

Meeting Notes

5th of March 2024

- SciCatCon 2024: SciCat In-Person Meeting
 - Dates: 2-4 July 2024
 - Location: on-site at PSI, Switzerland
 - Agenda discussion:

The community discussed the possibility to move the users presentation on the morning of the second day, to enable core developer to tailor the discussion in the developer session towards a better usability and focus the effort to improve SciCat to meet the user needs.
 - Proposed agenda:
 - Day 1 afternoon:
 - Opening remarks
 - Features presentations:
 - Elastic Search
 - Release Jobs (if ready)
 - Facilities updates:
 - 2 slides each.
 - Focus on users requirements
 - Day 2:
 - Morning:
 - User presentations with “honest” feedback on usability and features set
 - Afternoon
 - Developer session 1
 - Day 3 morning:
 - Developer session 2
 - It has been proposed to invite a representative of the iCAT community to improve collaboration and increase interoperability between the two systems.
- Releases
 - Release jobs
 - Job action URL are ready
 - Regina will start testing manually
 - More discussion is still needed regarding the authorization layer
 - More discussion is still needed regarding how to trigger an action
 - Attila is working on a mocking service to be used for testing
 - A new meeting is needed between the release contributors to discuss
 - Participants: Spencer, Regina, Max, Despina
 - More discussion is needed about the nice to have
 - Release Search UI
 - Igor reviewed the scope and reported that the effort is not minimal

- No updates
 - Volunteers are still needed
- Release SciCatLive
 - Carlo has updated the project dashboard on github
 - An offline meeting will happen to coordinate effort
 - Updates
- SciCat questions
 - OIDC access group:
 - The new functionality is available in the latest master.
 - It has not yet been released.
 - Information is in the README
 - Documentation need to be updated
 - Laura expressed interest to update documentation
- PRs and Issues
 - BE #954: add support for atomic patching of scientificMetadata sub-fields
 - The community raised the priority for this feature
 - Please review the issue for the next meeting
- Future Features
 - Dataset history:
 - at the moment the update history for dataset objects is a field of the object itself and contains only the changes made to the scientific metadata.
 - Proposed changes:
 - make history a stand alone collection
 - each update is an entry in the history collection
 - track any changes to the datasets object
 - Community is in favor, more discussion is needed
 - Will create an issue on github

Open discussions for future features

currently not scheduled on any release

- 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
 - High priority
- Dataset history and update history
 - should we create a stand alone collection for update history?
 - should we track any changes made to datasets?
 - should we track changes made to other objects?