

**EGI-Engage**

Second Data Accounting Prototype

D3.15

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Abstract

This report documents the release of the second prototype for dataset accounting during EGI-Engage, focused on dataset usage, which will be run as a test bed by the EGI Accounting Repository team for further improvements during future projects. A dataset is defined as a logical set of files which may exist in several places at once and to which it is possible to assign some form of persistent unique identifier. This report looks at the metrics and architecture of this prototype, which uses modified software from the APEL project that can pull usage metrics from a REST endpoint, and the testing of it against the EGI DataHub. Lastly dissemination, exploitation and future plans are presented.

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**TERMINOLOGY**

A complete project glossary and acronyms are provided at the following pages:

* <https://wiki.egi.eu/wiki/Glossary>
* <https://wiki.egi.eu/wiki/Acronyms>

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**Executive summary**

This report documents the release of the second prototype for dataset accounting during EGI-Engage, focused on dataset usage, which will be run as a test bed by the EGI Accounting Repository team. A dataset is defined as a logical set of files that may exist in several places at once and to which it is possible to assign some form of persistent unique identifier and to perform dataset accounting it is assumed that this unique identifier is available. This differs from storage accounting which accounts for disk allocation and usage without concern over what data is stored or who accesses it and how often. This prototype uses software from the APEL[[1]](#footnote-1) project to account for the usage of datasets. The EGI Accounting Repository runs using software from the APEL project, which collects accounting data from sites participating in the EGI infrastructure as well as from sites belonging to other Grid organisations that are collaborating with EGI.

The EGI Open Data Platform (which will provide capabilities to publish, use and reuse openly accessible data identified by PID) was chosen as a source of dataset accounting data. The planned design of this platform included the integration of current EGI storage services into the platform backend, which is intended to hide the complexity caused by the wide variety of storage systems.

This prototype has the following high-level architecture: the server-side messaging component can pull dataset accounting records directly from storage systems that expose these records via a REST interface. Once the records are on the APEL server, they are loaded and summarised. The software has the following dependency: storage providers expose a REST interface that can be queried by HTTP. This release includes a number of changes from the first prototype, such as more complete metric extraction and summarisation. This satisfies a number of requirements from the EGI-Engage Accounting Repository roadmap.

The software was tested by running it and pointing a modified instance of SSM, designed to pull data from a REST endpoint, at the EGI DataHub[[2]](#footnote-2) for a number of days as well as summarising the data received. This demonstrated the prototypes is capable of extracting space metrics from a test space, parsing them into an OGF based message format, loading the data into a database, and finally aggregating the data into summaries.

It is intended that this prototype will be improved during future projects by using feedback following this release to ensure it will meet user requirements.

# Introduction

This report documents the release of the second prototype for dataset usage accounting which is a development of the first prototype presented in D3.8[[3]](#footnote-3). In this context, a dataset is defined as a logical set of files which may exist in several places at once and to which it is possible to assign some form of persistent unique identifier and to perform dataset accounting it is assumed that this unique identifier is available. This differs from storage space accounting which accounts for disk allocation and usage without concern over what data is stored, or who accesses it and how often. This prototype uses software from the APEL project at the STFC to account for the usage of datasets. Storage space accounting is also supported by APEL and will soon be run at the production level.

APEL is an accounting tool that collects accounting data from sites participating in the EGI infrastructure as well as from sites belonging to other Grid organisations that are collaborating with EGI, including OSG and NorduGrid. The accounting information is gathered from different sensors into a central accounting repository where it is processed to generate statistical summaries that are available through the EGI Accounting Portal. Statistics are available for view in different detail by users, Virtual Organisation (VO) managers, site administrators and anonymous users according to well-defined access rights.

Table 1 provides a summary of the tool covered in this release.

