

Handling of feature requests for Ganga/DIANE in EGI-Inspire

Current practices

New feature and development requests for Ganga are already tracked via Savannah (items called as "Feature Requests"). This is also used to do a basic prioritization of new features and following up the evolution of the tool. The priorities are discussed during the weekly Ganga meetings. N.B. the dividing line between a "feature request" and a "bug" is sometimes fuzzy.

This link points to the open feature requests in Savannah:

http://savannah.cern.ch/bugs/index.php?go_report=Apply&group=ganga&func=browse&set=custom&msort=0&report_id=218&advsrch=0&assigned_to=0&submitted_by=0&custom_sb1=102&priority=0&status_id=1&history_search=0&history_field=0&history_event=modified&history_date_dayfd=9&history_date_monthfd=6&history_date_yearfd=2010&chunksz=50&spamscore=5&boxoptionwanted=1#options

Presently there are ~60 open feature requests and ~260 closed ones logged in the system (for reference: there are currently ~70 open bug reports and ~960 closed ones).

Some special views (display forms) have been developed by the Ganga project in order to track the "originator" of a request (user community) and map them against a given (or future) release:

http://savannah.cern.ch/bugs/index.php?go_report=Apply&group=ganga&func=browse&set=custom&msort=0&report_id=136&advsrch=0&assigned_to=0&bug_id=&resolution_id=0&category_id=0&priority=0&status_id=1&summary=&history_search=0&history_field=0&history_event=modified&history_date_dayfd=8&history_date_monthfd=6&history_date_yearfd=2010&chunksz=50&spamscore=5&boxoptionwanted=1#options

In this view one can see bug reports (with corresponding fixes for closed reports) and feature requests alike. N.B. the "originator" of a feature request is only an approximate indication of the request's area of impact. For example, certain functionalities prototyped in ATLAS or LHCb may be re-factored into the Core. The same applies to bug fixes: for example, a bug found in ATLAS may become critical because of a potential big impact on LHCb.

Possible future model

Current structure and practices could be a starting point for SA3.2 activities (Ganga/DIANE related) and possibly an example for others. Given the software organization of Ganga one could envisage that communities using Ganga heavily (i.e. having non-trivial usage and feature requests) should be asked to attend some of the weekly developers meeting in order to give full details of their needs.

This could possibly help users to discover existing alternate ways to implement their use cases and help to maintain user- and community-centric aspect of the tool. It may be also beneficial for the project from a development point of view. While not every user might/should become a Ganga team member, in some cases power-users supporting a given community could take developer roles or take service tasks (like test and release managers) within the Ganga team.