ESGF Metadata Telco 4
Thursday 27 October 2011, 0900 MT

Attending:

- Mark Morgan
- Gerry Devine
- Allyn Treshansky
- Sylvia Murphy
- Luca Cinquini
- Eric Nienhouse
- Cecelia DeLuca
- Tobias Weigel

Apologies:

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Agenda:

1. combining elements of CIM portal and Curator trackback in the context of ESGF nodes
1a. review CIM POrtal
1b. review CUrator TrackBack
1c. discuss how to integrate functionality into ESGF nodes

Minutes:

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Overview:

- The CIM Portal is a serivce-based web application built around the CIM
    - it provides a CIM Viewer
    - and CIM Search
- ESG Curator trackback is accessed via ESG gateway under the search engine
- Trackback is ingesting CIM metadata from CMIP5 questionnaire
- CIM Portal is ingesting CIM metadata from CMIP5 Questionnaire and other sources (such as CIM QC Tool and other projects such as ENSEMBLES and CORDEX)
- Curator Trackback uses RDF triple store in the backend; CIM Portal uses XML database in the backend.

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review of CIM Portal:

- Python-based web application (Python on server-side, JavaScript on client-side)
- connects to an XML database; XML is (currently) the only representation of metadata.
- Ontology Section:
    - static knowledge-based pages
- Tools Section:
    - viewer - similar to Curator Trackback
    - validator (requires C Library patch) - checks XML file against XSD and Schematron rules (derived from mindmaps);
    - ~~mindmap - checks mindmaps against a set of rules~~

- Repository Section:
  - provides search against an eXist XML database (populated by ATOM feed from DKRZ & CMIP5 Questionnaire)
  - can constrain by document type and document facet and keywords
  - results are returned in a table
    - each table row can be viewed in the viewer

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Users have to goto these portals to get at the metadata; but they would prefer the metadata to appear integrated into their own sites.

Mark M. has prototyped a lightweight viewer that can be embedded in any portal; JavaScript plugin which communicates to web services running w/in the CIM Portal; returned metadata is JSON not XML

Use Cases for this viewer:
1) statistical downscaling portal (U. of Cantabria)
2) NCAS local model description pages

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Curator TrackBack Review:

- each gateway harvests CIM documents from METAFOR ATOM feeds and builds up a triple store to drive the interface
- no webservice hooks in trackback; no public API to access services

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Possible Areas of Work:

- LC: What about having CIM services that operate off of multiple distributed repositories instead of a single local database?
- LC: another way to create CIM instances apart from going to CMIP5 Questionnaire
  - work is underway on this w/in COG
- LC: incorporate a display of observational metadata to ESGF
- adding definitions of terms to CIM display
- merging the two display technologies
  - currently there are 2 metadata formats (RDF & XML) and 2 underlying technologies; we want the best of both worlds
  - note that there is effort underway to serialize the CIM into native Python objects
- differencing
  - AT: this technology has been started in XML, but it makes sense to compare Python objects instead of XML.
- other items from recent prioritization call

Curator Trackback interface is in-use; but metafor viewer is a better technical direction
MM: should be able to move from prototype to production code in January/February 2012

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Working Procedures:

CD: Does Metafor want a collaboration w/ Curator to work on the CIM Portal?
MM: Yes

MM: ESGF should be the authoritative source; metadata should be available from ESGF nodes

CD: Is Metafor willing to have their priorities influenced by an external group?

CD: what metadata systems are we going forward with and who are the teams that will do the work?

CD: we want an EU-led project

MM: IS-ENES has scope for continued development of CIM technologies

MM: IS-ENES2 does not start funding until 2013

GD: All published questionnaire instances have a link to the Curator trackback page

LC: What is the URL to use to link to the data returned by search?

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TODO: bring up working procedures at the next METAFOR meeting

TODO: write a strategic document