Building Interactive Web Applications for HEP Using the Google Web Toolkit (GWT)



SCA Data Handling: Web Apps

- Existing (traditional) web application
 - Initially developed for Fermi starting about 5+ years ago
 - Now being reused for other experiments (e.g. EXO, LSST, CDMS, ...)
- Next generation web applications using Google Web Toolkit (GWT)

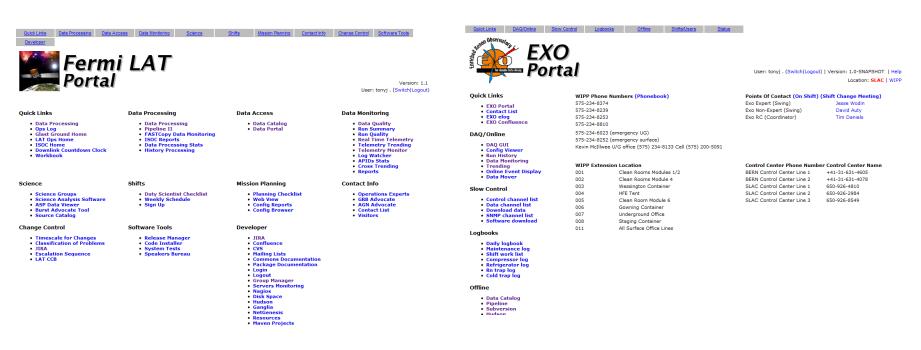
Web Applications: Common Features

- Many independent web applications
 - Allows independent development
 - Shared application framework provides
 - authentication, authorization
 - CAS single sign-on
 - page decoration, site-wide menus, style-sheets,
 - Database utilities
 - Cross links, common look and feel, summary pages
 - Single user experience
- Java Server Pages (JSP)
 - Open Source and Custom tag libraries simplify development
 - DisplayTag for tabular data
 - Sorting, filtering, pagination
 - JAIDA tag library for plotting
 - Images generated dynamically on server
- Apache/Tomcat servers
 - Multiple servers for redundancy
 - Monitored using Nagios, JMX
- Data Access Tools
 - Oracle, Partitioning
 - Java Fits Library
 - FreeHEP Root IO library

Existing Web Applications

Fermi Portal

EXO Portal



- Some applications completely generic
 - Some inherit and extend generic project
- Some applications experiment specific

User/Group Manager





111 Active EXO Users

(Show Not Active EXO Users)

