



Leonardo Sala :: AWI :: Paul Scherrer Institut

DARI, SLS and RA

AWI Department meeting 2022.12.12 / PSI



Outline

- Who we are / What we do
- RA news and highlights
- SLS news and highlights
- Next major projects



Who / What

Who we are:

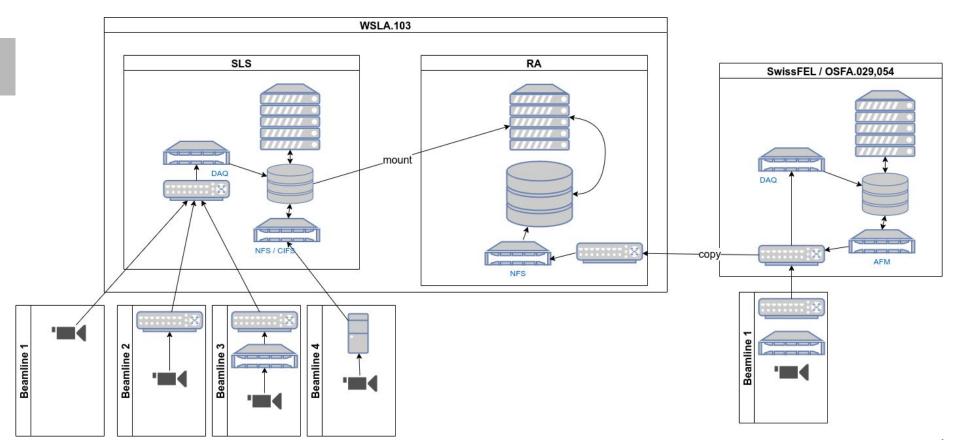
- Ivano Talamo: RA responsible and main admin
- Alvise Dorigo: SwissFEL responsible and main admin
- Joshua Taylor: SLS responsible and main admin
- Krisztian Pozsa: Expands / EOSCFuture projects (project)
- Borys Sharapov: SLS 2 DevOps / Sysadmin (project)
- Leonardo Sala: Group Lead

What we do

- Manage IT infrastructure for Photon experiments (storage, compute, network, ...)
- Manage special services (archiving, opendcim, jupyterhub, ...)
- Enable DevOps and best practices to enable scientists / staff to do their job



Big picture





Some numbers

- ~9000 cores, ~20 PiB, ~70 TB ram, ~30 managed switches (Infiniband, Ethernet)
- managed by Puppet and ansible
 - infrastructure as code backed up by Gitlab
 - Puppet for basic / standard OS installation
 - Ansible for special setups, pipelines and operations
- monitored by Icinga and InfluxDB / Grafana
 - for more details see Alvise's talk
 - looking into AIT ELK
- We even have a test Openshift k8s cluster
 - used for gitlab runners and tests



Highlight: server installation

Our server installation is mostly automated:

- physical server installation
- register default admin credentials and required variables
- run playbook that:
 - configure BIOS based on profiles
 - register system in linux inventory
 - configure RAID, boot device, ...
 - boot up server
- based in industry-standard Redfish API

Next steps:

- automatic filling of our Data Center management system (opendcim)
- this is possible now as we recently installed a version with a RESTful API



RA updates

Slurm resources management:

- migrated away from full node allocation towards resources allocation
- this allows us to:
 - efficiently manage CPU and GPU resources
 - limit resources usage with cgroups -> less interference
 - have similar setup to Merlin -> can bother Marc even more :D

New Jupyterhub interface

- more dynamic (python + javascript) depending on queue, shows different options
- more improvements to come, like run time checks

New storage

- project-funded storage is more than 5 years old now
- replacing 2 x 2.2 PiB systems with 1 x 6 PiB system
- delivery this week (Xmas present)



Highlight: tape retrieve

Thanks to a joint effort by AWI (Ivano Talamo, Krisztian Pozsa, Stephan Egli, Carlo Minotti) and AIT (Peter Huesser, Michael Kallmeier), **simple one-click tape retrieve from CSCS Petabyte Archive to RA storage is available now**. Fixing now some bugs



