CANARIE Research Software Program Technical Newsletter

November 2014

New Program landing page

Over the summer, CANARIE's External Relations team has been hard at work revamping our corporate website. As part of this re-design, we have a new landing page for the Research Software Program. The science.canarie.ca URL has been redirected to this page. If you're using a browser, the new landing page will include links to the Platform and Service registries. The actual URLs of the registries haven't changed and are:

https://science.canarie.ca/researchmiddleware/services/list/main.html

https://science.canarie.ca/researchmiddleware/platforms/list/main.html

New STAC Member!

We'd like to welcome Tom Landry from CRIM to the Software Technical Advisory Committee (STAC). This committee is vital to CANARIE in setting the technical direction of the Research Software Program and we're looking forward to Tom's contributions.

Research Software Blog - Telling Canadians about your work

We've started a blog on the CANARIE website to highlight some of the great science our program participants have been doing to all Canadians. Read our first entry describing how CANFAR is mapping the Kuiper Belt in support of the New Horizons mission at

http://www.canarie.ca/research-software-blog-research-platform-developed-by-canfar-helps-researchers-discover-plutos-neighbours/

We'd be happy to blog about your work and its impact as well. Please contact Scott (scott.henwood@canarie.ca) to discuss.

Program Updates

New features added to science.canarie.ca

What's new?

This section describes features that have been added to the Research Software Portal on science.canarie.ca since the last newsletter.

Portal Notifications — We've added the ability for the portal to notify users of potential downtime through banner alerts. If there is an active notification, it will appear as text in a blue box at the top of each page.

Support for the new Research Service types — The portal has been modified to support Self-Deployed Services and Integrated Services. Refer to the June 2014 newsletter for details.

Unpublished Platforms and Services — Want to test your Platform or Service for reachability before making it publicly available? We've added an unpublished setting to the portal so that selected resources will only be visible to the owners of those resources. See the next page for details.

Hide 'Coming Soon' — Visitors to science.canarie.ca can now choose to hide the resources marked as "Coming Soon' from the registry listings.

More Self-Serve for Resource Owners — CANARIE has already added all Services and Platforms that are under development to the portal with a status of "Coming Soon". Now it's up to you! We've added the technical lead for each Service/Platform as the owner. These leads can now log onto the portal and manage their resources directly, including defining the type, changing states and adding additional owners.

New Resource States

Complementary to the "Coming Soon" feature that we described in the last newsletter, we've also introduced the concept of Service and Platform states to aid deployment workflow.

Why add new resource states?

Initially the portal at science.canarie.ca supported what we now call the "published" state for contributed Services and Platforms. When a Service or Platform is in the published state, its details and availability statistics are available to everyone. This is great for a Service/Platform that is complete and in production, but

not so useful earlier in the software development cycle. For this reason we've introduced the "Pending" and "Unpublished" states.

Pending Services and Platforms

The "Pending" state is a place holder state that allows a Service or Platform to be listed on the registry before it is complete. The registry allows us to enter basic information about the resource so that other groups who are looking for collaborations can see what is currently under development. Pending Services and Platforms are added to the portal by CANARIE and an owner (the technical lead identified in your proposal) is assigned. At this point, the owner can change information, assign other owners, and change the resource state. Services and Platforms that are in the pending state appear as 'Coming Soon' on the registry listing.

Unpublished Services and Platforms

Once a Service or Platform is ready to be deployed, the owner may decide to move it to the unpublished state for long-term testing. To the logged-in resource owner, unpublished resources appear to be the same as published resources. The resource is polled by the portal and the owner sees a view of the resource that includes availability and usage information. To other users of the portal however, an unpublished resource will still be listed as 'Coming Soon' with minimal information available.

Published Services and Platforms

When a resource is in the published state, it is polled by the portal with details and availability information available to all portal users. This was the portal behaviour prior to the introduction of resource states.

Editing Services and Platforms

If you are the owner of a Service or Platform, you can edit it by:

1. Logging on to science.canarie.ca
2. Selecting 'My Resources" from the drop down menu that appears under your email address (top right of screen)
3. Clicking on the name of the resource you want to edit.

Note that once you move a resource out of the Pending state, you cannot return it to Pending. You can however switch between Unpublished and Published as required.

Coming Up Next…

science.canarie.ca roadmap

Next up, the CANARIE development team will be working on a mechanism to allow Platforms to indicate which contributed services they are using. This information is vital to CANARIE in terms of measuring and communicating the value of the program.

Once we have a plan, we'll be discussing the approach with the Platform teams (we don't expect services to be affected) during the project status meetings.

And for the program

As CANARIE's current mandate is set to wind up at the end of March 2015,
we're busy defining the program roadmap for our next mandate. Details cannot be provided at the moment, but when the program is announced in CANARIE's next mandate, you'll be happy to see that several of the suggestions we received from the community have been incorporated.