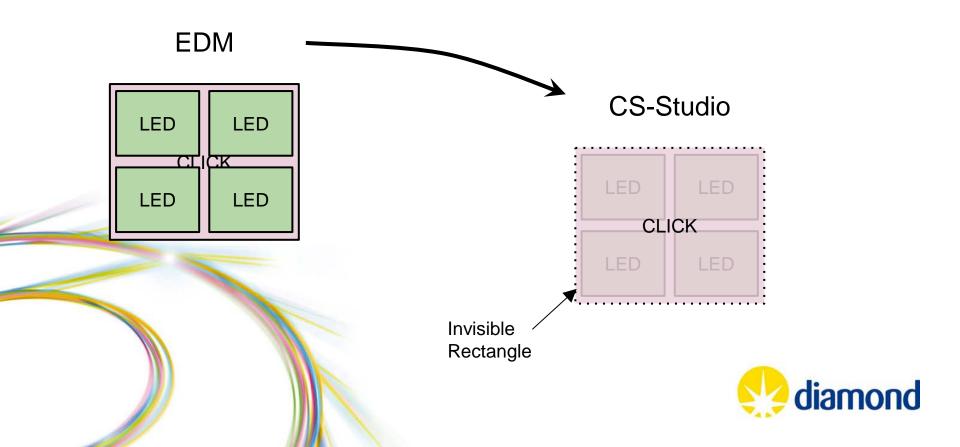
Overview of conversion process

Checkout module to be converted. Script checks configure/* for dependencies and also checks out dependent module tree.



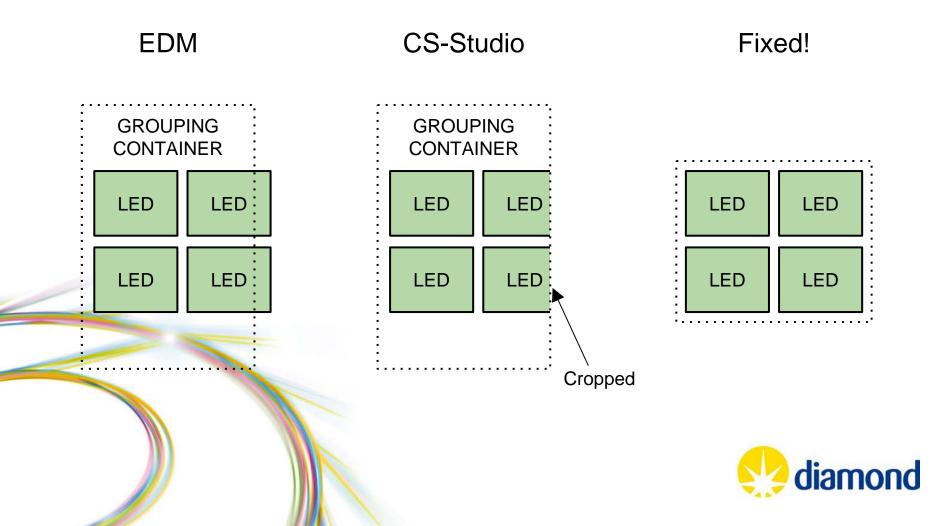
Post processing: Click ordering

Widgets must be on the top of the stack to be clickable in CS-Studio but not in EDM. Recreate clicks on the top attached to an invisible rectangle.



Post processing: Grouping containers

Extend grouping container boundaries to include all widgets.



Post processing

- The above clicks and groups
- Convert EDL symbol files for DLS symbol widget.
- Swap some fonts and sizes to improve legibility.
- Tweak colours to keep antialiased fonts legible.

Must 'infer' what the designer wants Results in some manual corrections





Many small issues we have overcome

- Can't create local Enum PVs.
- Escaping quotes in external command line calls
- Unsigned data in intensity graph
- Missing grid lines in XY-Graph
- Keeping specific OPI files bound to a view when changing perspective and restarting
- Many many more...