A similar mechanism will allow retrieval from tape to CSCS Object Storage (possibly early 2023)



SLS updates

Automatic quota warning system

- overcomes some icinga limitations
- automatic warning emails sent to beamline scientists
- scientists can self manage thresholds and address list

ACLs

- most data writers run as root -> not good
- explore ACLs usage to write data without root privileges
- prototype with MX successful, plan to propagate to SLS and SwissFEL together with the developers
- A tool to verify ACL policies is being implemented

DAQ support

- support MX Jungfraujoch efforts
- migration away from IBM Power architecture (Filip Leonarski)



SLS updates / II

Migration from Samba wide-links

- current data access over samba mounts e-account home directory, access data directory over symlink
- this is not supported anymore due to security concerns
 - it also creates quota issues when mounted over Windows
- new mountpoints will be created during the long Shutdown

Plan:

- Enable new mountpoints in our prod_2 cluster
- Migrate beamlines from prod_1 to prod_2
- Keep prod_1 running as-is in case of issues
- Reinstall prod_1 and upgrade Spectrum Scale versions



Highlight: services deployment

Quite some work has been put in the past to make services deployment to DAQ nodes reproducible and automatic -> this is the way SLS DAQ nodes are mostly managed since some time

New effort to improve the system and support beamlines-managed services, e.g. MX analysis pipeline

Requirements:

- separate code from data (config files)
- restrict control over code and pipeline definition
- have a simple and intuitive interface



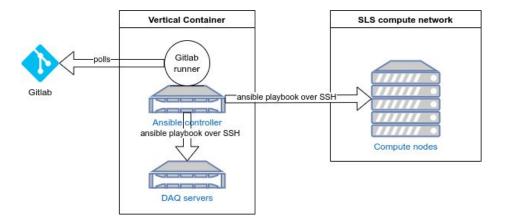
Gitlab pipelines - architecture

Solution:

- laaC with Ansible playbooks
- Gitlab as interface, deployment jobs through pipelines
- access control based on repositories

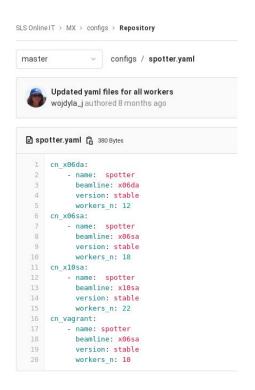
Advantages:

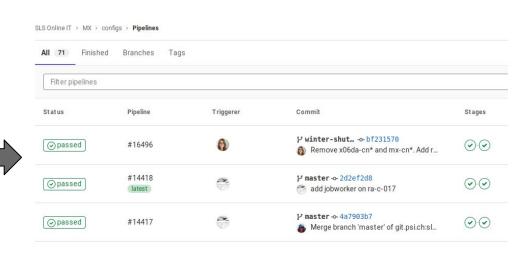
- fine grained control
- reproducible and versionable
- web interface to output





Pipelines







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3214					309.3	8s			
3214 3215 3216	total Playbook run took 0 days,								



Next big projects

- Compute node merge
 - manage SLS and RA compute nodes as a unique pool of resources
 - prototype for feasible switching between different configurations
- Storage WTO we need a new one to replace existing systems and procure SLS2 resources
- Resources API
 - Allowing users/beamline to self manage resources with no or minimal intervention from admins e.g. compute node reservation, quota extensions, ...
 - possible by exposing resources operations and workflows via APIs
 - early discussions about DUO integration
- Data lifecycle: write read archive delete retrieve
 - streamline policies and workflows
 - including paid storage for projects / grants
- SLS2
- Documentation and dashboards



Highlight: WHGA server room

Migration away from SLS server room during dark period.

Started using WHGA server room for RA:

- 4 compute nodes
- Infiniband switch (2x100G, additional links to be added in the next weeks)
- 6 PB Storage in January (Lenovo DSS-G260)

Plan to gradually migrate compute nodes, phase out storage based on lifecycle. No downtimes.





Questions?

