Improving the Event Data Server of the Fermilab Test Beam Data Acquisition System (OTSDAQ)

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Description of the Fermilab Test Beam Facility

The Fermilab Test Beam Facility (FTBF) is a high-energy test beam used for precision tests of high-energy physics detectors. The FTBF has two beams lines, MTest and MCenter, which provides a variety particle types such as proton beam and secondary beams with muons, electrons, and kaons. The beam is variable in energy and intensity, and a target can be inserted into the beam to convert the protons to other particle types for users.

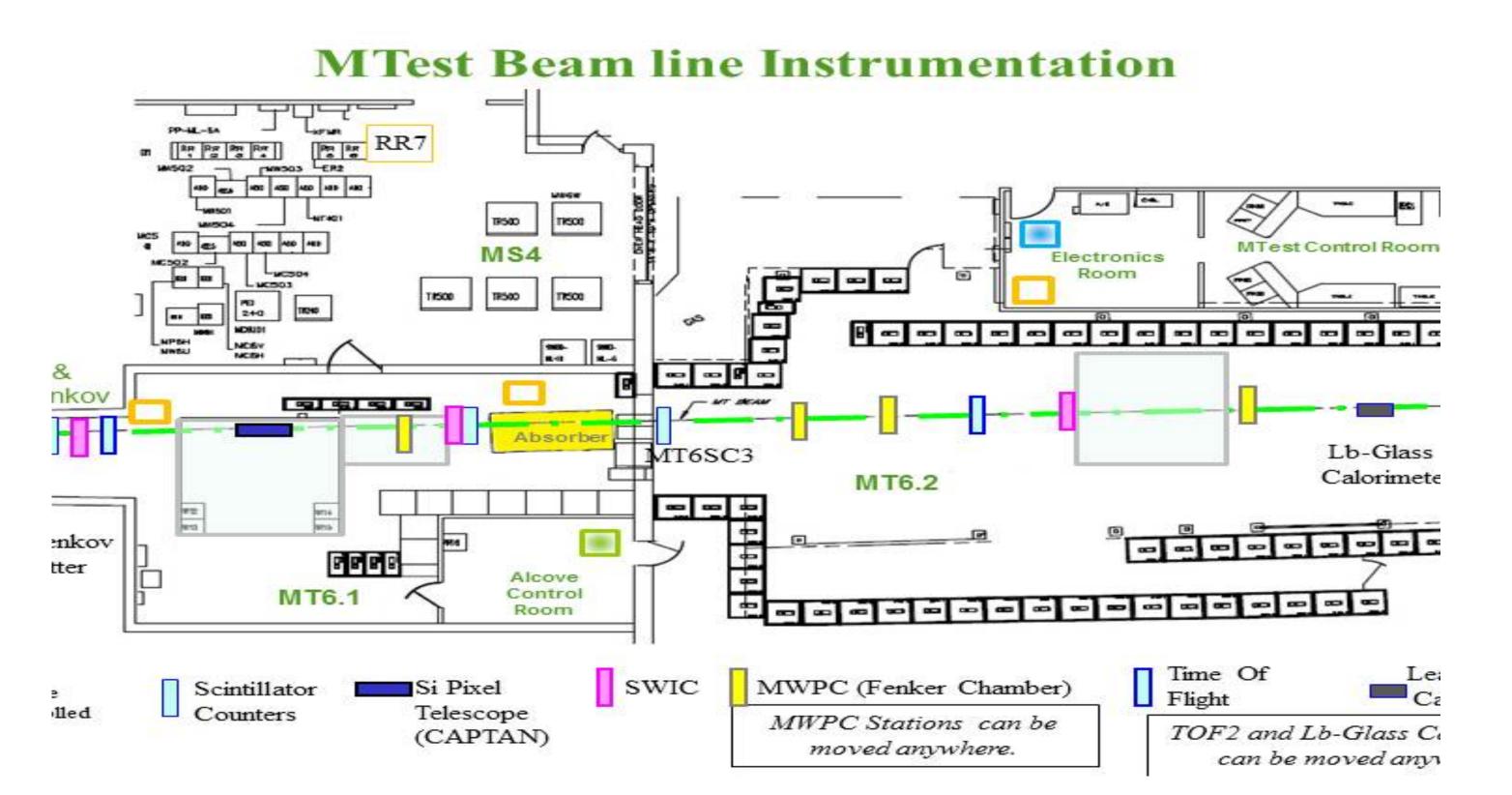


Figure 1 – Diagram of the FTBF beamline showing detector's places on the floor with control rooms for monitoring user's experimentation

