SciCat Face-2-Face meeting 2024
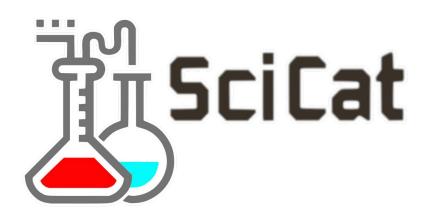

Hosting facility: Paul Scherrer Institut (PSI)

Dates: July 2-4, 2024

Event Page: https://indico.psi.ch/event/15861/overview

Registration: https://indico.psi.ch/event/15861/registrations/2210/

Don't forget to register.
See you in July

The organizing committee

Proposed Agenda for the 5th of March 2024

- SciCat in person meeting
  - update
  - Registration and event page: https://indico.psi.ch/event/15861/

- Releases
  - Release Jobs (Spencer)
    - update
  - Release Search UI (Igor)
    - update
  - Release SciCatLive
    - update

- PR and issues

- Additional topics

Meeting Notes

6th of Februry 2024

- SciCat In-Person Meeting
  - Dates: 2-4 July 2024
  - Location: on-site at PSI, Switzerland
  - Agenda will be similar to 2023
  - Event page: https://indico.psi.ch/event/15861/
  - Registration is open.
    Please register at https://indico.psi.ch/event/15861/registrations/2210/
  - The event is cap to max 40 participants.
  - It has been asked to clarify the differences between the themes of the three days:
    - Day 1: Institutes
      Opening remarks, new features showcase, institute updates
    - Day 2: SciCat developers
      Future development brainstorming, design and organization. Hands-on core coding and testing is not excluded
    - Day 3: Users
      User presentation providing critical feedback to improve the tool: functionalities, documentation, how-tos and best practices.
- Releases
  - Release jobs
    - Despina completed the controller
    - There are still some issue with validation
    - A meeting to debug the current issues and to answers Despina's questions will be organized. Participants: Max, Spencer, Despina, Regina.
    - At Max IV, Carla will temporarily take over Daphne's responsibilities regarding SciCat.
    - Spencer and Despina will take over the job of "Effort Leader" for this release.
    - The first job action to be implemented will be "URL"
  - Release Search UI
    - No updates on implementation
    - Max needs to grant access to the project to Igor (Done at the moment of this writing)
    - Igor gave a presentations about the tools that he uses in development projects and would like to bring in in this release.
    - Webix has been presented to the community.
      - Webix is free for use in open source projects
        Webix Standard is free and open-sourced under the GNU GPLv3 license, but can be used in applications distributed under the MIT, BSD

> *and other open-source licenses via a FLOSS exception.*
> *https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webix*

- Its licenses might be not compatible with SciCat license.
- Community is resistant to bring in into the project an additional framework and add complexity to the frontend.
    - SoundCloud was demoed.
        - It is free for open source projects
        - It can be useful to assess technical debt
        - Community would like to see how it can be use in improving this release before voting on its adoption
    - ReactiveX.io was presented.
        - Tool to understand how event base programming works.
        - It can highlight why some functionalities are not working as expected.
    - This release might be a good playground to evaluate these tools, explore their pros and cons.
    - The community would like to have a presentation with the benefits provided by these tools in the development of this release. The plan is to have this presentation at the face to face meeting in July.
  - Release SciCatLive
    - Carlo will lead this release
    - An initial brainstorm session will be take offline and results will be present to the community.
    - SciCatLive should contain the latest release of BE and FE.
- API Documentation
    - Swagger will be considered the official API documentation
    - it will be included in SciCatLive
    - At the moment there is no public swagger API. This is an major issue.
    - It seems that the swagger API can be exported and made available as static html page. We need more investigation. A new issue will be open.
- PRs and Issues
  - FE #1405: e2e tests failing
    - Bjorn is monitoring the situation. The issue cannot be reproduced consistently at the moment.
  - BE #760: API version mismatch
    - Given that SciCat is in V4.x, we should update API to v4
    - Community discussed if we should go from "api/v3" to "api/v4"?
    - This will be a breaking change.
    - Other breaking changes are coming, like the release jobs.
    - Community decided to move forward with the API version upgrade and introduce one breaking change at the time.
    - An issue will be open.

Additional features discussed in the past
currently on the back burner

- Proposed types for Scientific Metadata, Issue #984
  - https://github.com/SciCatProject/scicat-backend-next/issues/984

- Metadata entry schema
  - The overall metadata schema is free for the user to design their own structure
  - SciCat will impose a schema at the entry level to be able to interpret and visualize the values reducing uncertainty and wrong interpretation
  - https://github.com/SciCatProject/scicat-backend-next/issues/939#issuecomment-1874033672

- Dataset hierarchy
  - Proposed solution:
    - unify the dataset schema
    - add dataset type: collection (specialized type of derived dataset)
  - https://github.com/SciCatProject/scicat-backend-next/issues/805

- Independent endpoint for datasets scientific metadata management
  - https://github.com/SciCatProject/scicat-backend-next/issues/954
  - As we use SciCat as our platform to curate our dataset, it is becoming more important to be able to add, update or delete individual scientific metadata entries