

Laboratório Nacional de Luz Síncrotron

VDE – Virtual Documentation Environment

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At LNLS hundreds of motors are used at the beamlines to move parts, equipment or full systems, according to different profile, synchronization and accuracy requirements. Historically, the documentation of motion axes of the LNLS beamlines was either done only at the moment of their installation and commissioning, or not properly done at all. Thus, after some time, keeping track of changes and performing maintenance could turn out to be very challenging, and there was the clear need of some solution to ensure that every change in motors would be reflected in their documentation. In 2012 the

Abstract

migration of the beamlines control system to the EPICS (Experimental Physics and Industrial Control System) [1] platform pushed the development of a new documentation system. In a first version, it consisted of a smart spreadsheet that generated the EPICS configuration files automatically. Later the spreadsheet evolved to a web-based system the VDE - Virtual Documentation Environment, which allows the beamlines staff to change the motion axis parameters without the need of a deep knowledge about EPICS and ensures the complete motion axis documentation intuitively. Also, changes in motors will not work in EPICS if the documentation is not updated, guaranteeing the link between documentation and the real system.

Introduction

Currently, around 700 motorized mechanisms are installed at LNLS beamlines, being used, for instance, to perform sophisticated optical alignment of mirrors and monochromators and position samples. These motorized mechanisms can be abstracted as motion axes, which are composed of motors (mostly stepper motors), gear boxes, transmission elements and encoders, when necessary. All these axes are integrated into the EPICS distributed control system of the beamlines and end stations.

VDE Concepts

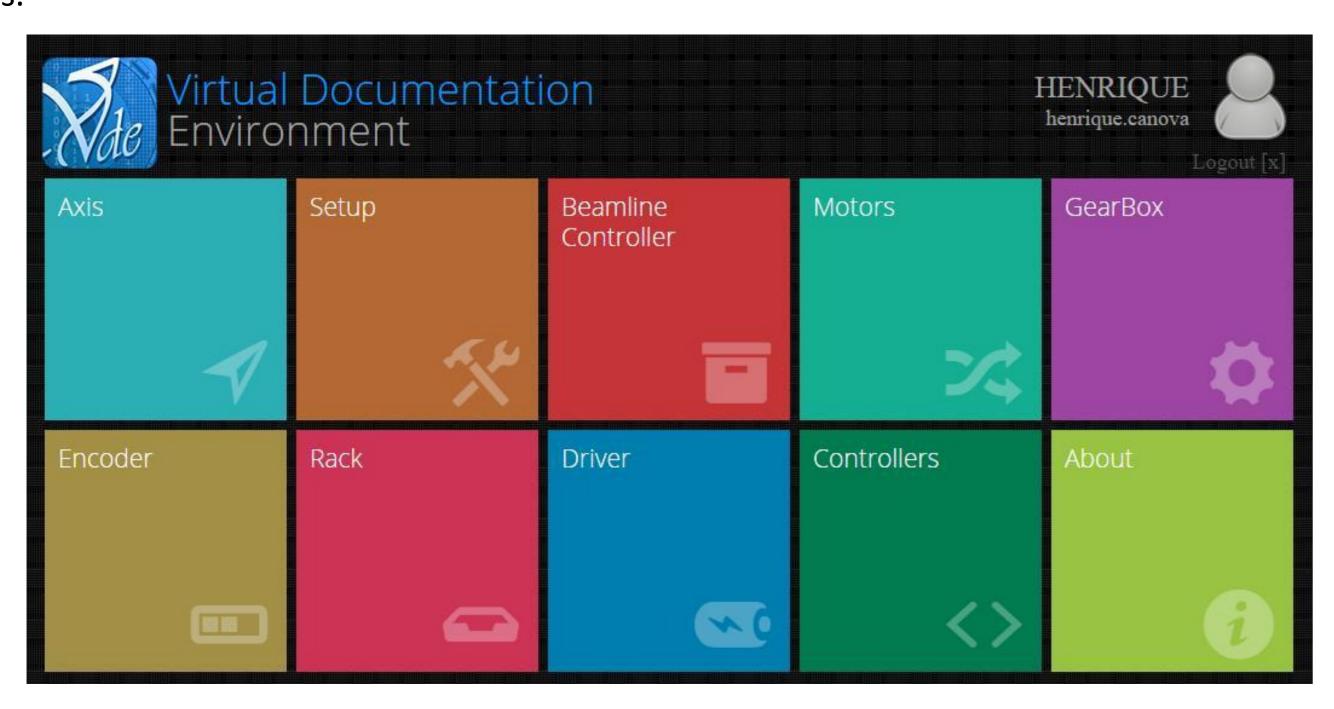
□ EPICS IOCs (Input / Output Controller) run in dedicated National Instruments PXI chassis [2]; ☐ Setups:

✓ Each installation (beamline or end station) may have one or more Setups, consisting of different axes or different axes configurations (speed, acceleration levels, backlash, and so forth). ☐ Axis:

- ✓ Configuration parameters are defined in specific tabs: General, Motor, Gearbox, Transmission, Geometric Conversion, Limit Switch, Home Switch, Encoder, Controller, Driver and Software;
- ✓ EPICS records are automatically calculated using data from other tabs or edited by user.

☐ Configuration files:

- ✓ IOC Motor Record substitution and command files can be automatically generated;
- ✓ Advanced options are available to modify IOC parameters and to create extra EPICS substitutions files.

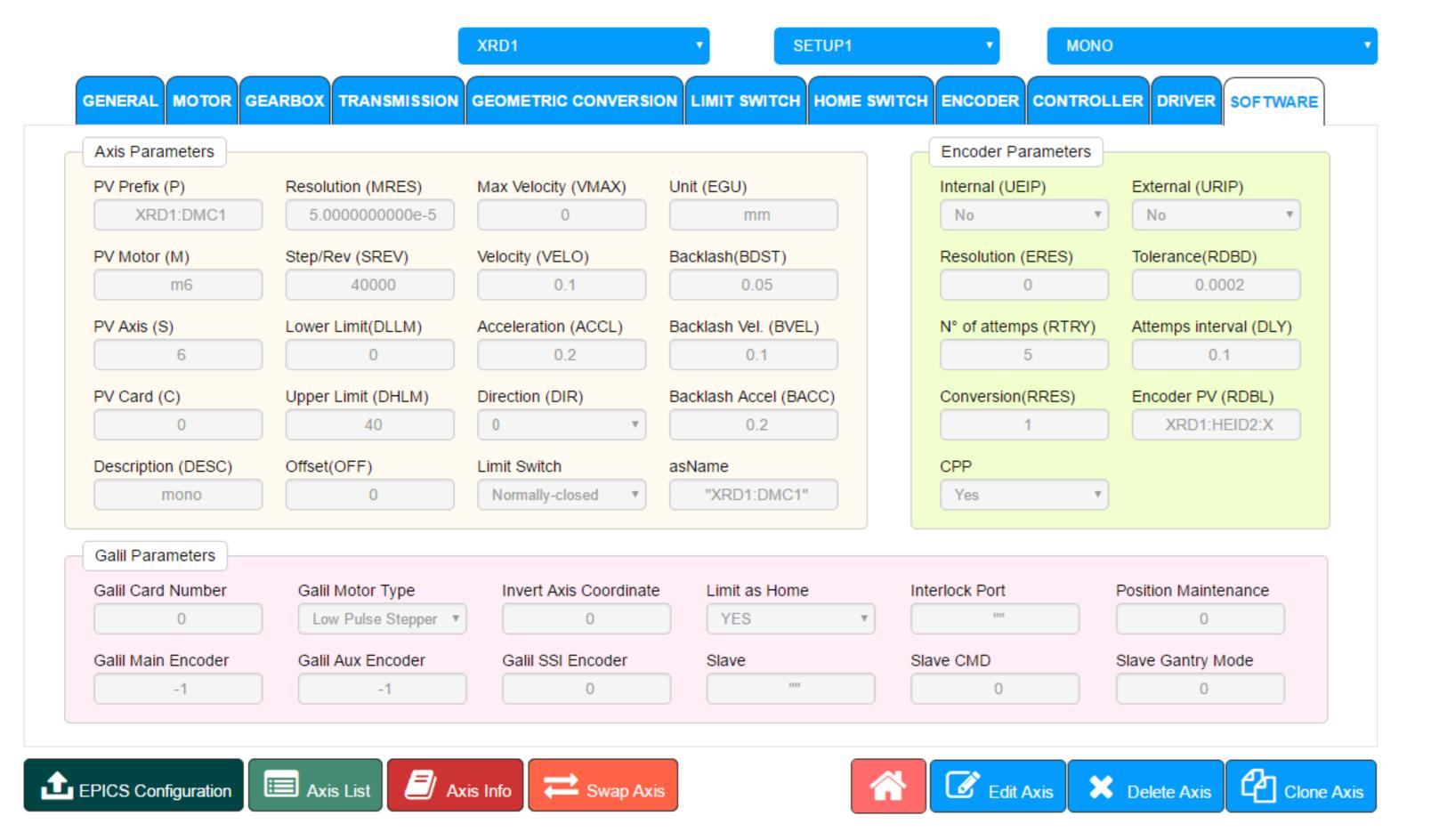


Development Tools

- ☐ Database system:
 - ✓ Apache server with relational MySQL database.
 - ✓ PHP (access and data manipulation).
- ☐ Web Interface:
 - ✓ HTML5, CSS3 and PHP/JavaScript.

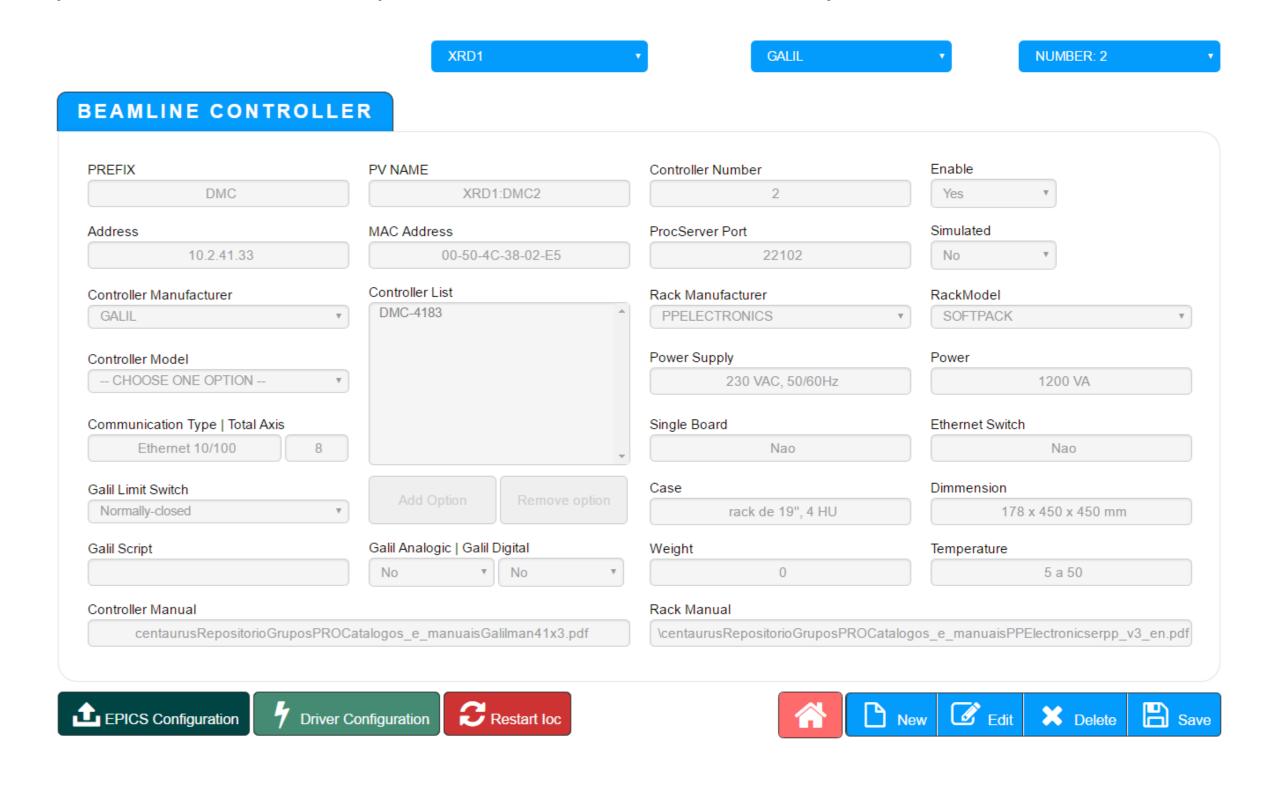
☐ System Access:

- ✓ LNLS Active Directory Integration (Login with institutional username and password)
- ✓ Different user permission levels.