Name

contains

Filter Clear

Name 💠	Institution ÷	E-mail 💠	Username	
Akimov, Dimitrii	ITEP Moscow	akimov_d@itep.ru		
Auger, Martin	Bern University	martin.tartin@gmail.com	marty	
Auty, David	University of Alabama	dauty@bama.ua.edu	djauty	
Barbeau, Phil	Stanford University	psbarbea@stanford.edu	psbarbea	
Bartoszek, Larry	Stanford University	design@bartoszekeng.com		
Baussan, Eric	Bern University	eric.baussan@unine.ch	baussar	
Beauchamp, Eric	Laurentian University	beau7790@gmail.com	beau7790	
Belov, Vladimir	ITEP Moscow	belov@itep.ru	vbelov	
Benitez-Medina, Julio Cesar	Colorado State University	benitez@lamar.colostate.edu	benitez	
Bogart, Joanne	SLAC	jrb@slac.stanfor.edu	jrt	
Breidenbach, Martin	SLAC	mib@slac.stanford.edu	mit	
Burenkov, Alexander	ITEP Moscow	alexander.burenkov@itep.ru	burenkov	
Choi, Minkyoo	University of Seoul	minkyoo@uos.ac.kr		
Conley, Robert	SLAC	bobc@slac.stanford.edu	bob	
Cook, Jessica	University of Massachusetts	jlcook@physics.umass.edu	jlcool	
Cook, Shon	Colorado State University	shoncook@lamar.colostate.edu	scool	
Coppens, Alexander	Carleton University	acoppens@physics.carleton.ca	acoppens	
Craddock, Wes	SLAC	wwc@slac.stanford.edu	wwe	
Daniels, Tim	University of Massachusetts	tvdaniels@physics.umass.edu	tvdanie	
Danilov, Mikhail	ITEP Moscow	danilov@jaguar.itep.ru		
Davis, Clayton	Maryland University	claytongdavis@gmail.com	cgd8d	
Davis, Jon	Stanford University	jondavis@stanford.edu		
DeVoe, Ralph	Stanford University	rgdevoe@stanford.edu	rgdevoe	
Dobi, Attila	Maryland University	adobi@umd.edu	adob	
Dolgolenko, Anatolii	ITEP Moscow	dolgolenko@itep.ru		
Dolinski, Michelle	Stanford University	dolinski@stanford.edu	dolinsk	
Espic, Luc	University de Yverdon			
EXO Data Account, EXO Data Account		exodata@slac.stanford.edu	exodata	
Fairbank, William	Colorado State University	fairbank@lamar.colostate.edu	fairbanl	
Farine, Jaques	Laurentian University	farine@snolab.ca	farine	
Fierlinger, Peter	Munich Tech U	Peter.fierlinger@ph.tum.de	fier	
Franco, Domenico	Bern University	domenico.franco@lhep.unibe.ch	nice	
Freytag, Dietrich	SLAC	drf@slac.stanford.edu	dr	
Giroux, Guillaume	Bern University	guillaume.giroux@lhep.unibe.ch	ggirou	

User: tonyj . (Switch|Logout) | Version: 1.17-SNAPSHOT
Project: SRS | EXO | LSST | CDMS | SCA
Database: Prod | Dev

