GUIs are luxury items in the science world

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Our GUI is slowing platform updates

We delay backend updates because we fear breaking the frontend

The frontend is fragile: it depends on all backend components working flawlessly

PAVICS

Why are we building a GUI again ?

They really do make certain tasks easier

Every consumer/commercial application has one

It makes for livelier demos than a bash terminal

We can show "something" to management

(birdy) david@DavidH-linux:
(birdy) david@DavidH-linux:
Usage: birdy tg_mean [OPTIO

  Mean daily mean temperatu
  series by taking the mean

Options:
  --version   Show the v
  --tas COMPLEX   Resource
  --freq TEXT   Frequency
  -h, --help   Show this
(birdy) david@DavidH-linux:
Usage: birdy [OPTIONS] COMM

  Birdy is a command line

  Documentation is availabl
  http://birdy.readthedocs.

Options:
  --version   Show th
  --cert TEXT   Client
                    private
  -S, --send   Send cl
  -s, --sync   Execute
  -t, --token TEXT Token t
  -h, --help   Show th

Commands:

GUIs are expensive

Typically use 30 to 50% of a project's budget

Frontend technologies evolve fast

Developers may be harder to recruit and retain

Low tolerance to malfunction

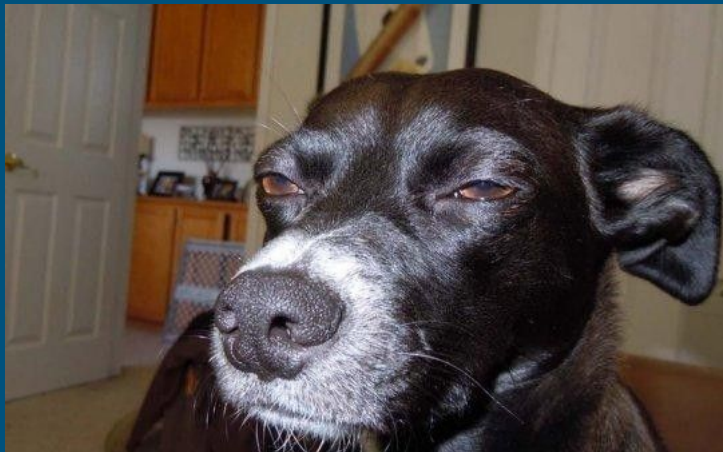Unlikely to benefit from outsiders' Pull Requests

Scientists are understandably wary of GUIs

You can review a script, but *typically* can't review GUI interactions

Legitimate doubts about the life expectancy of frontend applications

I have a talk tomorrow and the platform is down, what now ?

Canarie tested GUI-avoidance strategies

Let users launch virtual machines

Provide only a backend and API

Develop very focused GUIs for a few key tasks

Questions we should have asked ourselves

Is the GUI valuable to researchers or is it a promotional tool ?

Is the backend mature enough to support a GUI ?

What are the opportunity costs of the GUI ?

Some suggestions for funders

Challenge proposals on the need for a GUI

Interview platform PIs and write "lessons learned" case studies

The research software ecosystem needs a predator

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