

Active Circle :feedback for Paris Virtual Observatory

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CCT PMI, Juin 2009



Context

Context & Goal

Active Circle

How

How it works

"A virtual observatory (VO) is a collection of interoperating data archives and software tools which utilize the internet to form a scientific research environment in which astronomical research programs can be conducted" from wikipedia.

So, we provide [some big collections of astronomical data We need:

- a stable storage system, easily scalable in volume
- a backup solution having low cost in manpower
- a multi-site replication
- hardware independent

- be easily integrable in the storage solution of the IT department.



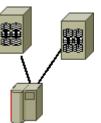
We started with DAS (Direct attached storage)

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Then we decided to discusse the prospectives and to find the best compromised in :

Price / security / scalability / globalisation

We checked several major storage manufacturers.

We checked different distribution storage solutions.

We made made a visit to colleague running Active Circle at "Soleil Synchrotron"



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SOLEIL IS DEDICATED TO FUNDAMENTAL AND APPLIED RESEARCH, FOR EXAMPLE IN THE FIELDS OF BIOLOGY, PHARMACY AND MEDICINE, CHEMISTRY AND PETROCHEMICALS, THE ENVIRONMENT, NANOTECHNOLOGY, MICROMECHANICS AND MICROELECTRONICS, THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY, ETC.

1 LINAC: the electron 'launching ramp'

LINAC, the linear accelerator, is the first link in the chain. It starts with an electron gun operating in a similar way to that of a television set. A heated element produces electrons that an electrical field collects in bunches the size of a hair. The electron bunches will be accelerated whilst travelling on an electromagnetic ware like a surfar on an ocean wave.

• 2 THE BOOSTER: the frenzied whirling dance of the electrons

Upon knowing the LINAC, the electrons enter the BCOSTER, a synchrotron with a circumference of 157 m. In just a fraction of a second, their energy will be increased from 100 MeV to 2250 MeV (or 2.75 GeV). Curing this energy rise, the beam characteristics such as bunch size and energy scattering will be fine-tuned.

3 THE STORAGE RING: the 'electron trail'

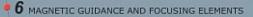
The electrons are transferred to the storage ring where they circle for several hours very dose to the speed of light. The ring is a closed table roughly 5 cm in dismeter with a series of straight and curved segments. In the dipoles and insertion elements, the electron survey are energy in the form of electronsignetic radiation, known as 'synchrotron radiation'.

• 4 BEAMLINES

The light emitted by the electrons is guided lowards outlets known as "beamlines" Each line is a laboratory in its own right. In 2010 there will be 25 of these at SOLEIL, with the possibility of 43 in the future.

5 BENDING MAGNETS

Dipoles (or bending magnets) generate the magnetic field to bend the topology of the electrons into an arc. They then itse energy in the form of light. The dipoles are both a source of light and an electron beam guidance element. There are 38 of them in the bosoter and 32 in the ring.



From the LINAC to the storage ring and even the booster, there are dozens of magnetic elements to guide the beam of particles, displies (or bending magnets) to make them jum, quadrupoles and sextupoles which are magnetic lenses to concertrate the Burndres of particles to preserve their quadres.

THEY DISCOVERED THE SECRETS OF LIGHT

James Clerk Maxwell (1831-1879). Soutish physicist, His fundamental work shanged the notions of electromagnetism and introduced the bases of field theory.

Alfred-Marie Liénard (1869-1958): French protester and research scientist He was the first to show that a charged particle in motion produces electrical and magnetic fields.

Yvetto Cauchols (1998-1999). Honcer in the field of n-rays and the use of synchrotron radiation by Prench Identifying.

John Paul Blowett (1910-2000): Canadian physicist. He was the first to calculate electron energy loss by synchrotron nucleion.





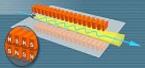


8 ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION

When a relativistic charged particle (moving at a speed very close to the speed of light) undergoes an acceleration, it issess energy in the form of electromagnetic radiation; this is synchroting radiation. It is enrifled targentially to the direction of the particles.

7 MAGNETIC INSERTION ELEMENTS

These are majoritic devices placed in the straight segments of the ring. They consist of small jurtaposed majorits to make the electrons follow an undulating path, althe bill like a skire stateming. With each wave, the electron undergoes an acceleration and emits light. Thus, the majoritic insection elements make the beams more interne than those emitted by the diples.





Observatoire de Paris – Meudon 6 departments on 2 sites with 1000 people

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How it works



Paris

Around 10 km



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All departments want to be independent; scientific teams want to have their data stored as close as pissible (i.e. Inside the depar Level of reliability are very different; storage elements are very heterogeneous Different policy privacy Mainly linux, but not always We have decided to deal only with the archive file storage and not with the transactional database. We did not put any constraints on the access time.

We need a scalable solution with multi-site replication and tape storage management.



Active Circle

Virtualisation solution

(from AC web site)

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Features of Active Circle's Active Archive solution:

- Scalable file system from 1 TB to 4 PB

- Data accessible via CIFS and NFS network file protocols

- Automated Data Lifecycle Management (DLM) over multiple storage tiers

- Data integrity guaranteed by WORM mode

- Reduction in storage TCO by selecting standard hardware (disk or tape)
- Automated management of technology changes and data migration
- Exports in TAR format for data vaulting



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Why Active Circle ?

- to reuse existing storage elements
- "Class Of Service" to define the number of units in disk and/or tapes
- storage synchronisation to be done in background
- self recovery in case of crash
- to be able to manage data lifecycle
- Multi cite replication (100 Mbps at the beginning
- NFS access to data collection, no special client and/or protocol.
- We don't have manpower for tape storage software, we need simple and open format tape storage solution.



Active Circle why ?

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How it works

- At that time we didn't find any free solution at this level
- The choice was made at the time when the lack of storage was critical.



How

After a Public Tender

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How it works

- We have buy 3 AC cells and 50 Tb storage

- 2 sun Storage Element X4500 (38 TO raw)



- 1 robotic + dedicated server



How it works

Trouble with Solaris system updates

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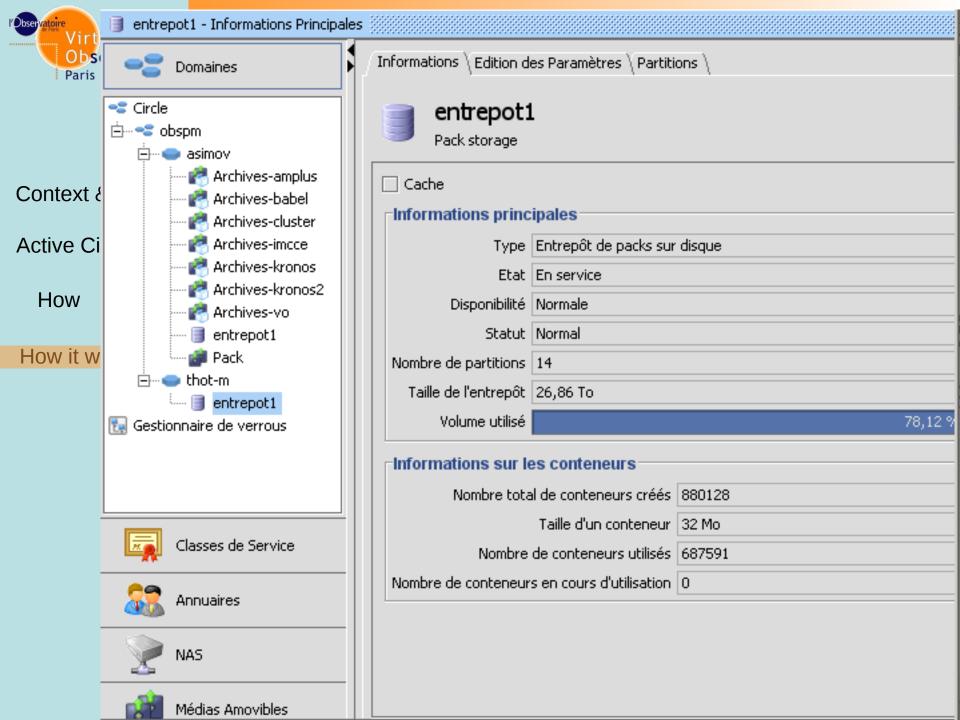
How

How it works

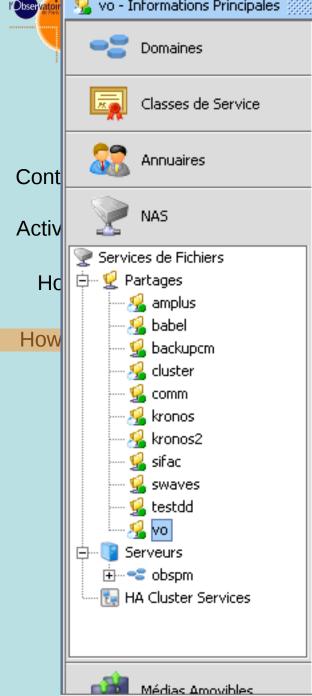
AC were not dedicated to small files.
Long instability period in case of high load (NFS not responding) but no data loss

■We are still in the test period, due to lack of manpower to work on it. AC developers are very responsable and spent a lot of time on debugging.

The tape storage functionality is now our major interest in this solution.



🧏 vo - Informations Principales 🦉



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