VDAS/DAQ meeting
11/10/2012

➢ Use of NX protocol for remote connections

➢ PackageManagement: from virgoDev to virgoStaging

NX, NeatX, FreeNx, ...

- **NX**: client-server protocol to have secure and fast X11 display of a remote Unix desktop

- **NX from NoMachine**, used at Cascina since ~1 or 2 years

  - NX server: 2 free licenses per server, others have to be paid (now: farmn3,4,5)

  - NX client: free

- **FreeNX**, used at LAPP since 2 or 3 years

  - FreeNX server: free with no limit on number of users

    – Easy installation and upgrades with rpm

    – Need to reboot server ~1 times every 10 months

    – A bit less stable/less features than NX (load repartition, ...)

  - Works with the NX client from NoMachine

- **In the air**: NX protocol might be natively supported in the future Unix versions ? Within ~2 years ?

NX, NeatX, FreeNx, ...

- **Advantages of NX protocol**

  - Fast display on remote locations (labs, home, ...)

  - Sessions can be disconnected and then reconnected later as they were left

    – Xemacs, Clients for monitoring (**good for remote shifts and on-call**), ROOT, dataDisplay...

- **Some more comments**

  - I did not notice difference between NX at Cascina and FreeNX at LAPP (since the NX client is the same)

- **Comments of other NX users ?**

Package Management

- **External packages**: fftw, gstreamer, xforms, ROOT, ...

  - Package provided in archive server and built by CMT.

  - For ROOT: wget the package in order not to archive it at Cascina. Under tests.

- **Scripts to install packages in virgoStaging** (but also in any other locations if needed)

  - Get the package and the missing dependencies from archive server (CVS now, then SVN)

  - Compile the packages if needed

    --> has been tested at LAPP (Emmanuel, Benoît)

    --> under setup at Cascina (Emmanuel, Franco)