Description of the OTSDAQ

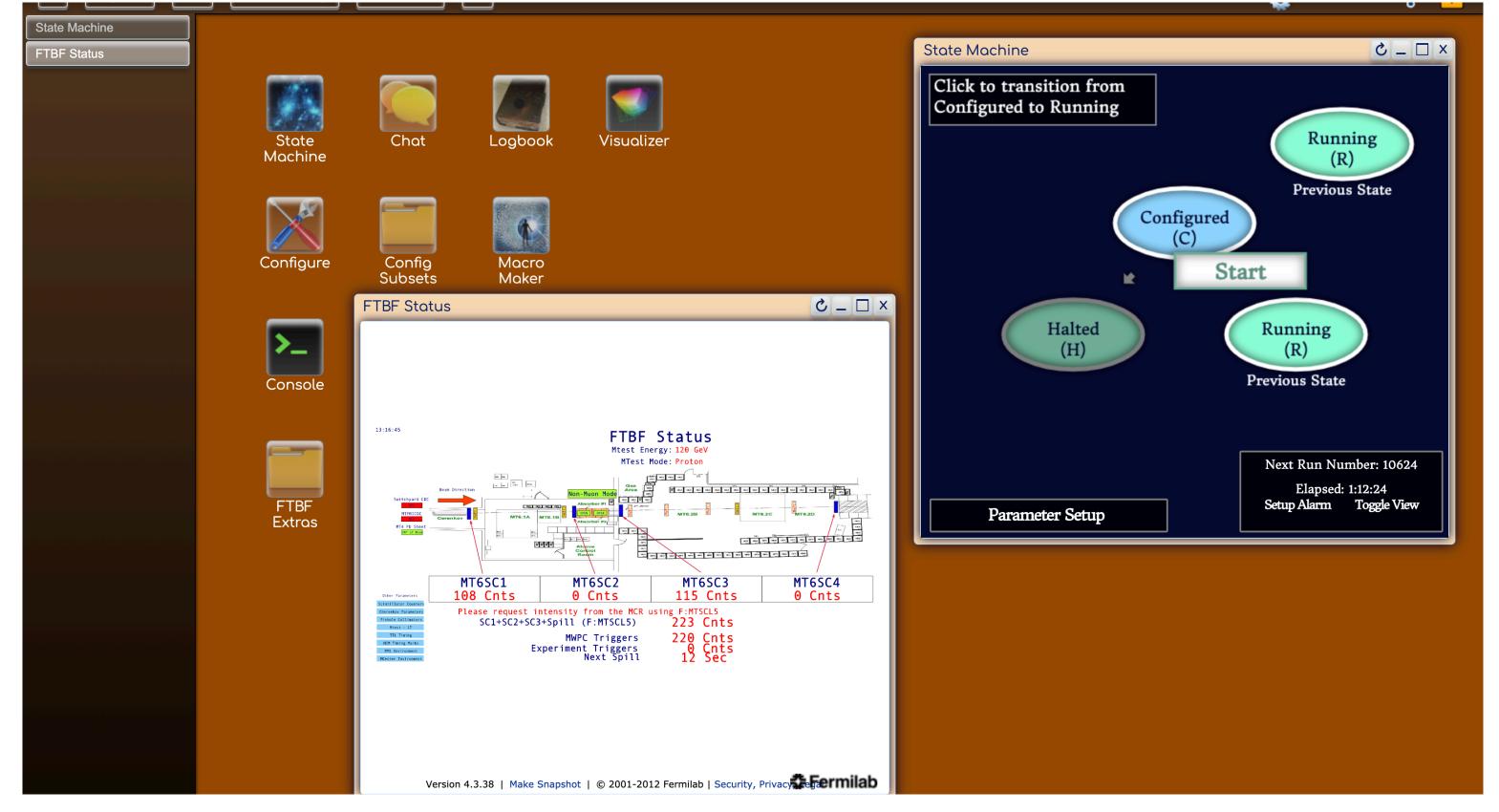


Figure 2 – The otsdaq Web Desktop

otsdaq is a "ready-to-use" Data Acquisition (DAQ) system, that needs just a small customization for simple installations. It was developed by the Fermilab Scientific Computing Division in order to fulfill the needs of the users. The figure above represents a web-based Run Control interface of the otsdaq that was developed for client. It has several features and tools that allows for automatically iterating over a parameter space to efficiently retrieve data and evaluate the detector response. My research project improved the Event Data Server framework that has not been run before and design a Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) socket for client in order to connect with the server.

Methodology

The otsdaq product was implemented as a Data Acquisition(DAQ) solution for the facility, initially reading out the telescope and the wire chambers. In addition to providing data to users, the system reads out all detectors on a spill-by-spill basis. An Event Data Server has been developed to collect facility instrumentation data and stream it external user DAQ systems transparently. After editing, testing, and debugging the code using C++, we were able to run and test the data server and client interface for the first time this summer as shown in figure 3.

Results

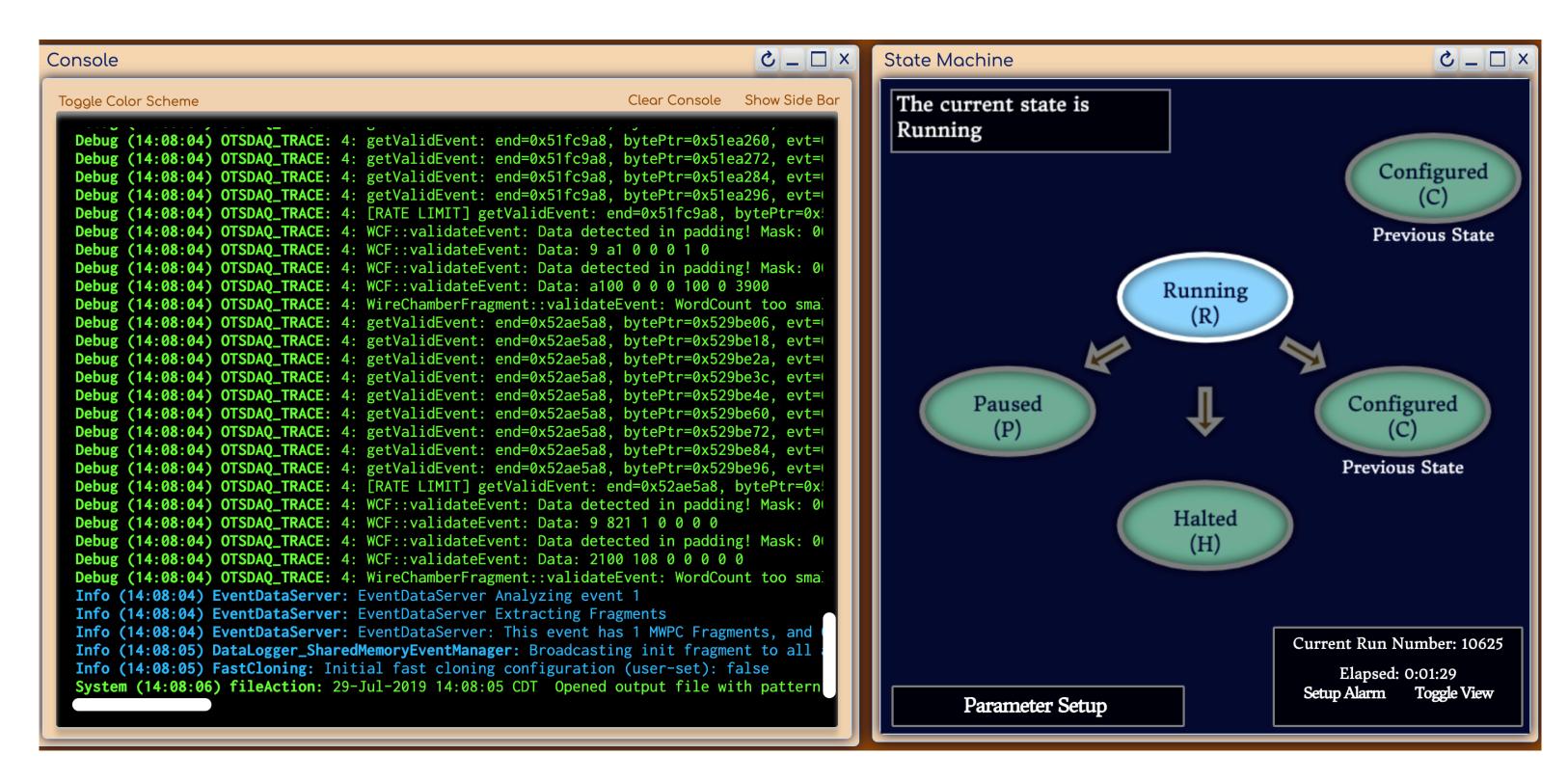


Figure 3 – The console is showing the connection of the Event Data Server with the otsdaq system

Analysis and Conclusion

The figure above shows how the console of the otsdaq interface looks like when the Event Data Server is analyzing and extracting fragments from the event received, which is a proof that the server is behave as it is suppose to. The next step is the design of the TCP socket client, which is underway. After that, users will be able to get data from other facility instruments in order to improve their detectors.

Special thanks

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