

ETC Minutes - 02/17/2009

Tuesday, February 17, 2009
3:00 PM

Attendees

- Matt Cechini (ECHO Ops)
- Cristina Bories (ECHO)
- Dan Pilone (ECHO)
- Frank Corprew (ECHO)
- Ed Seufert (WIST)
- Mark Solomon (WIST)
- Andy Mitchell (ESDIS)
- Cathy Fowler (NSIDC)
- Donna Scott (NSIDC)
- Doug Fowler (NSIDC)
- Amanda Leon (NSIDC)
- Matt Martens (LPDAAC)
- Lisa Baatz (USGS_EROS)
- Dawn Siemonsma (LPDAAC)
- Kathleen Mason (LARC)
- Ed Seiler (GSFCS4PA)
- Merlie Hanson (SEDAC)
- Evelyn Nakamura (ECS)
- Marilyn Drewry (GHRC)
- Ben McMurry (ORNL)
- Chris Finch (PODAAC)

Agenda

1. ECHO Operations Status / EDG2WIST
2. ECHO & WIST 10.8
3. NCR 11004393 - Password Reset User Experience
4. Additional Attribute Type Handling Ticket Review
5. Upcoming Events
 - a. ECHO/WIST 10.8 to Operations (2/18/09)
 - b. ECHO Preventative Maintenance (2/18/09 7:00am - 2:00pm)
6. Other Questions/Issues

1. ECHO Operational Status / EDG 2 WIST Status

The ECHO Operational Performance/Activity Metrics are as follows. These metrics are for the week of 2/1 - 2/14

- Total # Queries (end-user) - 13468
- Average Query Time - 29.92s
- Query Time Std. Dev - 70.69s
- Total # Orders - 4239
- Total # ECHO Users - 5314 (+262)

The 2/28/09 EDG decommissioning date stands firm with no expected delays. All providers are prepared for the removal of their valids on the morning of the 28th.

In order to ensure that users are not affected by the EDG shut down, ECHO needs to coordinate with system administrators at EDG DAAC currently maintaining an EDG instance. Currently, this includes NSIDC, LPDAAC, and LaRC. ECHO is recommending that all web traffic to an EDG instance be forwarded to the WIST welcome page. This can be configured within network infrastructure at each DAAC site, and should be done before the EDG software and hardware are shut down. The WIST welcome page which should be used is: <https://wist.echo.nasa.gov/~wist/api/imswelcome/>

ECHO will also be providing instructions to the DAACs regarding some final activities which will need to be performed. These instructions should be sent to the following people:

- NSIDC - Doug Fowler
- LPDAAC - Matt Martens
- LARC - Sue Sorlie (cc Lindsay & Kathleen)

2. ECHO & WIST 10.8

ECHO and WIST 10.8 will be pushed Operationally tomorrow (2/18/09). Due to related database and file system patches, the Operational system will be unavailable from 7:00 am - 2:00pm EST for maintenance activities. Providers are encouraged to verify and close all NCRs which were submitted by then and are fixed in this release.

3. NCR 11004393 - Password Reset User Experience

Currently when users request a password reset via WIST and ECHO, the ECHO system will not return any validating information regarding whether the submitted user name and email address matched or not. This was decided pre ECHO 9.0 as a security feature in order to prevent nefarious usage of the API to overtake someone's ECHO account. The con to this approach is that if the user's user name and email address do not match, no email is generated by ECHO, and the user does not know why. WIST or DAAC user services eventually will receive questions from the user and then have to debug the situation.

The suggested approach is to return a message to the user stating that "The user name and email address are incorrect." Users will then be able to retry the password reset functionality if they want. ECHO will continue to not send an email if the reset function is unsuccessful, but with the updated interaction users will know why they do not receive an email.

- LPDAAC likes the idea that users will be notified that the user name and email do not match.
 - The other providers agreed that this was an acceptable approach. WIST could also add text stating "Contact WIST Support if you have any questions." to the returned failure message.
- Dawn - Trying to reset password - user is not receiving an email with new password information. Resetting with older user account.
 - ECHO looked into this, and the account for which the password was being reset did not exist in ECHO.
- Donna - User not getting email confirmation - No email when registering a new password.
 - User is using the incorrect WIST function.

4. Additional Attribute Type Handling Ticket Review

The ticket for this review was sent to all ECHO data and client partners prior to the meeting and was attached to the agenda. The purpose of this review is to discuss an enhancement request which would facilitate tighter data validation and search reliability for additional attribute data within the ECHO holdings.

- Donna - What's driving this?
 - Internal motivation - ECHO would like to enhance the integrity of its additional attribute data and facilitate additional ingest validation and more correctly represent data to ECHO clients and end users. This work is a step that will facilitate resolutions to other issues such as cloud cover attribute searching.
 - External motivation - Currently, client providers are not able to generate queries with additional attributes, or display the results, due to possible data integrity issues within the ECHO holdings. End users are currently experiencing search failures due to how the attributes are represented within ECHO and because strong typing is not available.
- Doug - Will ECHO change the format of submitted data?
 - With the proposed approach, ECHO will require date and time values to be supplied according to a known standard. This ensures that the data is searched correctly.
 - There are no instances in ECHO data where the supplied format is invalid with the proposed format

- restrictions.
- There is DAAC discomfort with ECHO requiring a format for dates and times.
 - If a format is not enforced, then ECHO cannot represent the attribute values as a true date or time value. Only string searching would be available.
 - Evelyn - Science Data Server treated dates as a string and searched them as a string.
- Evelyn - Would there be any changes on the BMGT side?
 - The current approach would not require any changes. However, if a date/time additional attribute with a non-standard format appeared in a future collection, BMGT may have to transform the data into the correct format.
 - BMGT could treat non-standard date/time additional attributes as strings, and export them as a string.
 - BMGT cannot change these values.
 - The providers were sufficiently dissuaded by the prospect of having granule ingest fail because of an invalidly formatted date/time value.
- Ed Seiler - For ECHO 9.0 providers, is the only change required the updating of the additional attribute data type conformance to the provided enumeration? - Yes
- Cathy Fowler -
 - Rejecting granules because of invalid PSA values is something that NSIDC would have a concern with. They would like the granules to continue to process.
 - If the data cannot be validated at least for type, then this whole approach cannot be considered. ECHO must at least be able to verify that an "integer" additional attribute is indeed an integer in order to search the data based on integer values, and not string comparison.
- Dan - There is not much benefit to go part way on this effort to put a framework together. ECHO could find other means to resolve the few issues causing problems for users.
- This topic will be taken offline to collect concerns and fit them into the design as additional requirements. These concerns include:
 - Rejection
 - GMT Time
 - Future possible need for reformatting
- Doug - Is it possible to just make some searchable, and not all of them?
 - Dan - Part of the problem is that different PSAs are used to specify cloud cover, and over time, ECHO has implemented adapters in ECHO to facilitate some cloud cover searching. However, this approach does not account for changing PSAs and means that asking an item a formal part of the data model is problematic.
 - If "some" attributes need to be typed, then all attributes of that type need to be searched the same way.
- Cathy - NCR 11004375 (Duplicate GLAS Nose PSAs) should also be considered in this topic.

ECHO will discuss this further internally and re-present the topic if additional provider input is needed.

5. Upcoming Events

- ECHO/WIST 10.8 to Operations (2/18/09)
- ECHO Preventative Maintenance (2/18/09 7:00am - 2:00pm)

6. Questions

- NCR 11004322 - Ordering results - ECHO/WIST continue to discuss internally.