

Managed Platform Unit 2014 T3 report

1 Effort

Development work accounted for 42% (0.86 FTE) of this trimester; 33% for specific projects and 9% for misc development. This is significantly down from T2, largely due the previous report incorrectly categorising Farr effort as development work but also because of a substantial increase in time spent on Head of Computing activities (eg CDT procurement)

Effort expended on operational work continued to be high at 23% (0.46 FTE). This was due to continued server upgrade moves (ssh and nx) and to two exploits - bash (ShellShock) and Drupal.

The unit contributed coordination and talks to the LCFG Annual Review day in December.

Personal development increased from 1% (0.03 FTE) to 7% (0.14 FTE) largely due to Stephen attending LISA 2014. Whilst Chris spent little time on PD in this period, he will be spending a few weeks on targeted PD in T1 2015.

Effort on User Documentation Editor activities stayed steady at 2% (0.05 FTE).

The Virtual DICE project (239) was signed off.

2 Development

2.1 LCFG SL7 port (296)

29% 0.59 FTE 375 hours

Work in this period further developed the LCFG EL7/SL7 platform. This involved :-

- Converted platform to use Scientific Linux 7 (SL7)
- Adopted a new approach to keep local copy of EPEL7 in sync with upstream
- Sorted out component start ordering - created LCFG specific systemd targets
- Graphical login working (using GDM)
- Created lcfg-dconf component to manage GDM (and other gnome configuration)
- Concluded GDM doesn't allow sufficient flexibility so investigated LightDM display manager as a substitute. Created an lcfg-lightdm component.
- Upgraded package building environment - eg PkgForge - to support SL7
- Added support to package management tools (including some reworking of refreshpkgs tool)
- Started porting lcfg-sleep
- Discussed DICE package lists with RAT
- Started process of moving to DICE headers from INF headers.

Progress has continued to be recorded at <http://blog.inf.ed.ac.uk/sl7project>.

2.2 LCFG systemd component (297)

4% 0.08 FTE 48 hrs

In this period the schema was tidied, support for stopping a service on removal added, and work on the documentation started.

2.3 Misc Development

9% 0.19 FTE 120 hrs

This category covers all minor development work which is too small to be a full project. This quarter this has included :-

- new audit reports completed
- guidance on system security checks produced
- enhancements to LCFG components - rpmaccel, toohot, rkhunter, skeleton
- LCFG cyrussasl component converted to Perl
- lcfg-authorize and dice-authorize merged into LCFG::Authorize

3 Plan for T1 2015

- Complete and signoff the LCFG port to SL7 project (296)
- Complete and signoff the LCFG systemd component project (297)
- Re-awake the LCFG client component code II project (274)
- Re-awake the Inventory project (269)
- Chris to spend minimum two week chunk on PD
- Increase effort spent on targeted personal development by tracking activity at weekly MPU meetings