# Off-line Analysis goes On-line!

Controls ain't just Buttons, Flashing Lights and Sliders

Customer's !!!

A User's Perspective

Mark Lomperski, DESY Group-MIN (Machine-Injection: NOT the controls group!) PCaPAC 2006

# Customer Who IS this "User" (me)?

■ USER: Physicist, member of the "part-time" shift crew at DESY (no "Professional" Operations Crew). The machine is a running experiment....

MODIFIER: Does "part-time" programming for DESY accelerator controls.

## A Day on the Job

- Lots of button-pushing, watching flashing lights and tweaking scroll bars
- More Interesting and More Fun and More of a CHALLENGE for the Control-System:

#### Use of Diagnostics-Data in Operations

"Data" includes Vacuum, Beam Position, Losses,....

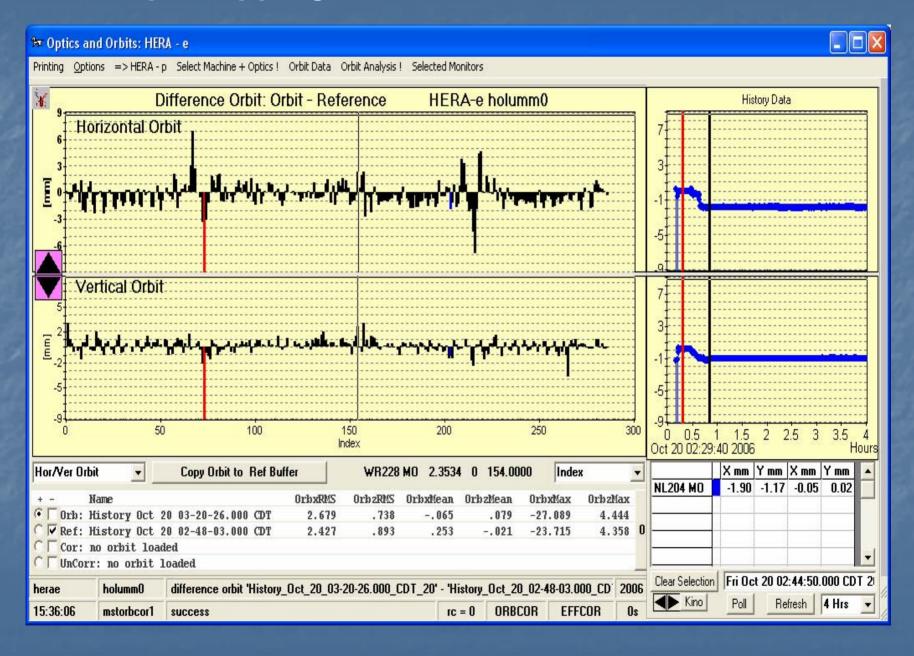
#### Analysis + Interpretation → Decision-Making

Cannot always be done in software (front-end or a "middle-layer") with a simple answer sent up to the consoles

# A Few Examples

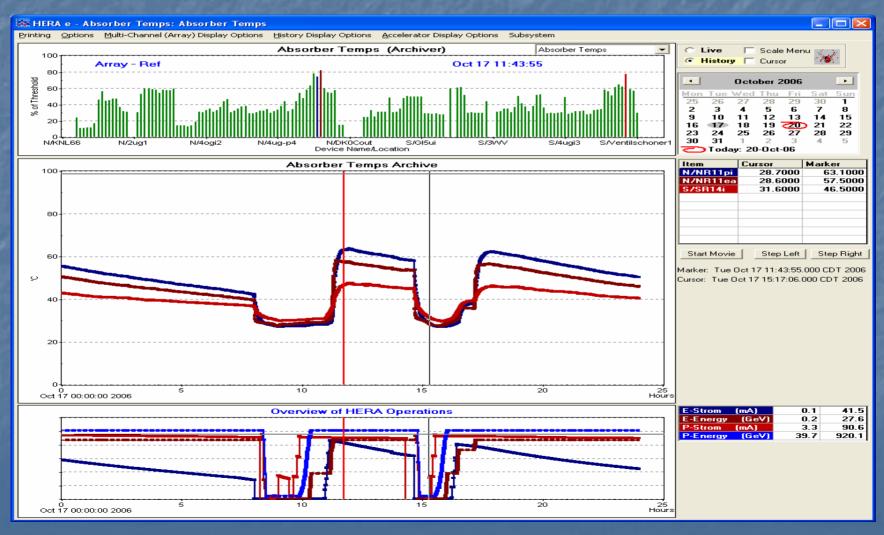
- Beam Position Monitors
- Temperature Alarms
- Proton Losses

#### One Stop Shopping! Orbits, Differences, Correction, ...



Synchrotron light warms up the vacuum chamber during HERA electron ramp. Monitor 200 Temperatures and possibly make orbit corrections to reduce Temps. Need to display Temps, Diff. to REF, scaled to DUMP-THRESHOLD, Histories,....

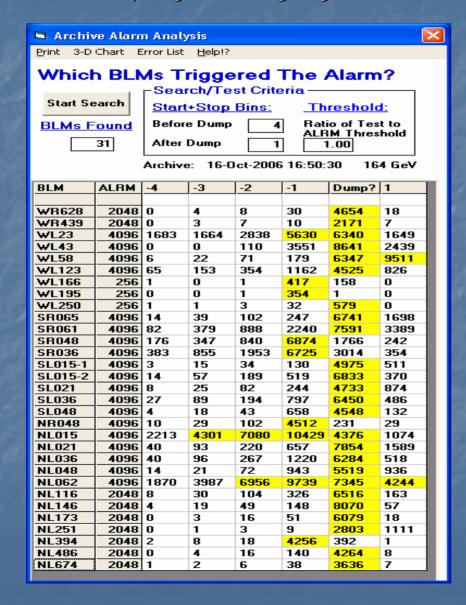
Here, the MCA-Archive Reader (used normally in live-data mode); these scaling solutions also used for the General Archive Reader.