User Browser | Group Browser | Contact List

ser Browser | Group Browser | Contact Lis



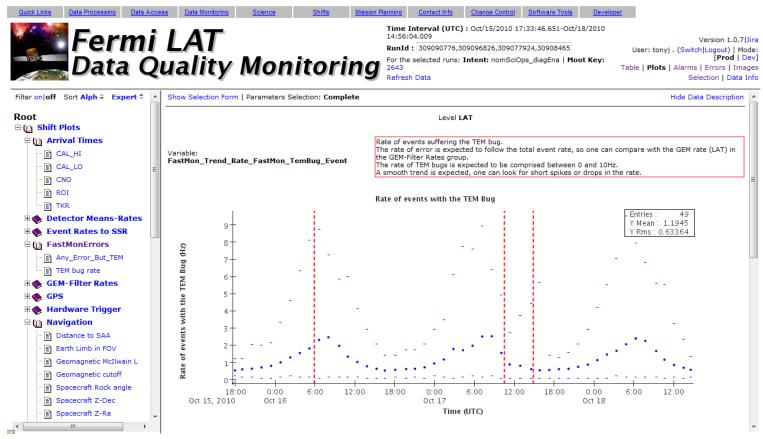
Groups

Add Group Name: Add Group

Group contains Filter Clear

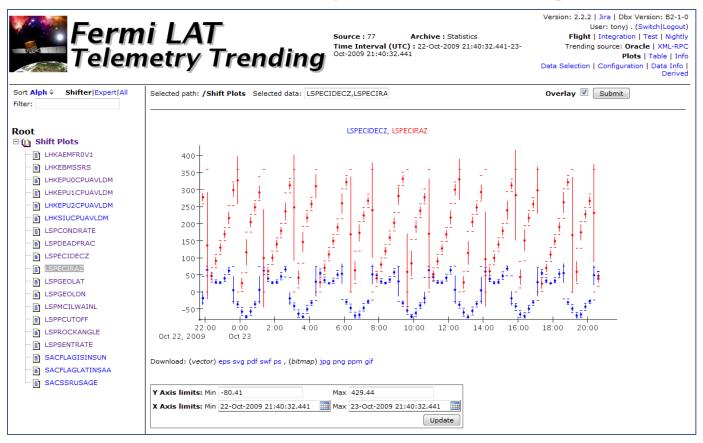
Group 💠	Manager Group 🔷 💠	Users 💠	Sub-groups 🕏	Links
DaqConfigAdmin	GroupManagerAdmin	0	1	De
DaqControl	GroupManagerAdmin	0	1	D
DataCatalogAdmin	PipelineAdmin	1	1	D
ExoDataMonitoringAdmin	GroupManagerAdmin	2	0	D
ExoOwl	ShiftOther	69	0	D
ExoRC	ShifterAdmin	10	0	D
ExoShiftStats	ShifterAdmin	0	0	D
ExoUsers	GroupManagerAdmin	109	0	D
GroupManagerAdmin	GroupManagerAdmin	5	0	D
ImageHandlerAdmin	GroupManagerAdmin	1	0	D
NewUserEmailNotification	GroupManagerAdmin	5	0	D
PipelineAdmin	PipelineAdminManager	17	0	D
PipelineAdminManager	GroupManagerAdmin	1	0	D
PortalAdmin	GroupManagerAdmin	3	0	D
ShifterAdmin	GroupManagerAdmin	3	0	D
ShiftExpert	ShifterAdmin	25	0	D
ShiftNonExpert	ShifterAdmin	76	1	D
ShiftOther	ShifterAdmin	76	0	D
SundayShifts	ShifterAdmin	66	0	D
SwissOwl	ShifterAdmin	16	0	D
SystemTestsAdmin	GroupManagerAdmin	2	0	D
Trainee	ShifterAdmin	94	0	D
TrendingAdmin	GroupManagerAdmin	2	0	D
UserAdmin	GroupManagerAdmin	6	0	D

Data Quality Monitoring



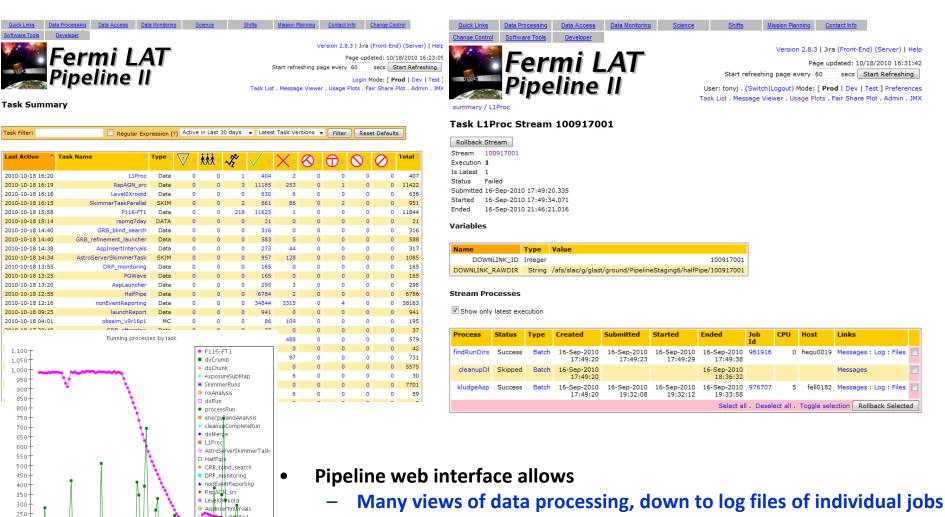
- Web interface allows
 - Show data from single run or aggregate set of runs
 - View description of each plot
 - View/Print multiple plots
 - Customized tree to draw attention to important plots
 - Can be customized for individuals or groups

Telemetry Trending



- Web interface allows
 - Dynamic selection of time period
 - Dynamic overlay of quantities
 - Customized tree to draw attention to important plots
 - Can be customized for individuals or groups
- Cross trending of housekeeping and level 1 data

