Integrating Defect Tracking P4DTI – a personal experience

Robert Cowham
robert@vaccaperna.co.uk
Vaccaperna Systems Ltd

 1 VACCAPERNA SYSTEMS LIMITED

Contents

- Defect Tracking Approaches
- Brief Intro to P4DTI
- Tracker
- Demo

 2 VACCAPERNA SYSTEMS LIMITED

Approaches to Defect Tracking

- Jobs
- Third Party System Integration
  - P4DTI
  - DevTrack (API directly)
  - Etc.

 3 VACCAPERNA SYSTEMS LIMITED

Integration Options

- Using Changelist comments
  - Difficult to change
  - Simple
- Using Jobs
  - Easy to change
  - Different status associations

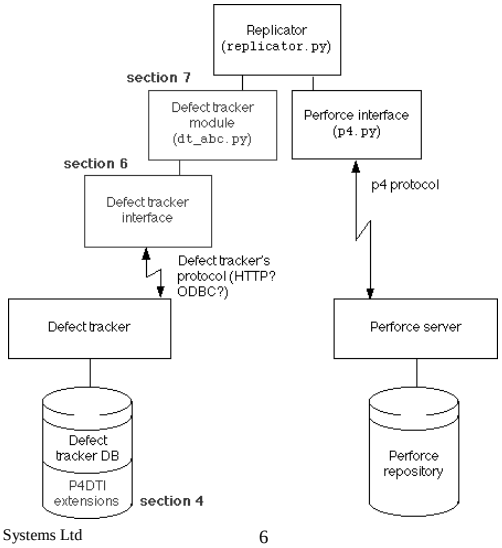
 4 VACCAPERNA SYSTEMS LIMITED

P4DTI

- Publicly available
- Designed to be generic
  - Initially TeamTrack and Bugzilla
- Documentation suggests up to 10 weeks effort

 5 VACCAPERNA SYSTEMS LIMITED

P4DTI Architecture



 6 VACCAPERNA SYSTEMS LIMITED

Other Aspects

- Comprehensive Test harness
  - Not so easy to customize

 7 VACCAPERNA SYSTEMS LIMITED

P4DTI User Experiences

- Somewhat verbose
  - Many emails generated
- Support…

 8 VACCAPERNA SYSTEMS LIMITED

My Requirements

- Tracker was Master
- Tracker->p4 replication of fields
  - Title
  - Description
  - Owner
- P4->Tracker
  - State and fix info
  - Update a couple of fields

 9 VACCAPERNA SYSTEMS LIMITED

My P4DTI Experience

- Pros
  - Well documented (too well?!)
  - Perforce side worked very well
- Cons
  - Overly generic/complex
    - `Translator_0_to_1`
  - Coding Style…
  - Verbosity of logging
  - Not so easy to get started

 10 VACCAPERNA SYSTEMS LIMITED

Tracker API

- Well designed
- Fairly well documented
- Fairly easy to call from Python
- Not many bugs…
- Can't easily store state

 11 VACCAPERNA SYSTEMS LIMITED

Recommendations

- Refactor/simplify
- P4Python (for performance)

 12 VACCAPERNA SYSTEMS LIMITED

Demo

 13 VACCAPERNA SYSTEMS LIMITED

Conclusion

- A comprehensive starting point
- Brings a lot to the table
- Would love to see a P4DTI-Lite!

 14 VACCAPERNA SYSTEMS LIMITED