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Unit dictionary 2008-07-10 VTC notes

Wed, 08/20/2008 - 5:07pm — mobrien [1]

Attending: Margaret, Todd, Inigo, Hap, Mark, Karen, Mason, James
Elaboration: Karen Baker and James Conners – 04 August 2008

Meetings: 10 july 2008; next 21 august

What is the objective of the unit dictionary?
1) Provide a central location with access to units in multiple forms
2) Serve as a resource for learning how to create new units.
3) Undertake a joint community design initiative (site-LNO) involving establishment of a unit repository as a community resource

By consensus to date
1) Unit repository will exist at a central location so that the community has a list in common
2) Unit repository will contain all units at all scopes, i.e. site, LNO, and LTER
3) Conceptual model of unit repository is multi-phase with dual access strategy

What needs to happen before the IMC meeting?
1) Write up current status:
Describe use case and value of joint site-LNO design project
Define scope vocabulary list
2) Write up best practices:
Clearly define what a unit is.
Elaborate on what is and what is not a unit
Develop list of common error types (ee calling a unit custom that is a standard unit)
Initiate dialogue on what is an attribute
Provide STMML documentation
3) Coordinate first two phases of unit repository development
a) Phase1: Assembly tasks
Generate a list of all current custom units to add to the DB (ie query metacat and dump all custom units into unit registry)
Load all units and make available to the community.
The units are to be ‘scoped’ to individual sites.
Enable community experience by assembling all units and then
Creating venues to discuss experiences
b) Phase2: Access tasks
Develop description/prototype of access

What needs to take place at the IMC meeting?
1) Present overview: goals, current understandings, and discussion topics
2) Summarize: Current status, best practices with error types

definitions of unit and attribute
3) Conceptual Model description: multi phase approach:
a) assembly: status report
b) access: discuss web interface and web services presentation
Revisit & improve web interface for browsing units
c) submission: elements, ie schema and web interface
d) vetting: discuss
(i) potential processes
Do we connect units within the dictionary?
(keep redundancy or vet out synonyms:
Some units may be the same
Ex. Celsius, degrees C, C) Use linked unique id's
Would it be a copy of the units that are in Metacat?
How upload future/new into dictionary? Interface?
(ii) implementation:
Based upon "Digg" or web voting method?
Upon web collected comments and
committee final assessment
Vetting and access can be developed independently
And tied together ultimately
Notification sent to the group/community.

Future design/Characteristics/Feature design discussions:
1) Metacat relationship and location of authority
Note that Metacat accepts 'standard' or 'custom'; where custom
passes validation unexamined
2) Vetting abstraction layer schema, ie separate from assembly and access

PAL/CCE Ocean Informatics team:
Documenting conceptual model of unit repository
Provide schema for access phase: i) web and ii) webservices
Show interface and prototype programmatic access
Provide code snippets (ie php, matlab, perl, c++, asp)
Compare/contrast with manually updated via web interface
(for submission and synronization)
Exploring web services ease of use approach
a small addition to use these resources remotely
how to intergrate it into your prog practices
provide a few functions, e.g. php, phython, perl, matlab
Present strategies, lessons learned for shared access
Poster EMIC: Abstraction layers

Unit [2]

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