Functionality Slices Working Group

October 17, 2019

Why?

- Problem: Given the size and structure of the PMIx standard document, it can be difficult to find the PMIx components necessary for a given use-case
- ► Goal: Provide a mechanism for focusing in on the aspects of the standard that are of interest to a particular user/use-case
- Proposed solution: compile a list of high-level use-cases and the PMIx capabilities required to support them

Areas for Improvement

- It's not a quality problem, but quantity one
 - ► ~140 interfaces across ~340 pages
- The document is written primarily as an API reference
- ► Some interfaces "wear lots of hats"
 - PMIx_Get, PMIx_Job_Control, etc

Audience & Questions We Want to Answer

Users of Client-Side Interfaces

- ► I currently do X with some other interface/middleware, how do I do it with PMIx?
- ► I currently use the baseline PMIx functionality to do X, are there other (better) ways to do it in PMIx?
- ► I have some completely new use-case, can I mix-and-match existing PMIx functionality to meet my needs?

Users of Server-Side Interfaces

- ▶ What server-side interfaces are necessary to support a given client interface or high-level use-case?
- ► What client-side interfaces are necessary to support a given high-level use-case?

Goals

Short-term:

- ► Use-Case Milestone 1 (Jan 2020):
 - bootstrap (business card exchange)
 - debuggers / tools
- ▶ Use-Case Milestone 2 (End of Q1 2020):
 - instant-on
 - hybrid programming models
 - workflow management
 - application management

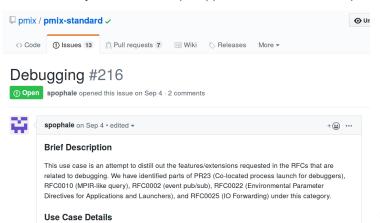
Goals

Long-term:

- Identify and document emerging use-cases:
 - tiered storage
 - power control
 - groups/flexible allocations
 - fault tolerance
 - cross-version compatibility
- ▶ Determine how to handle "miscellaneous" interfaces
- Document which resource managers support which use-cases
- Add interfaces into the standard for querying "use-case support"

Work Completed So Far

- Went through each RFC, documenting the interfaces and use-cases covered
- Aggregated the RFC notes into rough slices
- Analysis of what interfaces were not covered by RFCs
- ▶ Drafts of Debugging & Bootstrap Use-Cases
 - Currently "issues" in the pmix/pmix-standard GitHub repo



Call for Participation

Works In Progress

- General structure and template for Use-Cases
- Hybrid Programming Models & Instant-On Use-Cases
- Coverage Analysis

Help Wanted

- Identifying use-cases that we've missed
- Reviewing documented use-cases
- Documenting identified use-cases

Call for Participation

How to Join

- Subscribe to our Google Group mailing list
 - pmix-forum-wg-func-slices
- Weekly call
 - Wednesdays @ 9am PT / 12pm ET
 - Webex info sent via mailing list
 - Email me for a calendar invite

Rewards

- Eternal love, gratitude and admiration from the PMIx community
- ▶ If you ever close by, I'll buy you a beverage of your choosing

Discussion

- Would you want to introspectively query the runtime for use-case support?
- Would you want a compatibility table for Use-Cases x Resource Managers?
 - One way that the community represented by the ASC could track PMIx compliance
- What is the best way to publish this work?
 - Separate repository of documents like RFCs
 - Separate directory within pmix-standard repo
 - Re-order standard document into functionality slices
 - Overlap goes into a "core" slice
 - Add an appendix to the standard with the interface groupings that links back to the full interface definitions
 - Dynamic website that lets you switch between interface-centric vs use-case-centric groupings