Pipeline/Data Catalog



interface

200°

18:00

21:00

0.00

3:00

12:00

If jobs do fail they can be "rolled back" directly from the web

Future Goals

- Desire to provide more interactivity by exploiting
 - Higher quality, more interactive web based GUI's
 - Asynchronous (AJAX) functionality
 - Support upcoming HTML5 functionality
 - 2D, 3D Canvas
 - Local storage, "offline" web applications
 - Web workers, push technology
- In particular we have been exploring use of Google Web Toolkit (GWT) for building web applications

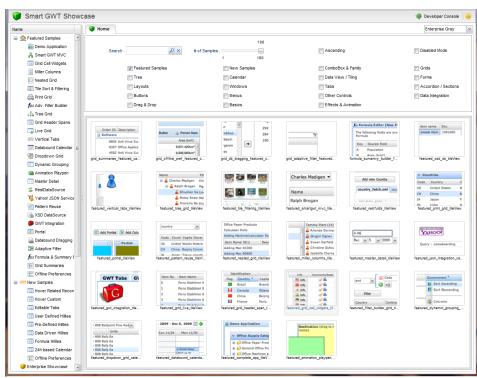


What is Google Web Toolkit

- Toolkit for writing "web 2.0" applications
 - Built in support for rich set of "widgets" (-> GWT Widget Gallery)
 - Wide range of GUI functionality
 - Resolution independent layout managers
 - Full control over browser resize behavior
 - Popup and pulldown menus
 - Drag and Drop
 - ...
 - Retains best of web features
 - Works with the web browser instead of fighting against it
 - (c.f. Embedded flash or Java Applets)
 - Embed HTML
 - Use CSS for look and feel (clean model-view-controller architecture)
 - Transparent support for different browsers
 - IE, Firefox, Chrome, Safari, Opera, iPhone, Android
 - Client and Server side code written in a single language (Java)
 - Same code can run in browser and on server
 - Objects can be transferred from server to client transparently
 - Serialize Java object and recompose it as equivalent JavaScript object or vice-versa
 - Completely transparent
 - Java compiled to JavaScript to run in browser

GWT Widgets Showcase





More on Java->JavaScript compiler

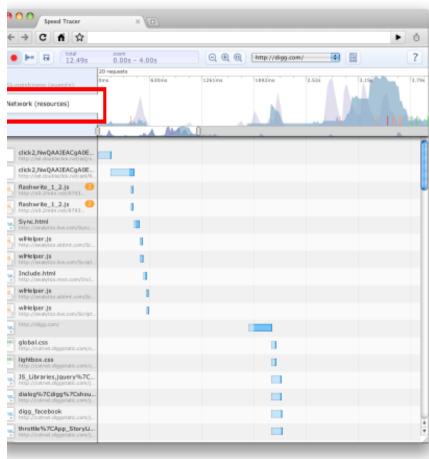
- Initial reaction "Yeah right, that's really going to work well"
 - Actually it does really well
 - Maybe because it was written by a compiler expert (not a physicist)
 - It not only compiles the code
 - It optimizes the Java
 - Type Tightening
 - Converting non-overridden methods to static
 - Finalizing
 - Pruning and Dead Code Elimination
 - Method Call Inlining
 - Then it optimizes the generated JavaScript code
 - Static Evaluation (DCE, but on JS AST)
 - Method Inliner
 - Unused Function Remover
 - Code Splitting
 - Clusters, Obfuscates and Compresses
 - Continually being improved
 - Better performance than handwritten JavaScript code
 - JavaScript XML parser, converted to Java and then compiled back to JavaScript gave 2x speed improvement

