PCaPAC 2006 - A Personal Memory

Mark Plesko
What Have We Learned?

- What the PCaPAC really is (M. Bickley)
- To use a combination of democratic and undemocratic ways to decide when a talk should be over (P. Chevtsov)
It Takes Two To Tango
And Many To TANGO

- A difference between lower and upper case!
- TANGO sets the claim to become a serious contender to EPICS (J. - M. Chaize, M. Gaio)
- Qtango – should be called “Quango” in honour of the real PCAPAC, which is a real QUANGO – Quasi Autonomous Non-Governmental Organisation
R. Bacher admits the nitty gritty details: although the PETRA III CS comes all from one lab, the managing doesn’t seem to be less challenging than the phases of the TANGO collaboration described by J.-M. Chaize.
News From TINE

- TI NE is pronounced with E as in EPICS (P. Duval)
  - I wonder,... (M. Plesko, private communication)

- If people want LabView, give it to them – don’t fight the inevitable

- Connect STARS and TI NE (T. Kosuge) like Apples and Oranges (see PCaPAC 2002 talk by P. Duval and M. Plesko) and get fruit salad!
M$oft vs. Open Sauce

- PLCs, Labview, Excel (M. Tanigaki)
  - Convenient, because everybody is familiar with those tools

- Matlab (R. Kammering) takes linux side, but still heavy licenses

- MONO for CS: “There was actually nothing to do” (H. Nishimura)
Personal Computers or Portland Cement?

- Did someone (M. Plesko) step beyond PCs and slid on a banana (FPGA) skin?
- Serious people go back from cores to processors (M. Penno)
- And even more serious people just use PCs as they are supposed to be used (J. Fujita, S. Pal)
e-PCaPAC

- Motor control (R. Gajsek)
- BPM readout (J. Yan)
- microIOC (A. Podborsek)
- Profibus IO (H. Kleines)
- What is the real meaning of the P in PC?
How many virtual PCs fit into one PC (G. Lawson)

How many PCs needed to make one virtual PC (C. Watson)

- Also he covered (video) accelerators – got 4 right out of 6 in PCaPAC
Robot-a-PCaPAC (U.Ristau)

- The Control System as we know it is a small part in a fully automated BL operation
- Could the robot be programmed to write programs?
  - That would be an alternative to program generators
- A proof that conferences are useful: guys from DESY site had to meet at ICALEPCS in Geneva to find common interest for TINE collaboration
Tutorials

- XML (D. Quock)
  - But do we really need those brackets (K. Höppner)?

- Project management (M. Plesko)
  - But do we really have to follow procedures (anonymous)?
PCaPAC in Pills

- One Pill Makes You Larger,
  One Pill Makes You Small,
  Go Ask Alice,
  When You’re Ten Feet Tall
  - Maybe the solution for all our CS headaches?

- Very nicely and compact addresses all levels of CS, from FPGA to Web GUI
Most interesting sessions

- Coffee break (or brake?)
- Lunch break
- Continental brake-feast
  - Including an excellent presentation of what is in my head
    - Sparks or vacuum or both, you decide 😊
GUI and Phooey

- Why do those customers (M. Bieler, M. Lomperski, I. Carlino) always mess with our excellent and brilliant programs?

- Discussion: We all agree that the user experience must be good, but is it actually necessary to do anything about it?
Control System Utopia

- Where all systems are open systems (M. Bickley)?
- No, where there are no users (i.e. customers)
Where Have All The Data Gone, Gone to Flowers Everyone

- Database = data sink, even for Applications of Interest (D. Quock)
- GIS = data spring (T. Ohata, A. Yamashita, T. Larrieu)
Life Of A CS Is Simple

- 1 FPGA and 1 CSS (M. Clausen), maybe a few wires, is all!
- But to make it happen, you need a good mixture of democratic and non-democratic project management
- Things increase by factor 10 every 3 years (D. Neal)
  - Problems too?
Have I Learned Enough?

- Fortunately not – I need at least another PCaPAC!
- If you want to get something done, you got to do it yourself.
Next PCaPAC: somewhere between Venice and Vienna