Table 1 - APEL tool summary

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tool name** | APEL – Dataset accounting feature |
| **Tool URL** | <http://apel.github.io/> |
| **Tool wiki page** | <https://wiki.egi.eu/wiki/Accounting_Repository> |
| **Description** | EGI Core Service – The Accounting Repository collects and stores user accounting records from various services offered by EGI. |
| **Value proposition** | Support for dataset usage accounting can aid site and experiment administrators in making decisions about the location and storage of datasets to make more efficient use of the infrastructure, and to assist scientists in assessing the impact of their work. |
| **Customer of the tool** | EGI |
| **User of the service** | EGI Accounting Repository |
| **User documentation**  | <https://twiki.cern.ch/twiki/bin/view/EMI/EMI3APELClient> |
| **Technical documentation**  | <https://twiki.cern.ch/twiki/bin/view/EMI/EMI3APELClient> |
| **Product team** | STFC |
| **License** | Apache License, Version 2.0 |
| **Source code** | <https://github.com/apel><https://github.com/gregcorbett/ssm/tree/receive_via_rest> |

The dataset accounting prototype has been developed using the EGI DataHub[[4]](#footnote-4) as a storage service to integrate against. The reasons for this were covered in the previous report on dataset accounting[[5]](#footnote-5). This second release of the dataset accounting prototype further improves on the functionality added in the first prototype and increases the integration with the EGI DataHub.

The outline of this deliverable is as follows: first we provide a short introduction to the components provided by the APEL project as part of this prototype. Then the high-level architecture of the tool and its components are described, along with the integrations and dependencies it has. Then the supported storage systems are described and the updated record metrics presented, with integration guidance given for other data storage systems. Release notes and the results of testing for this release are provided, followed by a dissemination and exploitation plan. Finally, a selection of future developments is shown. In the appendix is an overview of related work outside of this project.

# Service architecture

## High-Level service architecture

Currently, APEL is capable of accounting for Virtual Machine (VM) usage and non-GPGPU grid computing usage, and storage system usage is under development. Under the current model, a provider-side parser creates APEL accounting records in a message format suitable for transmission. These records are then sent by a provider-side instance of the APEL Secure Stomp Messenger[[6]](#footnote-6) (SSM) to the EGI Message Broker Network. A server-side SSM then pulls down the data from the Message Broker Network, where it is loaded into the APEL server, summarised and finally these summaries are sent to the EGI Accounting Portal, again via SSM and the Message Broker. This is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1 - APEL components and their interactions. Components in red are provided by the APEL project

For dataset usage accounting, the SSM component was updated to add support for retrieving records from a representational state transfer (REST) HTTP interface. This means that the server-side SSM instance can pull dataset accounting records directly from storage systems that expose these records via a REST interface. This new architecture is shown in Figure 2. This allowed the APEL software to integrate with EGI DataHub which only exposes a REST interface for obtaining accounting metrics and so does not require the use of a message broker. Transfers are performed over HTTPS to ensure the integrity and security of the data.



Figure 2 - New APEL architecture that supports pulling data from a REST interface.

The updated SSM with REST support is being developed with the current message broker and the new ARGO Messaging Service[[7]](#footnote-7) (AMS) in mind. It is possible that the extended SSM could be installed on a node separate to the APEL server; in this case the SSM could then use the existing SSM functionality to send the extracted messages via the message broker. The extended SSM could even be installed on a node within the storage system, access usage information internally and send them via the message broker, although this has not been tested or developed as the prototypes have focused on making use of the external REST application programming interface (API) provided by the EGI DataHub. The REST functionality of the prototype has been developed such that it could be integrated with the REST functionality developed for the prototype AMS enabled SSM, although this work is still ongoing.

Limitations of this architecture include the fact that separate extensions to the SSM software will be needed to parse the raw response from the REST APIs of each supported storage system as, for example, Onedata[[8]](#footnote-8) based systems like the EGI DataHub will return raw usage data in a different format to Ceph based systems. Also, pulling the records directly will require the REST interface to be available at the same time as the SSM initiates the pull. This differs from sending records via the Message Broker, which acts as a buffer, storing records for multiple days, allowing asynchronous publishing and consuming. Once the records are on the APEL server, they will be loaded and summarised. The portal is then updated via the Message Broker as happens now.

## Integration and dependencies

For existing types of accounting, communication between clients and the central APEL server is via the EGI Message Broker network using the APEL SSM package. The SSM can be configured to send or receive messages to or from specific queues, which is set in the SSM configuration.

For this dataset usage accounting prototype, the central APEL server uses an updated SSM with support for pulling data directly from REST HTTP interfaces so that it can interact with EGI DataHub. It is possible these usage records could be sent over a messaging broker; however the prototype has been developed against the external OneData REST API[[9]](#footnote-9), with the SSM querying the storage system directly.

