

# 2020 Mini-workshop #1

A zoom link will be provided via email to the difx-users list. The meeting will be recorded and made available shortly after conclusion.

- **Date:** Monday November 16 2200 UTC
- **Title:** Migrating from SVN to git: challenges and opportunities
- **Agenda:**
  - Opening (5 minutes, Adam Deller)
  - Automated migration - current status (30 min + 20 minutes questions, Greg Lindahl)
    - Includes both git migration and continuous integration
  - Discussion session (30 minutes, moderated by Greg)
    - Includes the context of work on GPU-DiFX currently being undertaken (under git)
    - Potential workflows for using git and how they differ to how we have traditionally used svn
    - Goal: go / no-go decision on migration, along with a timeframe
  - Planning for future sessions (15 minutes, Adam Deller)
    - Dates and times
      - option 1 - get in before Thanksgiving, Tuesday November 24 ~0800 UTC or ~1600 UTC
      - option 2 - wait until after Thanksgiving, Tuesday December 1 ~0800 UTC or ~1600 UTC
    - Topics
      - Request from Leonid to discuss mixed-polarisation (post-)correlation
    - Organisers (Adam is happy to coordinate zoom links etc, but would appreciate sharing the coordination around).

## Notes

As transcribed by Adam, please let me know of any errors that need to be corrected.

- The DiFX codebase could use a clean-up in conjunction with the transition to git.
  - This should involve minimally removing a few large files that are used for testing (placing them in a different repo)
  - Another option is to split out a couple of packages that are used more widely beyond DiFX itself (potentially mark5access, vdifio, codifio)
- It is highly desirable that we retain the email notifications of commits after transitioning to git (Greg noted that this is possible, but would need to look into how.)
- Documentation of the git workflow to be used will be essential. Greg suggests that a 1-page “cookbook” should be provided on the github site, for developers to follow.
- Where should we store the binary data for running continuous integration tests?
  - Small datasets can test most functionality and could be hosted on github.
  - Hosting in a place physically close to where the CI will run (california) would be advantageous
  - GPU tests would be done in a more ad hoc way
  - It would be possible to host larger datasets for a more lengthy comparison at an individual correlator site and have those (larger) tests be run locally in a non-continuous way (at release time, say). *Adam's post-meeting note: It would be good to have each of Bonn, NRAO, Haystack, and Swinburne (plus of course any other interested sites) commit*

*to hosting one larger dataset for infrequent testing.*

- The one-way conversion and history preservation from SVN to git that Greg has provided means that it is not necessarily essential to have a hard date to work towards for a jump to git. As long as people don't habitually have lots of unchecked-in code, anyway. The following should be a minimum for a "go-live" making git the primary repo:
  - Testing datasets have been created and are available
  - Documentation on how to check in / push / merge on git is available. Ideally this would be on the github page itself.
  - Continuous integration is live
- The SVN site should stay available, read-only, after the transition to git is complete. Obviously with a big warning to direct people to the new site.
- There should probably be at least one more minor DiFX release prior to the transition to git, which would include bugfixes for VGOS complex LSB modes, and Jan's outputbands capabilities.
- Propose to have a working group for git transition that identifies final structure for git repo, which would report back a proposal at one of the future mini-workshops (and via email) for endorsement. Proposed members: Greg L. (chair), Adam D., Shaoguang, Chris P. or Cormac R., Mark W., Geoff C., a representative from Bonn. Others welcome.
- Github accessibility is not consistent in China. Is this a roadblock?

## Action items

- All difx-developers to provide Greg L. with github usernames
- Working group membership should be finalised and tasks allocated.
- Adam to follow up with Shaoguang about potential barriers to using github in China.

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Last update: **2020/11/17 14:55**