Files Generation

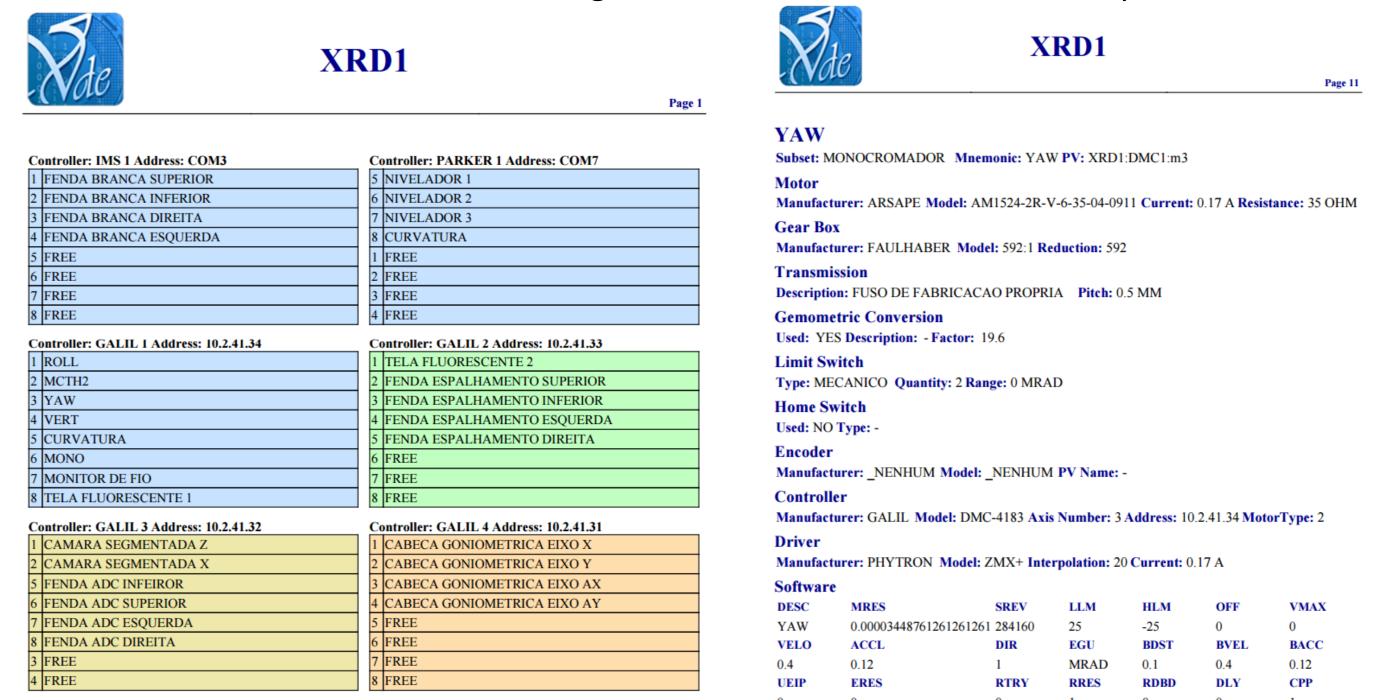
Configuration files to Galil [3], Parker [4] and IMS [5] controllers can be directly sent to the EPICS host computer by SSH - Secure Shell - protocol under Linux Currently.



Reports

□ VDE currently generates two types of reports:

- ✓ Basic lists of all registered axes in the *Setups*;
- ✓ Detailed lists with all the information gathered from each axis in the *Setups*.



ADMINISTRATOR CONTROL

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Administration

- ☐ Log control:
- ✓ User login.
- ✓ Date/Time of action.
- ✓ Action.
- ☐ Advanced Control:
 - ✓ Server and host configurations.
- ✓ VDE beamline management;
- ✓ VDE library management.

Conclusion

The VDE is currently applied to all experimental stations and beamlines at LNLS and it is expected to be applied in the new accelerator, Sirius. The VDE development is ongoing and different manufacturers, as Newport and Aerotech, are expected to be integrated to the file generation system soon.

Acknowledgement

The authors would like to thank the colleagues from LNLS who contributed to valuable discussions and feedback about the VDE.

References

[1] EPCIS, http://www.aps.anls.gov/epcis

[2] J. R. Piton et al., "HYPPIE: A HYPERVISORED PXI FOR PHYSICS INSTRUMENTATION UNDER EPICS", BIW 2012, Newport News, MOPG031 [3] Galil Motion Controllers, http://www.galilmc.com

[4] Parker Motion, http://www.parkermotion.com

[5] Intelligent Motion Systems – IMS http://motion.schneider-electric.com



