

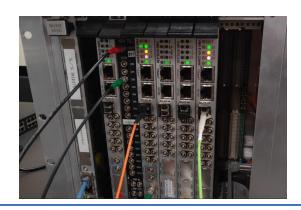
Test automation utility for event timing modules

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KEK
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Background: The Timing System Upgrade

- EVG & EVR
 - Event Generator (EVG) sends event codes to Event Receiver (EVR)
 - EVR generates trigger pulse to accelerator devices (BPM, magnet, etc.)
- Current Landscape:
 - KEK LINAC relies on a large, distributed timing system with over 100 Event Receivers (EVRs).
- The VME platform is becoming obsolete; key components like the MVME5500/MVME6100 CPU are being discontinued.
- We are migrating our timing system from VME to the modern MicroTCA (MTCA) standard. This necessitates rigorous validation of all new hardware.

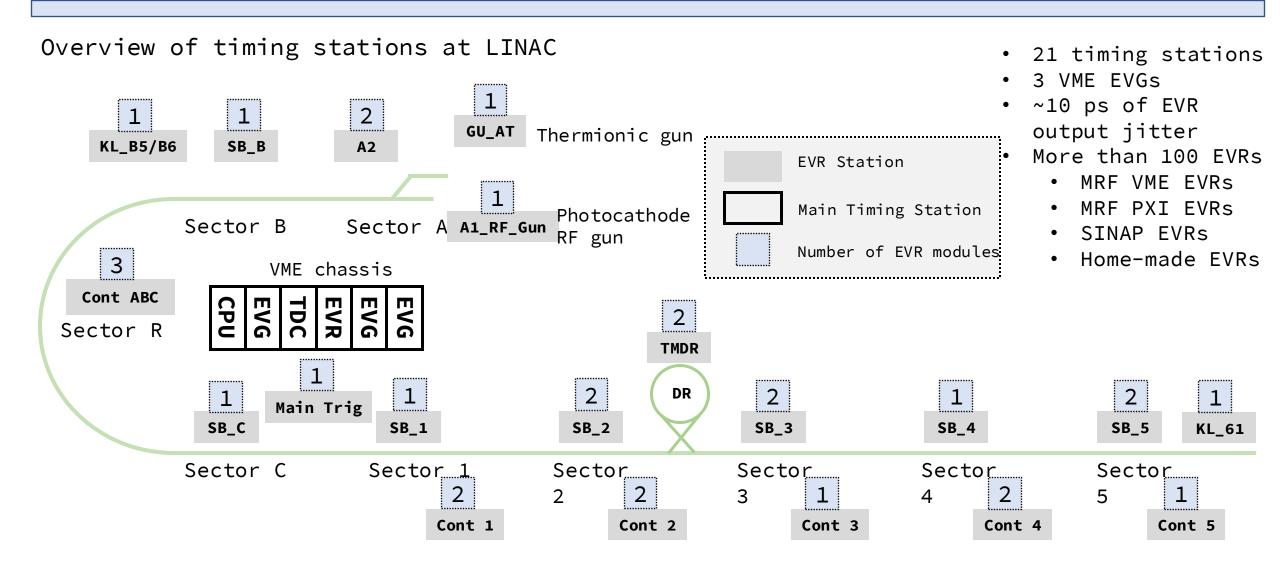








Timing system at KEK LINAC





Event Timing Modules: Evolving System

- Hardware Diversity:
 - MRF provides various of products across several HW form factors, e.g., VME, CPCI/PXI, PCIe, PMC, MTCA
- Constant Evolution: The timing modules are a moving target.
 - New Features: Newer module series (e.g., the 300-series) add advanced capabilities like delay compensation, segmented data buffer and flip-flop output.
 - Frequent Updates: Continuous firmware and EPICS driver releases introduce improvements and bug fixes that require re-validation.

From	То	Note
VME-EVG-230	VME-EVR-230	In Ope
VME-EVG-230	VME-EVR-230RF	In Ope
VME-EVG-230	PXI-EVR-230	In Ope
VME-EVG-230	Home-made EVR	In Ope
VME-EVG-230	MTCA-EVR-300RF	??
VME-EVG-230	MTCA-EVR-300U	??
VME-EVG-230	VME-EVR-300	??
MTCA-EVM-300	MTCA-EVR-300U	0
MTCA-EVM-300	MTCA-EVR-300RF	0
MTCA-EVM-300	VME-EVR-300	0
MTCA-EVM-300	VME-EVR-230RF	??
MTCA-EVM-300	VME-EVR-230	??
MTCA-EVM-300	PXI-EVR-230	??
MTCA-EVM-300	Home-made EVR	??