The central APEL server can use the EGI service registry (GOCDB[[10]](#footnote-10)) to get a list of endpoints so that only data from endpoints correctly defined in GOCDB is processed. This feature is not currently used by this prototype, as it is not clear yet how multiple separate instances of the same underlying technology, i.e. OneData, would be handled. They could be handled by separate SSM instances or one instance querying different destinations. In either case, determining how the new feature would integrate with GOCDB is considered a mandatory requirement to move DataSet accounting into production in the future.

## Supported storage solutions

### Onedata

Onedata[[11]](#footnote-11) is a global data management system, providing easy access to distributed storage resources, supporting a wide range of use cases from personal data management to data-intensive scientific computations. With Onedata, users can access, store, process and publish data using global data storage backed by computing centres and storage providers worldwide. It is the underlying technology powering the EGI Open Data platform and DataHub[[12]](#footnote-12).

Onedata provides a REST API which can be used to extract space and user metrics. At the moment, it is not possible to extract metrics based on persistent identifiers (PIDs), such as DOIs, but this is a feature that is being added to support the EGI Open Data Platform and will be available shortly.

Additionally, the Onedata REST API provides metrics in a format that does not currently provide all proposed metrics present in the previous section so some compromise will need to be found between the two. Also, since a single dataset can be divided between several storage providers, consideration should be made about how the metrics for a dataset can be collated from the data retrieved from disparate providers, although this was outside the scope of this prototype as it focused on Onedata Spaces mapping to a single provider.

The APEL software was modified to support the loading of dataset usage records into a specifically designed database schema, and the APEL Secure Stomp Messenger (SSM) component was modified to support fetching dataset usage records from a REST interface (as opposed to sending messages via the EGI Message Brokers), which is the method that Onedata provides access to accounting data. Currently, the prototype uses a simple REST “puller”, similar to the receiver used to retrieve messages from the EGI Message Brokers. Using this “puller” in production does mean that effort would need to be spent supporting an additional interface to the Accounting Repository, although the added flexibility may be beneficial.

The prototype works by using the Python standard libraries to query the REST interface. The returned data is then parsed into the new message format based on the OGF Usage Record. This message is then saved for future loading, as currently happens with all other messages received via the message broker.

The APEL software has been modified to support loading of this new format into a database by starting a separate loader process with its own configuration file. This means that the prototype is capable of extracting the space metrics of the test space, parsing them into the OGF message format then loading the data into the database.

A lot of the metrics proposed are available internally to Onedata, but not all of them are exposed by the REST API and the ones that are use different keys, and some are not yet implemented (mainly PIDs, ORCIDs, and specific metrics about transfers). Additional modifications to the software are thus required to convert the data retrieved from the Onedata REST API into a format suitable for ingestion by the Accounting Repository and further collaboration will be required between the Onedata and APEL developers to ensure all the right metrics are exposed.

## Updated record metrics

Table 2 shows an outline of the metrics that were proposed for performing dataset usage accounting. They are intended as an extension to the Open Grid Forum (OGF) Usage Record version 2 (UR-2.0)[[13]](#footnote-13), but the final implementation for Dataset Usage Accounting may need to be quite different once more feedback is received and use cases developed. This prototype supports a subset of these metrics but can easily be extended.

Compared to the first prototype, the metrics have been altered in the following way:

* AccessEvents has been split into ReadAccessEvents and WriteAccessEvents as OneData provides this separation. If in future supported systems did not provide this, a TotalAccessEvents field could be added.
* DataSet was renamed DataSetID, and an additional DataSetIDType was added to allow for future support for other, non DOI, unique identifiers, such as PID.
* Infrastructure was added so that we could determine all DataSet records corresponding to the same system, e.g the EGI DataHub.

Table 2 – Updated dataset accounting metrics

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Key*** | ***Type*** | ***Description*** |
| **Record Identity Block** | Resource provider  | string  | Resource provider at which the resource is located (e.g. GOCDB sitename) |
| Infrastructure | string | High level system that the provider is part of (e.g. https://datahub.egi.eu) |
| **Subject Identity Block** | GlobalUserID | string  | e.g. X.509 certificate DN /EGI unique ID (from Checkin service) |
| GlobalGroupId | string  | e.g. VO |
| GlobalGroupAttribute | string  | e.g. VO Group and/or Role |
| ORCID | string | ORCID iD of the user |
| **Dataset Usage Block** | DatasetID | string  | Unique identifier such as a PID / DOI |
| DataSetIDType | string | PID, DOI, etc. |
| ReadAccessEvents | integer | Number of read operations in period |
| WriteAccessEvents | integer | Number of write operations in period |
| Source | IP address / other | Source of transfer at resource provider |
| Destination | IP address / other | Destination of transfer |
| StartTime | ISO 8601 timestamp | Start time of transfer |
| Duration | ISO 8601 duration | Duration of transfer |
| EndTime | ISO 8601 timestamp | End time of transfer |
| TransferSize | integer | Bytes transferred |
| HostType | string  | Storage system Type |
| FileCount | integer | Number of files accessed |
| Status | string  | Success / failure / partial transfer |

The association of the ORCID of a user with a dataset usage record was not covered in the initial survey and was suggested at a later stage of the development process with the aim to help linking datasets to research publications. However, additional personal information should only be collected if there is a clear need and there is agreement between stakeholders. For next release, we will consider the option to remove the ORCID identifier from the basic dataset usage record and gather it from third party services (e.g. from the CheckIn service or directly from ORCID) only when needed.

At a minimum, the number of times that a dataset is accessed and who that dataset belongs to should be recorded by the storage system so that the accounting system can retrieve that information and fill in the Record and Subject Identity blocks, and the “Dataset” and “AccessEvents” fields. If possible, the origin of these access events (including who performed it) would also be recorded. This would then cover the attributes that were considered most important in the survey. It is yet to be decided if this would form the set of mandatory fields. Specific use cases would help to clarify this.

Depending on how detailed the accounting data is, a method for aggregating this information should be created so that the volume of accounting data does not become unmanageable. This applies especially to the fields that relate to transfer operations as getting information for these fields could require quite a fine-grained approach to the usage data. To prepare for this, an example summariser process and corresponding summary schema and message field has been developed.

## Integration guidance

Currently, it seems likely any external services that wanted to interact with the accounting data would do so via the Portal, as they currently do for Job, Cloud and Storage accounting.

Any system that can provide a list of DOIs hosted at a given storage system could easily be integrated with the current prototype, by outputting the DOIs to a file to be later read by the SSM “puller” process. To integrate with the current prototype, they would ideally provide:

* A REST endpoint that can be queried to discover all the DOIs that need their usage to be accounted for and an endpoint that can then be queried to extract the usage information for those DOIs, or an endpoint that can be queried directly to return usage metrics for datasets.
* Documentation for their API that can be used to extract the correct metrics from the endpoint.

# Release notes

These are the changes included in this prototype release of the APEL software compared to the first prototype:

* A file with at least one DOI to attempt to resolve must be provided in the configuration file, otherwise the “puller” process will not start.

## Requirements covered in the release

Requirements from the EGI Engage Accounting Repository roadmap[[14]](#footnote-14) that are covered in this release include the following:

* 3.1.15 Data Accounting: production requirements

# Result of testing

The second prototype focussed on assigning DOIs to OneData Shares (Shares are Spaces that have been made public) and querying the REST interface to determine the usage. Unlike the first prototype, that relied on a known Space, the second prototype requires a list of DOIs be provided to it via a file. This will allow for easy integration with any tool that can return a list of DOIs resolving to a given storage system.

The prototype reads the provided DOI and queries a resolver to determine what the DOI resolves to. Currently, only DOIs that resolve to OneData Shares are supported.

From the resolved DOI, the prototype can extract the ShareID. Through multiple queries to the specified instance of OneData, the SpaceID corresponding to the ShareID and the Provider URL are determined. A final REST request is then sent to the Provider to determine the data access.

As before, the raw data response to the request is then processed and parsed into an XML format based on the OGF Usage Record, before being loaded into a database by the APEL server.

These records are then summarised in a similar way to Job and Cloud records. These summarise can then be unloaded in preparation for sending on to the Accounting Portal. The loading of these summaries has been partially tested, by getting the APEL server to load messages into memory, but not save them to a database. This testing was also done locally, not with the portal

The integration with OneData has been tested over 9 days by running the accounting software with a previously known DOI and pointing an instance of the SSM, modified to allow interaction with a REST endpoint, at the EGI DataHub instance of Onedata to extract usage data for the test DOI.

By determining the Provider of the Share corresponding to the DOI a JSON response like the following can be retrieved by querying the REST API (e.g. <https://datahub.plgrid.pl/api/v3/oneprovider/metrics/space/1I8DOQUXXiezOAcTpAewz40HVNzy-Sr2mlBZZtEmpA?metric=storage_quota&step=1m>) for the metrics of the space that the Share is stored in:

|  |
| --- |
| {"rrd" : { "meta" : { "step" : 86400, "start" : 1494892800, "legend" : ["space BM-Qz-eXNLtjafuRbr6B7fsLdUJ-GXjaRiqH-nadcx0; metric data\_access; oneprovider ID q-bwPyZKSqs-ZQYwggWtSkak77hoOAC5479MEYtG2jw; data\_access\_read[bytes/s]","space BM-Qz-eXNLtjafuRbr6B7fsLdUJ-GXjaRiqH-nadcx0; metric data\_access; oneprovider ID q-bwPyZKSqs-ZQYwggWtSkak77hoOAC5479MEYtG2jw; data\_access\_write[bytes/s]"], "end" : 1497571200 }, "data" : [[null,null],[null,null],[null,null],[null,null],[null,null],[null,null],[null,null],[null,null],[null,null],[null,null],[null,null],[null,null],[null,null],[null,null],[null,null],[null,null],[null,null],[null,null],[null,null],[null,null],[null,null],[null,null],[null,null],[0.0,0.0],[0.0,0.0],[0.0,0.0],[0.0,0.0],[0.0,0.0],[0.0,0.0],[0.0,0.0],[null,null]], "about" : "RRDtool graph JSON output" }, "providerId" : "q-bwPyZKSqs-ZQYwggWtSkak77hoOAC5479MEYtG2jw"} |

The returned data was then parsed into a message format based on the OGF Usage Record to give the following XML record:

|  |
| --- |
| <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?><ur:UsageRecords xmlns:ur="http://eu-emi.eu/namespaces/2017/01/datasetrecord"> <ur:UsageRecord> <ur:RecordIdentityBlock> <ur:RecordId>https://datahub.egi.eu:8443-10.5072/OXFORDFLOWERDATASET.1-1497520702</ur:RecordId> <ur:CreateTime>1497520702</ur:CreateTime> <ur:ResourceProvider>q-bwPyZKSqs-ZQYwggWtSkak77hoOAC5479MEYtG2jw</ur:ResourceProvider> </ur:RecordIdentityBlock> <ur:SubjectIdentityBlock> </ur:SubjectIdentityBlock> <ur:DataSetUsageBlock> <ur:DataSetID>10.5072/OXFORDFLOWERDATASET.1</ur:DataSetID> <ur:DataSetIDType>DOI</ur:DataSetIDType> <ur:ReadAccessEvents>0</ur:ReadAccessEvents> <ur:WriteAccessEvents>0</ur:WriteAccessEvents> <ur:StartTime>1497484800</ur:StartTime> <ur:Duration>86400</ur:Duration> <ur:EndTime>1497571200</ur:EndTime> <ur:HostType>OneData</ur:HostType> </ur:DataSetUsageBlock> </ur:UsageRecord></ur:UsageRecords> |

The message was then saved for future loading, as currently happens with messages received via the message broker network. The message was then loaded into a database by starting a separate loader process with its own configuration file, modified to support the loading of this new format.

Example of a usage record in database:

|  |
| --- |
| UpdateTime: 2017-06-27 07:00:09RecordId: https://datahub.egi.eu:8443-10.5072/OXFORDFLOWERDATASET.1-1498543204CreateTime: 2017-06-27 06:00:04ResourceProvider: q-bwPyZKSqs-ZQYwggWtSkak77hoOAC5479MEYtG2jwInfrastructure: https://datahub.egi.eu:8443GlobalUserId: NoneGlobalGroupId: NoneORCID: NoneDataSetID: 10.5072/OXFORDFLOWERDATASET.1DataSetIDType: DOIReadAccessEvents: 56WriteAccessEvents: 1Source: NoneDestination: NoneStartTime: 2017-06-26 00:00:00Duration: 86400EndTime: 2017-06-27 00:00:00TransferSize: NULLHostType: OneDataFileCount: NULLStatus: None |

Example of a summary record in the database:

|  |
| --- |
| UpdateTime: 2017-06-28 08:52:24ResourceProvider: q-bwPyZKSqs-ZQYwggWtSkak77hoOAC5479MEYtG2jwInfrastructure: https://datahub.egi.eu:8443GlobalUserId: NoneGlobalGroupId: NoneORCID: NoneDataSetID: 10.5072/OXFORDFLOWERDATASET.1DataSetIDType: DOITotalReadAccessEvents: 56TotalWriteAccessEvents: 1Source: NoneDestination: NoneEarliestStartTime: 2017-06-19 00:00:00TotalDuration: 777600LatestStartTime: 2017-06-27 00:00:00Month: 6Year: 2017TotalTransferSize: NULLHostType: OneDataTotalFileCount: NULLStatus: None |

Example of an unloaded summary:

|  |
| --- |
| <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?><ur:UsageSummaryRecords xmlns:ur="http://eu-emi.eu/namespaces/2017/01/datasetsummary"><ur:UsageSummaryRecord><ur:CreateTime>2017-06-28T10:12:21Z</ur:CreateTime><ur:ResourceProvider>q-bwPyZKSqs-ZQYwggWtSkak77hoOAC5479MEYtG2jw</ur:ResourceProvider><ur:Infrastructure>https://datahub.egi.eu:8443</ur:Infrastructure><ur:DataSetID>10.5072/OXFORDFLOWERDATASET.1</ur:DataSetID><ur:DataSetIDType>DOI</ur:DataSetIDType><ur:TotalReadAccessEvents>56</ur:TotalReadAccessEvents><ur:TotalWriteAccessEvents>1</ur:TotalWriteAccessEvents><ur:EarliestStartTime>2017-06-19T00:00:00Z</ur:EarliestStartTime><ur:TotalDuration>777600</ur:TotalDuration><ur:LatestStartTime>2017-06-27T00:00:00Z</ur:LatestStartTime><ur:Month>6</ur:Month><ur:Year>2017</ur:Year><ur:HostType>OneData</ur:HostType></ur:UsageSummaryRecord></ur:UsageSummaryRecords> |

Due to the limitations of the current Onedata implementation, it was not possible to extract the owner of the Share. The initiator of access events was not captured due to complexities extracting both usage assigned to a user and anonymous usage and the fact the test usage was anonymous.

# Plan for exploitation and dissemination

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of the result | Prototype dataset usage accounting system |
| *DEFINITION*  |
| Category of result | Software & service innovation |
| Description of the result | This prototype system extends the types of usage accounting that the EGI Accounting Repository can perform by adding features to support dataset usage accounting.  |
| *EXPLOITATION* |
| Target group(s) | RIs, international research collaborations, storage providers |
| Needs | Provide sufficient information about the location and storage of datasets to make more efficient use of computing infrastructures. Enable scientists to assess the impact of their work. |
| How the target groups will use the result? | With the right information on dataset usage, a dataset provider (i.e. an infrastructure provider like EGI) could create multiple replicas of a dataset if it is requested many times, and a scientist can know how many people have accessed the dataset created with their research. |
| Benefits | Demonstrate the potential that dataset usage accounting has to aid in fulfilling the needs above.Allow the Accounting Repository team to gather more specific feedback on dataset accounting and to identify any potential issues that will need to be overcome in future. |
| How will you protect the results? | Open source license (Apache License, Version 2.0) |
| Actions for exploitation | The prototype will be run by the Accounting Repository team as a test bed for future developments of dataset usage accounting. Selected resource providers will be asked to make REST endpoints available so that the Accounting Repository can extract dataset accounting records to further test the prototype.Feedback will be solicited from potential users of dataset accounting on how useful the current prototype is and what new features they would like to be included in the future.The software will be made available in a public repository. |
| URL to project result | <https://github.com/gregcorbett/apel/tree/dataset_accounting><https://github.com/gregcorbett/ssm/tree/dataset_accounting> |
| Success criteria | Feedback from the customers that will become inputs for a more developed second prototype that regularly collects dataset accounting |
| *DISSEMINATION* |
| Key messages | Test system for dataset accounting can be made available so that feedback can be gathered. |
| Channels | Operations Management Board meetings, EGI Engagement channels, Competence Centres |
| Actions for dissemination | Present results at an OMB and solicit feedback on prototype |
| Cost | N/K |
| Evaluation | Quality of feedback |

# Future plans

It is intended that this prototype will be improved during future projects by using feedback following this release to ensure it will meet user requirements. The optimum balance between accounting granularity and data volume still needs to be investigated as well as Portal views for the data.

As discussed throughout this report, this new dataset accounting functionality could be integrated with the message broker system. An example model to adopt would be the same model as currently used in Grid or Storage Accounting; the usage is extracted at the Provider level by the APEL client, or a light weight script supplied with the tool to cut produce accounting records, and then send them to APEL with SSM via the brokers. Although this would likely require a re-implementation of the functionality developed so far.

A current technical limitation is that two Python libraries are required to extract usage from OneData. httplib is required to make a HEAD request to a DOI resolver, but httplib cannot connect to the EGI DataHub due to version limitations of the APEL system. Connecting to the DataHub is handled by urllib2, but urllib2 cannot make the HEAD requests to the DOI resolver. This does make the new code more difficult to maintain. A move to a lightweight script supplied with OneData may help to alleviate this problem, as there may be more freedom to upgrade library/Python versions or change languages.

In parallel with this EGI-based work, the APEL team is also involved in a number of other projects that are related to dataset usage. These are detailed further in Appendix I.

1. Related work

**SeaDataCloud**

The SeaDataNet[[15]](#footnote-15) pan-European infrastructure connects over 100 marine data centres and provides discovery and access to data resources for all European researchers. However, more effective and convenient access is needed to better support European researchers.

SeaDataCloud[[16]](#footnote-16) aims at considerably advancing SeaDataNet services and increasing their usage, adopting cloud and HPC technology for better performance. Data cover the wide range of in situ observations and remote sensing data. To have access to the latest cloud technology and facilities, SeaDataNet will cooperate with EUDAT[[17]](#footnote-17), a network of computing infrastructures that develop and operate a common framework for managing scientific data across Europe. SeaDataCloud will improve services to users and data providers, optimise connecting data centres and streams, and interoperate with other European and international networks.

There is currently no data management middleware that exposes metrics appropriate for dataset accounting. To this end, the APEL team has become involved in the SeaDataCloud project to work on adding dataset usage accounting. Development work will be needed in one or more of the EUDAT services to gather the appropriate metrics and aggregate them in the APEL Repository.

**AtlantOS**

AtlantOS[[18]](#footnote-18) is a BG 8 (Developing in-situ Atlantic Ocean Observations for a better management and sustainable exploitation of the maritime resources) research and innovation project that proposes the integration of ocean observing activities across all disciplines for the Atlantic, considering European as well as non-European partners.

As part of this, there is a group looking at the practices and tools used with logging dataset usage in networks or infrastructures (e.g. SeaDataNet). These practices should be homogeneous enough so that the logs of different data services can be aggregated together so that homogenous statistics on dataset usage can be computed. These statistics will especially be useful for data providers (e.g. platform operator, organisation) who would like to have a feedback on the usage of their datasets.

The APEL team is monitoring the progress of this group to learn what conclusions they draw about interoperable dataset usage logging.

1. <http://apel.github.io/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://datahub.egi.eu/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://documents.egi.eu/document/2968> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://datahub.egi.eu/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://documents.egi.eu/document/3025> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <https://github.com/apel/ssm> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <http://argoeu-devel.github.io/messaging/v1/> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. <https://onedata.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. <https://onedata.org/docs/doc/advanced/rest/index.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. <http://goc.egi.eu/> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. <https://onedata.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. <https://datahub.egi.eu/> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. <https://www.ogf.org/documents/GFD.204.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. <https://wiki.egi.eu/wiki/TASK_JRA1.3_Accounting#Accounting_Repository> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. <https://www.seadatanet.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. <https://www.seadatanet.org/About-us/SeaDataCloud> [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. <https://www.eudat.eu/> [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. <https://www.atlantos-h2020.eu/> [↑](#footnote-ref-18)