OpSim Data Access Policy

Wednesday, September 21, 2011
11:00 AM

Subject	**Re: [Lsst-opsim] [LSST-sc] opsim data access policy?**
From	lsst-opsim-bounces@lsstcorp.org
To	strauss@astro.princeton.edu; 'Lynne Jones'
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Sent	Wednesday, September 21, 2011 10:47 PM

It would be appropriate to discuss this within LSST again. The primary motivation to our distribution approach to date has been to balance wide open public disseminating with managing the expectations of those that venture into the data. I believe the "policy" we have been following that I recommend we stay with is as follows:

1) All Science collaboration members have full access to the Op Sim data through the password protected website. Collaboration members should be well enough connected to the project that they will bring any issues or problems they encounter to our attention and not declare problems with LSST performance based on misunderstanding the dataset. There is other raw data from the output that can also be made freely available but it needs to be by request since it remains on the machine that ran the simulation and is not on the main server.

2) Any US or Chilean Scientist (The same set that will get the survey data) is welcome to request Op Sim data. Through this request process we accomplish two things a) we can have a discussion with them to be sure we provide the right data and appropriate caveats to the requester so they may have a fruitful and positive experience with the data set, and b) we have a sense for where the data is going.

In the past 12 to 24 months we have had a limited number of outside requests for data and code. In each case it has been worth the investment of Op Sim team member time to discuss the requester's goals and use of the data to identify quickly if the data or code will be useful.

The Op Sim main page has a lot of general data about the simulator and has the reference run output report. (www.noao.edu/lsst/opsim) We can add the straight forward data and results to the open side of these pages for the casual interrogator and add mechanisms for questions and requests. We continue to move the tools and code toward simpler and efficient software for better self interaction but until we get it there I think we need to stay connected with those that want to use the Op Sim data.

-Victor