Why GWT

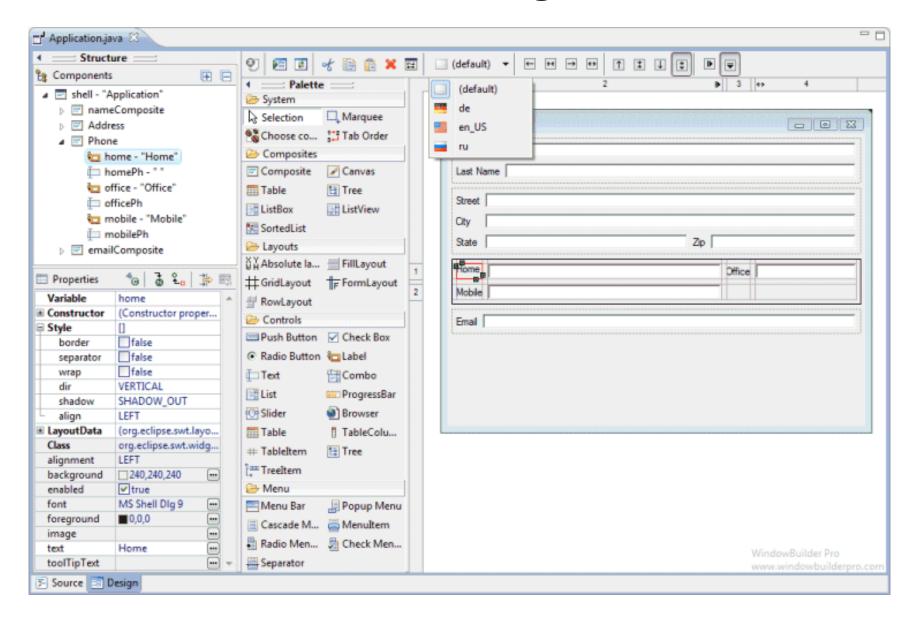
- Open source toolkit, active open-source community
 - Many third-party add-ons
- Good support from Google
 - Being used for Google's own applications
 - E.g. Google Wave (now cancelled ⊗), others
 - Actively promoted as toolkit for use by others
 - Major track at google-IO (google developers conference) for last two years
- Keep investment in existing Java code and expertise
- Ability to use all existing Java tooling
 - Full IDE support: Eclipse, Netbeans, Idea ...
 - Editing, code completion and inline documentation viewing, refactoring, build tools
 - Project management (maven: good GWT support built-in)
 - Debug client and server code directly in Java IDE using GWT "Hosted Mode"
 - Changes to client code immediately reflected in browser
- New GWT specific tools:

SpeedTracer





GWT Designer

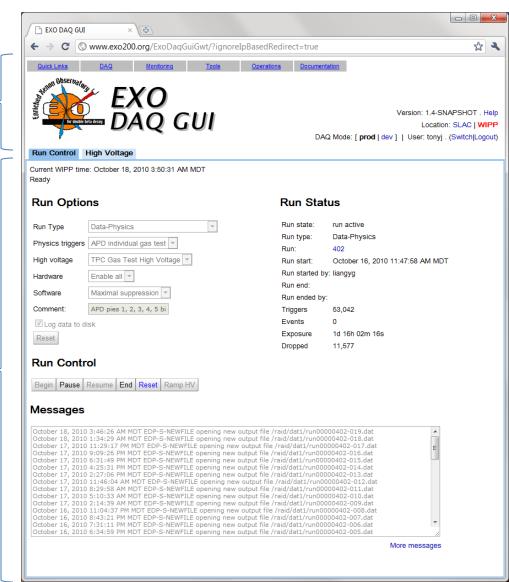


EXO DAQ GUI

Fully distributed control of DAQ for EXO experiment

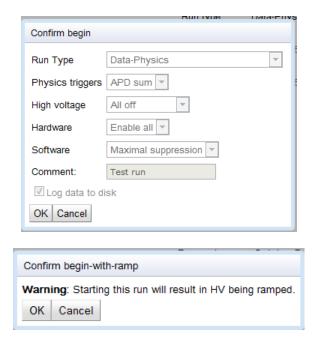
Standard JSP

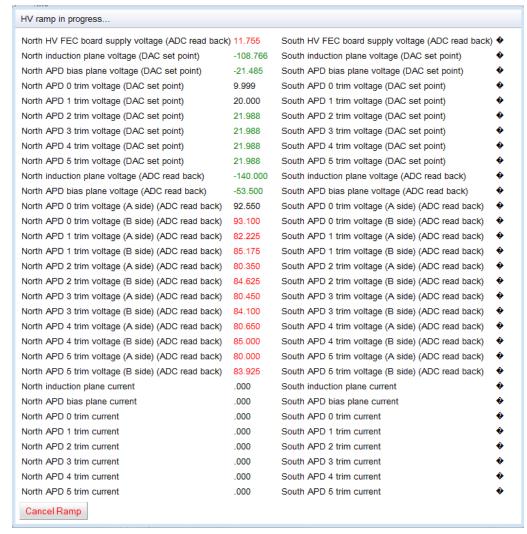
- Ability to mix GWT into existing framework
 - Keep full resize behavior
- Fully distributed application
 - All state maintained on server
 - Multiple simultaneous browsers supported
 - Page updates in real time GWT
- Compatible with all major browsers
 - Including Android, iPhone



EXO DAQ GUI

Animated dialogs

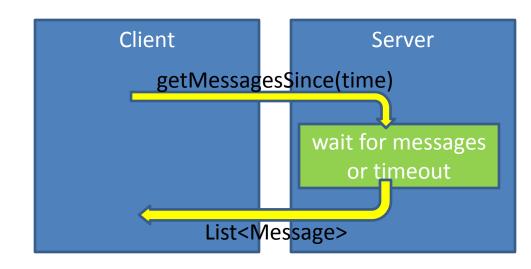




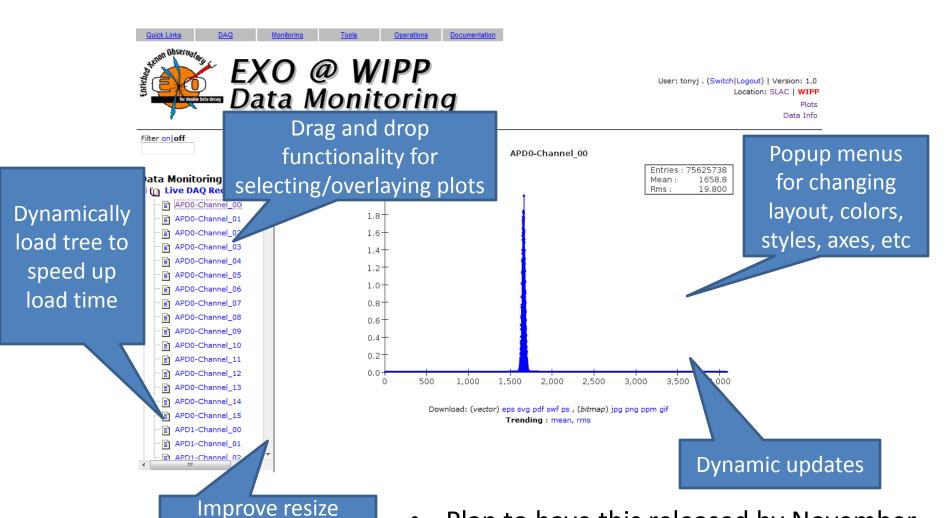
In production for several months

(Aside) Fetching Updates from Server

- Currently notification of events from server to client is a hack
 - Only client initiated communication possible
 - Client has to poll
 - Modified poll with server wait (Comet)
 - Doesn't scale to large number of clients
- HTML5 will make this much easier
 - http extensions to support
 - server-sent events (SSE)
 - Scalable
 - Reliable



