

Ideas for completing fddaq-v4.4.0... (Kurt, 08-April-2024)

Initial comment: the v4.x development line is experiencing somewhat different needs and pressures than our typical development cycles. On one hand, external factors are driving a desire to have 'releases' at fairly specific time points. On the other hand, development and testing are continuing with the person-power that we have and this is not always going to produce results that are matched to the release time points.

I have several concerns, and one example is the following.

- usually, new development stops with the first release candidate and we switch to testing mode. However for v4.4.0, we seem to be treating the second release candidate as an opportunity to get more changes in. A concern is that this means that we are not testing this release as much as we should.

Another example: I don't feel that I have a good sense of what repositories will have changes for the second release candidate.

For this week, I'd like to propose something along the lines of the following:

- we build the second release candidate on Thursday afternoon Chicago time, 11-April**
 - all known/planned changes that are going to be included in *fddaq-v4.4.0* need to be included in that release candidate
 - the only changes that will be accepted between the 11th and the 17th** of April are bug fixes
 - this week, the merging of changes that have coupling between multiple repositories needs to be planned and scheduled. There will only be two windows per day for them to happen, 1-2pm Geneva and 1-2 pm Chicago. These merges need to be reported on the daq-integration Slack channel immediately before and after they happen
 - I will update the SW area instructions regularly to contain the steps that have been verified to provide a consistent set of up-to-date changes
 - for single-repo changes, developers need to announce their intentions to get something into the release candidate by either setting the appropriate fields in the PR, mentioning the change at the Rel Prep meeting, or announcing it on the daq-integration Slack

channel.

- we can switch to daily Rel Prep meetings this week (April 8-12), if that will be helpful

** Maybe if we have better knowledge and control of the changes that are going in, we can move the dates a little later. Although, we may need to use the time between Thursday morning Chicago time and Friday morning Chicago time to get the tags made.

Beyond this week, what is our plan?

- Maybe we plan for very-limited-scope subsequent releases, and we have a modified version of the plan listed above for them, possibly with stretched out timelines. (e.g. one Rel Prep meeting per week, windows for correlated merges just a couple times per week, etc.) And, maybe we reverse the "deadline" model to be more of a "snapshot" model - we cut a release when sufficient changes have accrued, not necessarily on a set schedule.