

Ticketing system integration

5th TF-NOC meeting Dubrovnik 15/2-12 Stefan Liström





Agenda

Background

Current problems and solutions

Our idea and implementation

Conclusions





Background

- Before and now
 - Early 1970's we started sending e-mails over the network
 - 2012 The most preferred way to communicate with external parties is still e-mail (see NOC survey).
- Two main ways to send out ticket info
 - Disseminate to only selected parties
 - Very restrictive and can be hard to manage
 - Disseminate everything to everyone
 - Can become very "spammy"





Problems

- Problems (primarily multi-domain)
 - Large customers (projects that buy services from several NRENs) have a hard time to get a complete overview of their service.
 - Coordinating troubleshooting on the same service in several domains is very challenging
 - Information sent between different organisations have to be manually added to ticket systems





Current solutions

- Current solutions (workarounds)
 - Implement a separate ticket system (LHCOPN)
 - Implement a separate organisation to collect and disseminate information (E2ECU)
- Both solutions have overhead
 - I.e. NOC have to use two ticket systems for same information or someone have to "manually" collect information from several sources and redistribute it





Earlier work

- Correlation of information in e-mails in the EGEE project
- Proved very hard
 - Due to loose constraints on e-mails almost every organisation use different structures, information and language in their e-mails
- However part of that work resulted in RFC6137 (NTTDM)
 - Some bias towards grid community but for most parts very generic and useful





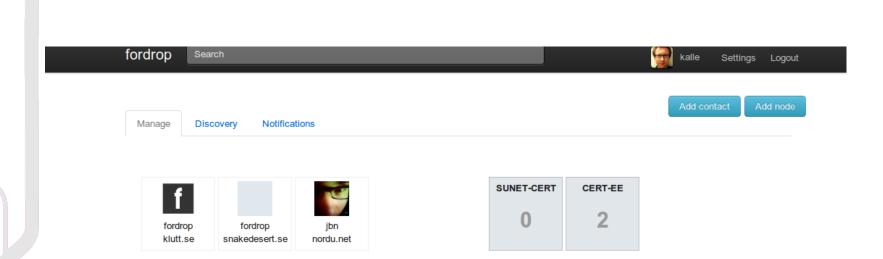
Fordrop

- Forensic dropbox is a social tool for collaborative computer forensic analysis (fordrop.org)
- Targeted towards CERT community
- Distributed (bootstrap as centralized)
- Subscribe and publish using XMPP federations
- Messages are structured as Activity streams (JSON)
- Presentation at Terena 2012 conf.





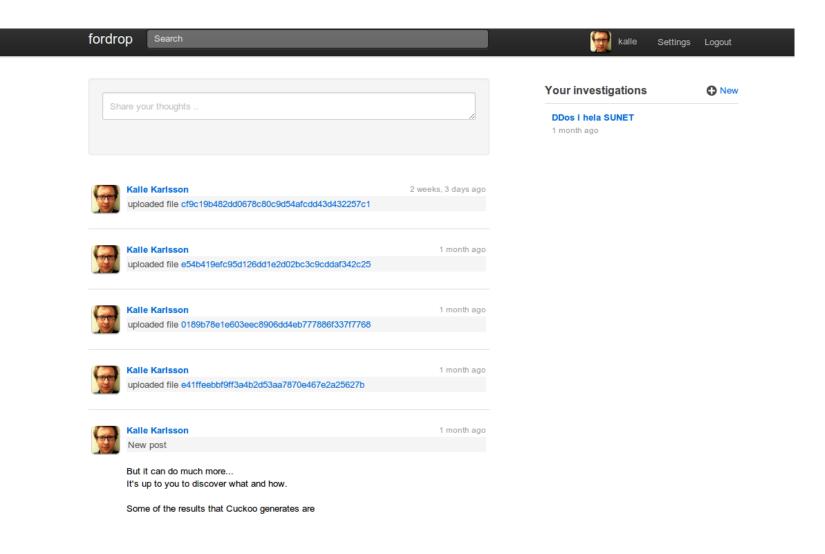
Users and nodes







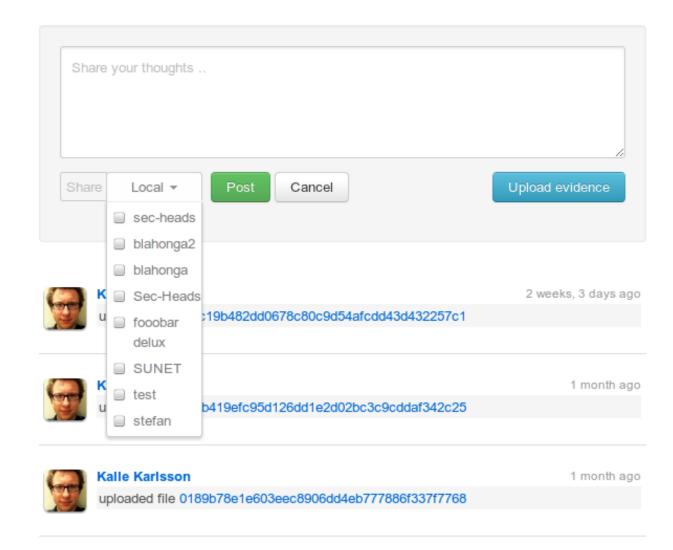
Message thread







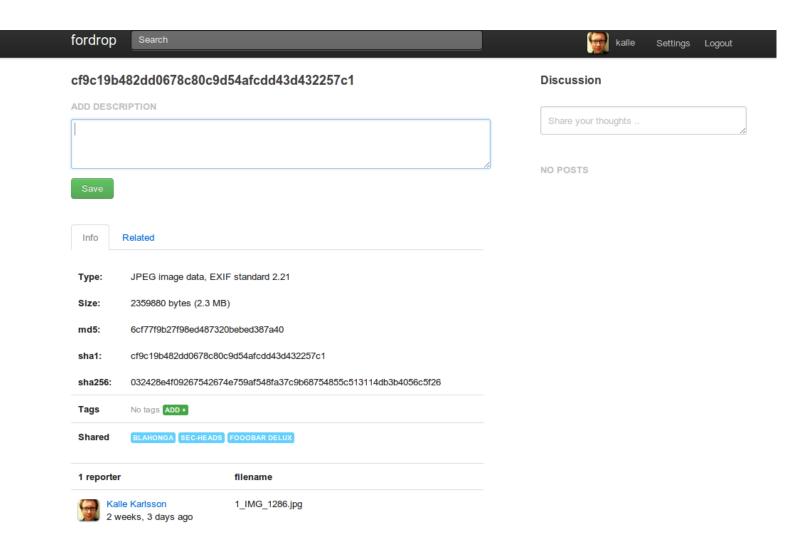
Message dissemination







Message details







Trouble ticket developments

- Building on Fordrop to automate trouble ticket dissemination
- Done so far
 - RSS to Activity stream translator
 - Correlation of two different activity streams
- Next step
 - Create a module to automatically create/ update/close tickets in RT





What makes this succeed?

- Based on open standards
 - Activity streams is widely adopted (e.g. by Facebook and Google)
 - Several ticket systems already support RSS feeds
 - Many organisations already have their own XMPP servers
- More and more organisations are restructuring their ticket systems and introducing more structured data





Interested?

- Think this is a good idea and want to help this initiative?
 - Let us know what kind of fields you have in your ticket system
 - Turn on a RSS feed from your system that we can experiment with





Conclusions

 We are still using the same method to disseminate information as the 1970's

 Current solutions makes coordination very challenging

 We now have the standards and technology to make something better

You can with make a difference!





Questions?

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