ATEF

Automated Test Execution Framework

Robert Tang-Kong / Experimental Controls Systems Alex Wallace presenting

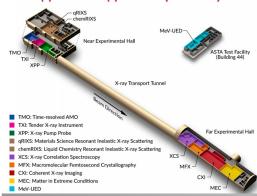
2023





LCLS is a complicated place

Things change frequently



- Beamlines are many, and they are complicated
 - Devices are frequently inserted and removed
- Beamlines on our linear lightsource are not fully independent

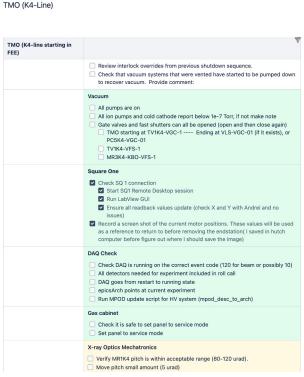


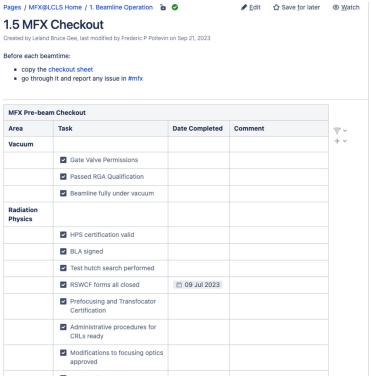
How do we manage this variability?



"Checkouts" verify the state of the beamline

The status quo is painfully manual and error prone







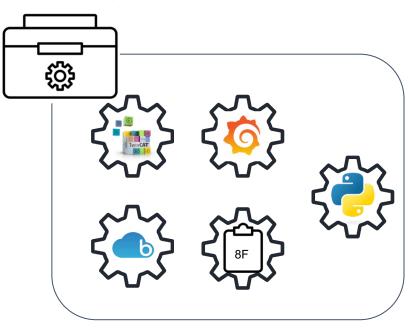
The solution: ATEF

Automated Test Execution Framework

Represents one part of the automation toolkit

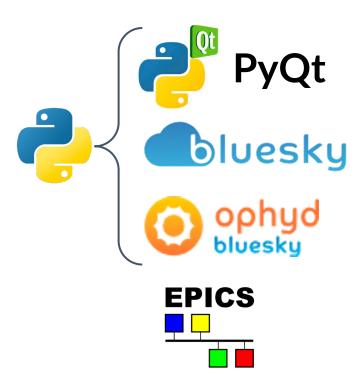
Goals

- Make "checkouts" faster and easier
- Make "checkouts" reproducible
- Make "checkouts" trackable





ATEF: the stack

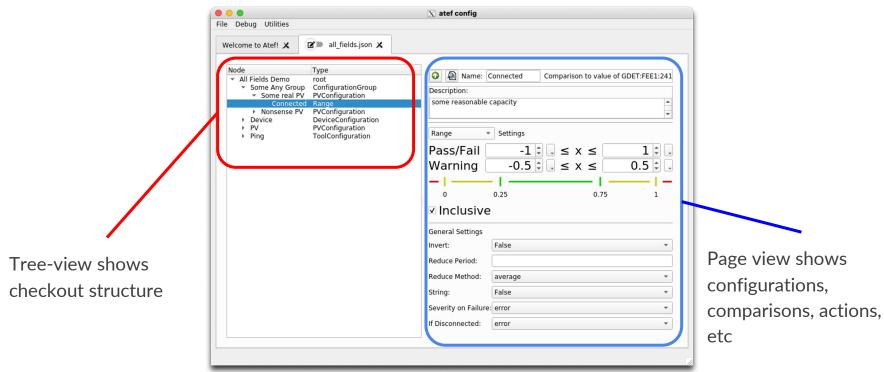


- PyQt: a flexible GUI library
 - Has hooks for building/modifying everything
- Bluesky: Data Collection Framework
 - Provides experimental plan orchestration
- Ophyd: gets EPICS PVs into python
 - Allows grouping of PVs into logical devices