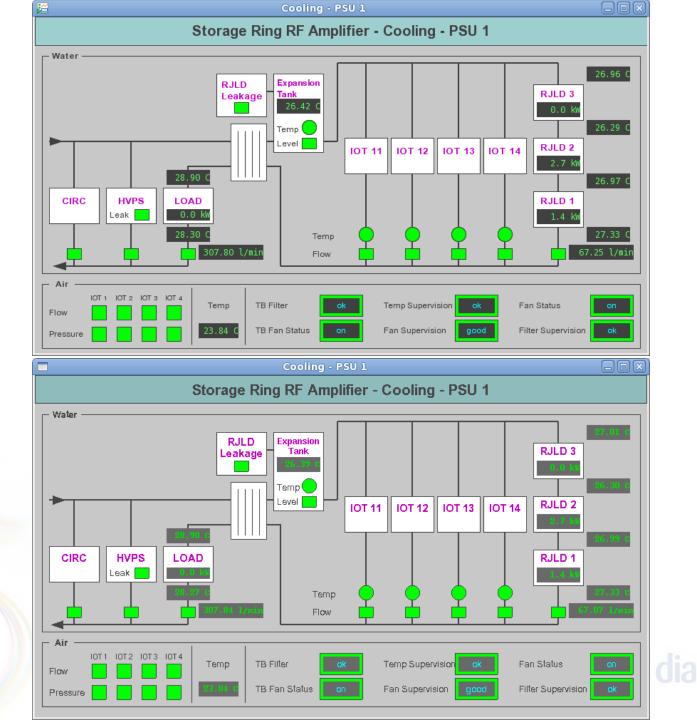


Some more small issues yet to be overcome

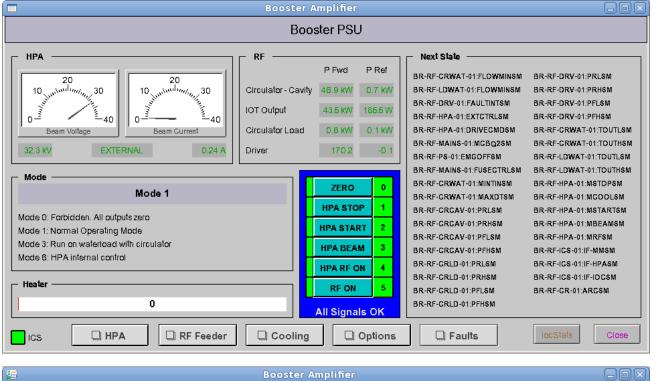
- Char arrays are shown as integers in text updates, not ASCII text.
- Small (~1px) sized details can be lost by slight changes in widget and border dimensions.
- Font and colour tweaks have unexpected results when screens don't conform to design guidelines.
- Graph missing points, because it has 250,000 of them!

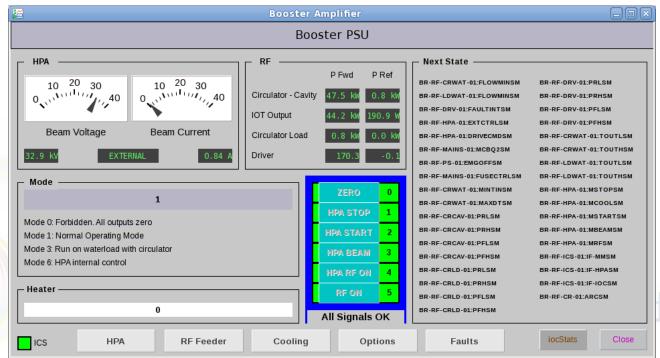
These types of issue can normally be patched manually after conversion. Automated conversion needs to reduce this to an acceptable workload.











Upshot

- This is tricky
- Integrating with existing systems has taken a lot of time
- Automated conversion is accurate but not perfect
- Each 'module' will need its owner to review and approve it
- We will have a period using both EDM and CS-Studio
- 2017?



Meanwhile

Beamline GUIs are autogenerated. New beamlines are receiving CS-Studio-based GUIs, with a completely different design:

