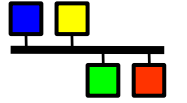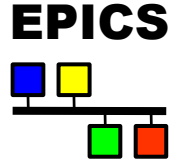# VDCT Status - Community perspective
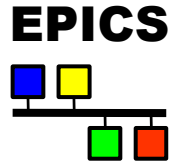
John Maclean

APS/ANL

Introduction

- Goals
- What has happened
- Current problems
- What's going to happen
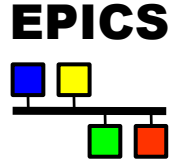- Next set of requirements

Goals

- VDCT to become <u>THE</u> database configuration tool
- Don't turn people off by burning them with a substandard product
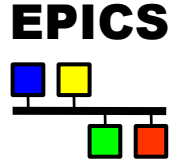- VDCT to be an "Open" product

What has happened in one year?

- IJS/Cosylab released VDCT under modified BSD license.

- Work broken into Packages A, B, C.

- SLS funded "bridging" work.

- Package A completed. Funded by APS.
  - Funding open source development a new concept for ANL (referred to DOE lawyers). Set a precedent.

- Developed standard for defining hierarchies in .db files

- Package B nearing completion. Release candidate available (build 1237). Funded by DIAMOND.
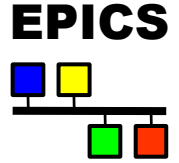
Package A content

- Not much new, mostly bug fixes:
  - Connectors always on top.
  - Scaling and spacing stays consistent following multiple zooms/unzooms.
  - Print preview improved.
  - Makefile available
  - Configuration information split between configuration file and db. Db information stays with db.
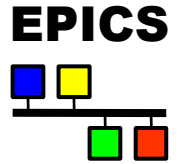
Package B Content

- Mostly new features
  - Scaling fixed
  - High resolution printing
  - Structure for INP/OUT links
  - Editing of link attributes (NPP NMS)
  - Visible fields selectable
  - Tags and external stubs
  - Text boxes, lines, arrows etc.
  - Higher resolution printing.
  - Inspector improved
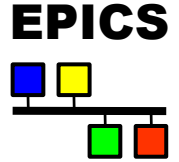 - Hierarchy

Current problems*

*As of 11/15/02

- Hierarchy doesn't work properly (can't see input ports)
- Loading/storing preferences file on Linux & Solaris
- Global tags don't work properly
- Need a "visibility" column heading in the inspector
- Group copy irregularities
- Rubber banding doesn't pick up connectors
- Can't exit on Linux/Java 1.4.1_01
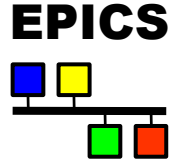- Input/Output symbols too big

What next?

- Get package B finished
  - Matej visits APS with Rozelle Wright to better define hierarchy behavior
  - Fix the bugs
  - Probably a couple of iterations to get them all out
- "EPICS" VDCT web page.
  - Link to Cosylab for most things but has community news & issues
- Package C, but what should go in it?
- More developers? Coordination issues with this.
- Technical writer to help with user manual?
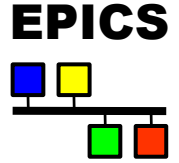- Use VDCT to document wiring!
- Funding !!!

Package C ideas

- Link highlighting
- Popup for common actions, context sensitive
- Store dbd file locations as relative paths
- Recently used file list
- GDCT conversion tool*
- CAPFAST conversion tool*
- Multiple files/dbs open at one time
- Use dbStaticLib to access files
- Define interactions with high level tools(Oracle)

*Community developers may be best for this?

Summary

- ## A lot has happened
    - ### Big improvements, thank you Matej
    - ### Thank you SLS, APS, DIAMOND, anyone who's tested it
- ## Some way still to go to get the tool we want
    - ### Should get it when package B complete
    - ### Don't want to advertise it until it's ready for prime time
- ## Need to decide what goes into next package
    - ### Put up the money and you get to decide