- EPICS: a standard, widely used controls system
 - Simple get/put interface



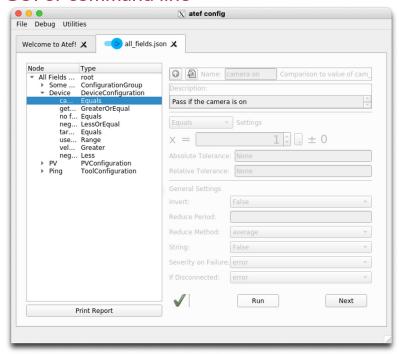
Quick Tour: Basics

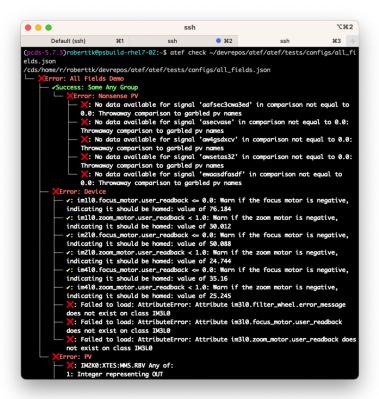




Quick Tour: Running Checkouts

GUI or command line







Quick Tour: Passive vs Active Checkouts

Passive Checkouts

- Read Access only
- Steps performed asynchronously
- Steps run without user intervention

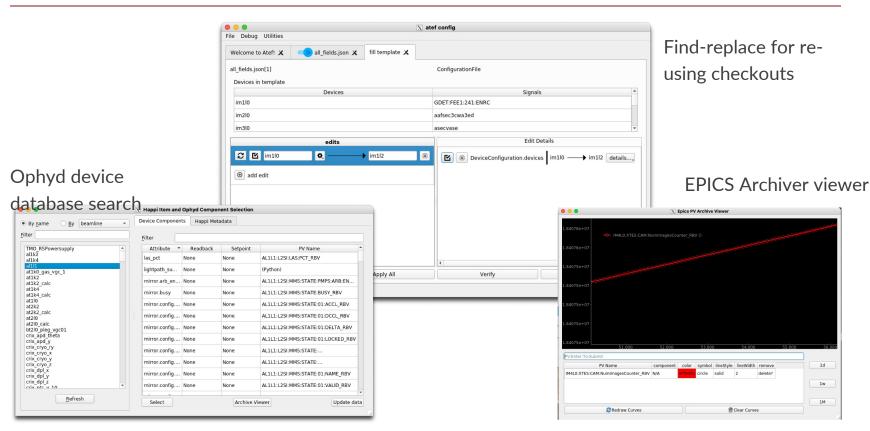
Active Checkouts

- Read and Write access
- Steps performed sequentially
- Steps allow for user verification
- Requires additional control
 - Error handling
 - Safe abort, resume

Writing to the control system requires caution!



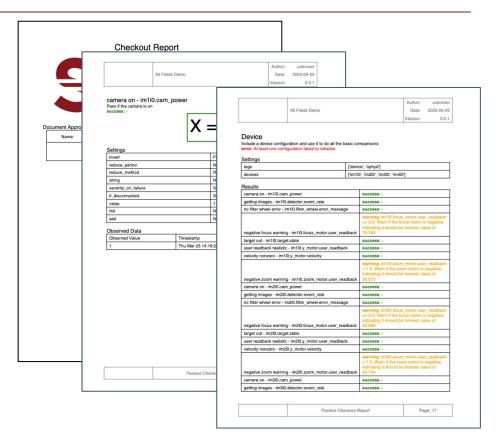
Utility Tools





Quick Tour: Reports

- Reports auto-generated from collected data and checkout definitions
- Includes
 - Expected, recorded values
 - Checkout settings
- Minimal-to-no customization needed for reporting any checkout step



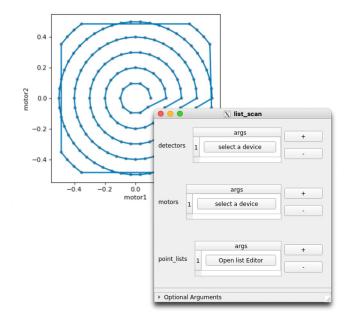


Future Feature Plans

More ways to checkout









Lessons Learned

Some thoughts in retrospect

User Feedback

Don't lose sight of the needs of the user

Well-Defined Scope

Stakeholder requests must be contextualized

Quality of Life

Small frustrations can snowball into a loss of stakeholder goodwill

Flexible and Rapid Iteration

Pythonic stack facilitated quick debugging and tight iteration cycles Testing and continuous integration is difficult, but worthwhile



Questions?

Thanks for your attention!

