

MS44-1-5 Live monitoring on-site, remote and unattended data collection on synchrotron MX beamlines
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Abstract

Macromolecular crystallography instruments around the world run more and more in a remote access or unattended configuration. This results in less contact between humans and the hardware as well as less awareness of software and hardware states. Beamline failures that were in the past routinely reported by humans are now missed and lost in the noise of other issues. On another hand there is a need to have a chain of triggers from the beamline failure to the call out of a synchrotron staff that can assess and fix an issue. Finally, although most facilities have constant monitoring tools such as text messages or emails on catastrophic failures like loss of vacuum or cooling in the DCM, they tend to not monitor less important information due to the incapacity of a human being to deal with excessive amounts of information including false positives. Here we present a beamline monitoring software that intends to monitor EPICS PVs as well as other systems via HTTP restful interfaces, database connections or on disk file analysis and report in a configurable way to systems such as Slack, Email, Signal/WhatsApp or others. The use of a Slack bot allows update of configuration notifications as well as query some beamline states remotely before a support remote connection is required. Concepts as beamline mode as well as custom notifications for different staff members as well as a dependency chain of failures help reduce the number of notifications to a level which can be dealt with. The expectation is that this will be part of the on call / callout system, monitor the beamline live for upcoming possible problems as well as provide a log of the beamline states for the last day(s).

References

[1] <https://networkx.org/> [2] R. Flaig et al, Acta Cryst. (2017). A73, a71

Live monitoring of an EPICS beamline