### Proton Loss Alarms

- Not Untypical problem at HERA 920 GeV proton ring: Intense beam losses have triggered a beam-dump to protect the cold magnets. No technical system tripped.... What was the cause of the beam losses?
- Need to analyze the time structure and distribution around the ring... finding the cause may save another beam loss...
- 300 Monitors! Tedious to do by hand...

## Suggestion from Phil: if YOU know what you'd like to see, then try programming it yourself! Here is one of my first efforts:



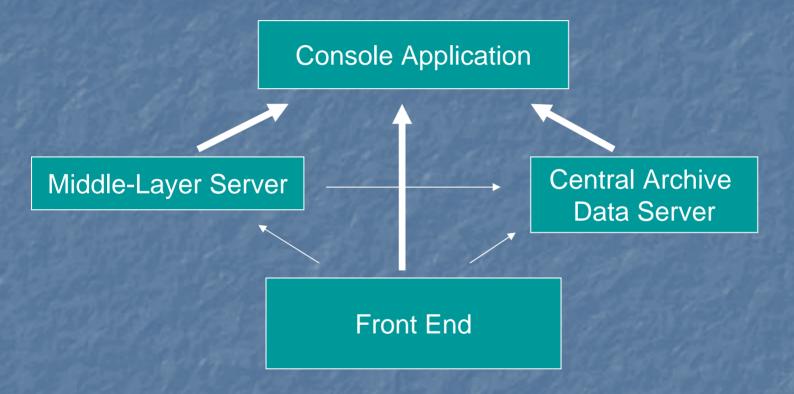
Select TIME-WINDOW and THRESHOLD, and monitors are searched through, collected.

The program starts with the "Standard Settings" for these parameters, but they can be changed to answer special questions in non-standard cases.

We use similar sorting/display choices for interlock data / status-info: what subset of the data does the user want to see?

Customer

## Data Flow for a "Typical" Application



Possible sources of the "same" data:

Live Data: Front-End, Middle-Layer (analysis can be done in both)

History Data: Local-Archives: Front-End, Middle Layer; Central Archive

#### What I (a part-timer) Need from the Controls Group:

- The Data: the "Raw Materials" for analysis Live and Archived Data (Local, Central)
- An easy language to write the console application
  - Use-able by a "part-time" programmer
  - · Collect the data over the net
  - Analyze
  - Produce a graphical display, which is user-friendly (not just for experts (or myself))

These are General requirements for control applications...

# My Tool-Kit (provided by the controls group)

- TINE
- Visual-Basic
- Local-Histories, Central Archiving Ingredients used to produce "flexible" / "complicated" Apps for General Archive Data, Vacuum, BPMs, Loss Monitors, Screen Monitors, Power Supply Data.....

The time spent on ACOP by the controls group was well spent!!! Simplifies tremendously both acquiring complex data and displaying/integrating it easily.

I'm (reasonably) Happy with the Experience, and can't imagine the controls system without such flexible tools.

#### New Developments/Perspectives in Controls?

Things which I seem to have understood, about what controls-people are thinking about....

### 1. Quick and Easy Client Applications

Drag 'n' Drop / Cut 'n' Paste Clients:

"browsing" the control system, selecting "elements" and "pasting" them together (in a displayer) to get a client application

- no fuss, no muss
- Sounds good for testing, but also sounds academic....
- VERY FEW clients we use are simply "cut-and-paste"!
  One App per sub-system, one DISPLAY per sub-system:
  well thought out, with MUCH more functionality
- You need a "sophisticated" program to take complicated data and make an easy/user-friendly client application!!!!
  - Reminder: BPM Console App: Orbits, Differences, Corrections: One-Stop-Shopping
- Not of much use for operations at DESY!!

## 2. Expert Programs

- Extra-Complicated, not needed "often", "only" by "experts"
- Software Group: "not part of the control system"
  - I've also heard this for "data analysis" programs
- More time-consuming to write and to support:
  - Dialogue between software and hardware people
  - Requirements change more often / are harder to define

Applications required for operations

Applications USEFUL for operations, problem solving,

Three NON-DISTINCT classes of applications

Applications ONLY NEEDED by experts to set-up / debug subsystem

## Expert-Software...

- Often VERY DIFFICULT to cleanly separate between what is useful for the "Operations Crew" to solve problems and what is ONLY NECESSARY for experts
- Time can / is / has-been wasted when "operations" software doesn't include enough functionality to get-tothe-bottom of a problem
- Efficiency will be higher when MORE functionality rather than LESS is implemented in console apps, and it conceived of as an integral part of the control system

## Summary: The Importance of the Presentation Layer

- You can have super-duper hardware, gorgeous servers, but if the PRESENTATION LAYER is suffering, then efficiency is immediately affected
- It's not **Down Time** of the MACHINE but **Dead Time** of the Operators!
- The Importance of Clean/User-Friendly/... software for time/operations-efficiency cannot be stressed enough
- 4. A Complex Accelerator produces Complex Data and "user-friendly" apps require sophisticated software
  - 1. I don't need "Drag-'n'-Drop" Console Apps (one-stop-shopping!)
  - 2. When a problem occurs, I hope that the software I use is well structured/thought-out/part of the software used by the experts and written by a caring PROFESSIONAL