WRXI: status and plans

White Rabbit eXtensions for Instrumentation

Dimitris Lampridis

CERN, BE-CO-HT

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Outline

1. Short Overview of WRXI
2. Current Status & Plans
1 Short Overview of WRXI

2 Current Status & Plans
Introduction

WR provides clock and time synchronisation.
- For some setups this is all that is needed.
  - Time and frequency transfer
  - Distributed precise timestamping
  - (...)
- For others, an additional communication and coordination layer is required.
  - Timing* systems
  - Distributed instrumentation
  - RF distribution over WR
  - (...)
- Need to exchange timestamped data payloads between Nodes in a deterministic way.
White Rabbit eXtensions for Instrumentation

- WRXI aims to standardise:
  - the contents of these Event Messages
  - the API for the configuration and monitoring of nodes and the relevant aspects of the WR network
- WRXI will also provide a Supervisor tool to:
  - enumerate new WRXI nodes
  - be a single entry point for the user
  - resolve scheduling issues
- The goal is to have WRXI-enabled equipment (also by commercial manufacturers) that is plug & play and interoperable.
Is WRXI better than LXI, PXI, [...]?
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Betteridge’s law of headlines

“Any headline that ends in a question mark can be answered by the word no.”
Is WRXI better than LXI, PXI, […]?

WRXI:
- is not a complete platform for remote control of electronic instrumentation.
- is a subsystem that handles timing and triggering over WR.
- can be used on top of another instrumentation platform, if that instrument supports WR.
- is platform-agnostic and can be used to exchange Event Messages between Nodes belonging to different platforms.
More Information

For a more in-depth introduction to WRXI and the motivation behind it, please refer to past presentations of WRXI:

- https://www.ohwr.org/projects/wrxi/wiki/presentations
1 Short Overview of WRXI

2 Current Status & Plans
Current Status

- **LXI Event Messages** (part of *extended functions*) the closest existing standard.
- **IVI 3.15 (IviLxiSync)** describes the API for handling LXI event messages.
- Active collaboration with IVI Foundation and LXI consortium.
  - Meeting held in Munich in June 2018 to discuss how WRXI could be made part of IVI/LXI
  - We will list our requirements, they offer to map them to IVI/LXI and extend where necessary
- An early demonstrator for CERN OASIS WR-based trigger distribution is under development.
A draft proposal to IVI/LXI is being distributed for comments (currently at draft03).

You can find the latest version at the WRXI project page in OHWR. Your comments are welcome!

https://www.ohwr.org/projects/wrxi/documents
OASIS WR-based Trigger Distribution

What is OASIS:

- Analogue signal monitoring system
- 6000 analogue signals
- 2500 multiplexed digitizer channels
- 300 trigger signals
OASIS WR-based Trigger Distribution

A “straightforward” application of WRXI:

- Convert OASIS triggers to Event Messages at the sources using FMC-TDC cards
- Broadcast them in the WR network
- Receive them with WRXI-enabled digitizers, or convert them back to TTL pulses using FMC-Delay cards
OASIS WR-based Trigger Distribution

- Based on LHC Instability Trigger distribution System (LIST).
- Internally based on MockTurtle, a deterministic, multi-core, soft-CPU.
- Rewritten API to abstract it and align it with IviLxiSync 3.15.
- Minimise the migration cost to WRXI once the latter is released.
- Use this example as a case study for current IVI/LXI shortcomings.
Outlook

- OASIS WR-based Trigger Distribution to be gradually deployed at CERN during 2019.
- Proposal to IVI/LXI group to be delivered in Q1 2019.
- Develop a WRXI-based “distributed oscilloscope” demonstrator for Q2 2019.

Feel free to join the discussions and participate in shaping the future of WRXI!
Thank you!

Contact info

- W: https://www.ohwr.org/projects/wrxi
- @: dimitris.lampridis@cern.ch
- T: +41 22 76 75410