Improving online monitoring

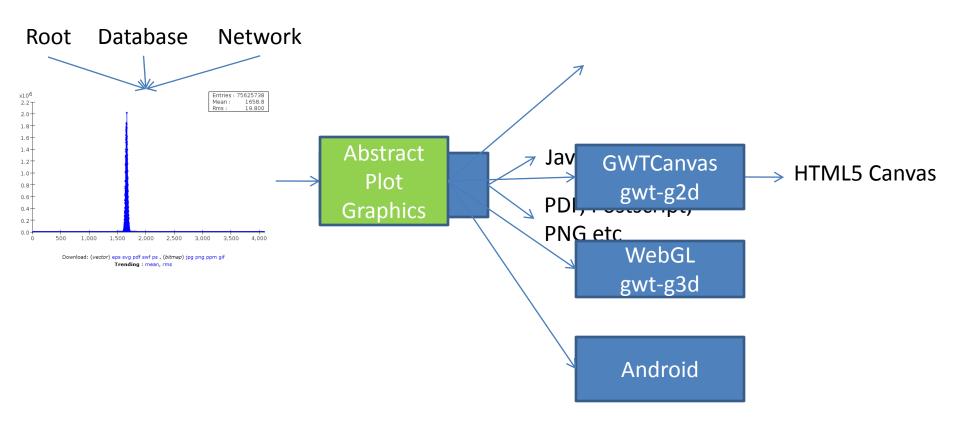


behavior, maximize

space for plots

- Plan to have this released by November
- Plotting will still by done on server, but...

Next Generation Plotter

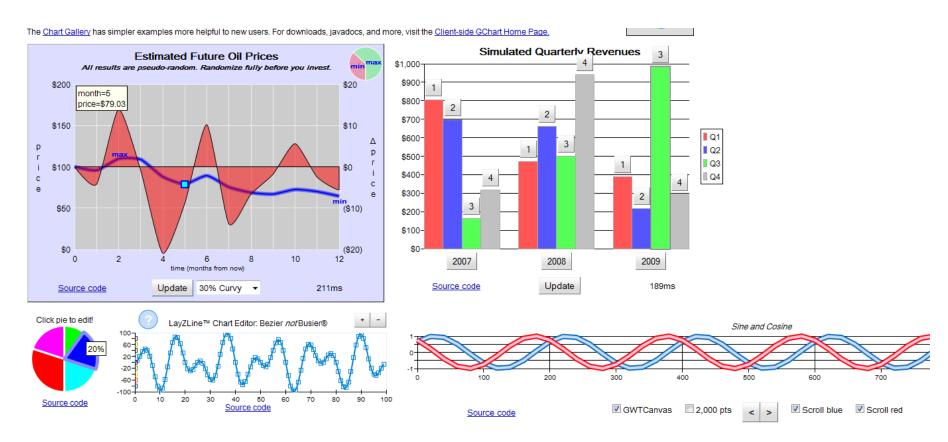


- Will give option of displaying plots directly in browser
 - More interactivity, smoother updates
 - Applicability may depend on overhead of transferring data

GWT issues

- GWT still developing rapidly
 - Many "old" deprecated features
 - <100% of Java JDK library available</p>
 - In particular graphics
- Many important features not part of core library
 - Drag and drop
 - Popup menus
 - Canvas
 - Advanced widgets
- Cross-browser support very good
 - Not quite perfect, still need to test on different browsers
- HTML5 features (e.g. canvas) still being developed
 - Probably too early to be using these in production
- Long-term support?

Plotting using GWT+Canvas



See the source code that assembles this page for the boilerplate required to plug GChart into the GWTCanvas vector graphics library with Catmull-Rom splines.

Conclusions

- The advent of AJAX and HTML5 makes it possible to create dynamic, interactive web applications without requiring any third-party browser add ones
 - GWT is a toolkit which simplifies development of such web applications
 - Initial tests show that development is reasonably straightforward
 - We will use several GWT applications for EXO experiment and expect to use it more in future
 - Use of HTML5 features to improve plotting in future looks hopeful
 - Anyone interested in collaborating, warning us off?
 - GWT is successful enough that it is influencing other toolkits
 - Pyjamas GWT "port" for python
 - Oracle: JavaFX will compile to JavaScript in future (2012)
 - Many others...