П				_
	140207	11.5.2022	- Added pulse generator masking capability for HW set and reset	mTCA-EVR-300DC
	150207	15.6.2022	- Added VME-UTB-64x support for VME-EVR-300	VME-EVR-300
	160207	6.10.2022	- Changed pulse with and delay to 32 bits on all pulse generators.	mTCA-EVR-300DC and VME-EVR-300
	170207	6.10.2022	- Use LOS from SFP transceiver to reset receiver.	mTCA-EVR-300DC
	180207	17.01.2023	- Added support for new mTCA-EVR-300DC hardware with improved backplane triggers	mTCA-EVR-300DC



Challenge

• The Upgrade Challenge:

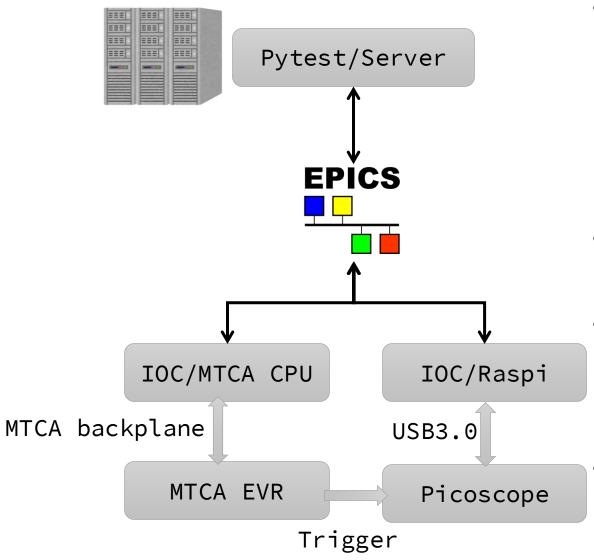
- We are in a long-term transition, phasing out obsolete VME hardware.
- This results in a complex, mixed-generation environment where legacy and new modules must operate together.

The Bottleneck:

- Manually testing hundreds of timing modules in this dynamic environment is time-consuming, prone to human error, and lacks repeatability.
- An automated solution is beneficial:
 - Develop a robust, automated, and reliable Site Acceptance Test (SAT) suite.
 - Increase test coverage and consistency.
 - Reduce manual intervention and testing time.
 - Generate automated test reports for validation and records.



Test Automation Utility Architecture

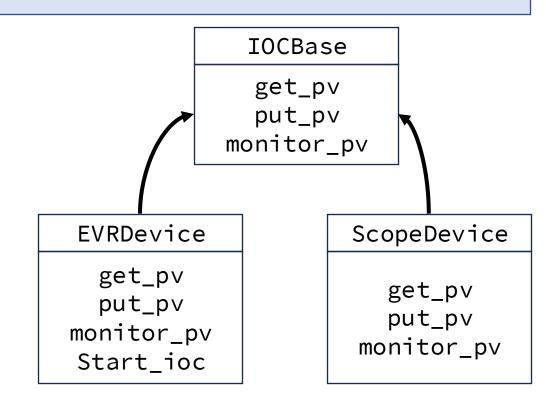


- Hardware:
 - MicroTCA
 - VadaTech Chassis: VT814
 - VadaTech MCH: UTC004
 - VadaTech CPU: AMC725
 - MRF MTCA-EVR-300RF
 - Raspberry Pi
 - Picoscope
- Software:
 - uv for python management
 - Pytest
- Workflow: pytest script sends commands via EPICS Channel Access (CA) to both the EVR and Picoscope to execute and verify tests.
 - Why pytest? Fixtures for resource management, powerful assert statements, extensive plugins (e.g., pytest-html for reports), and simple syntax



Framework design

- Framework Logic: Leveraging pytest fixtures to manage connections and hardware states.
 - IOCBase: A base class for inheritance
 - EVRDevice: Establishes connection to the EVR IOC, ensures it's in a known state.
 - ScopeDevice: Connects to the Picoscope IOC, configures capture settings (trigger, voltage range, timebase).
- Test Organization:
 - test_basic.py: For basic functions, EVR status checks, event code reception etc.
 - test_fpout.py: For validation of front-panel trigger output generation.
 - test_fpinp.py: For validation of interrupt from front-panel input signal.





Configurable Tests

- Tests are described in a Human-readable configuration YAML file
- Config items
 - PV prefix for EVR IOC and Picoscope IOC
 - Whether start a new IOC using python subprocess or using existing one?
 - If start IOC using python, where is binary program for IOC, start command, startup path?
 - Which EVR output port connect to which Picoscope channel? E.g., front panel universal output 1 connect to Picoscope channel A
 - Using PV Access or Channel Access to connect to IOC (python module confliction, still working on)

```
mtca-evr-300rf-example:
 prefix: "TT:MTCA-EVR-300:"
 ioc start: "YES"
 ioc_exe: "/path/to/epics/modules/mrfioc2/bin/linux-x86_64/mrf"
 ioc_cmd: "evr300.cmd"
 cmd_path: "/path/to/epics/ioc/mrf300-test-ioc/mtca"
 hardware: "MTCA-EVR-300RF"
 use_scope: "YES"
 scope_prefix: "TT:PS3405D:"
 scope_port: "FPUV1"
 scope_channel: "A"
 evr_name: "EVR"
 use_pva: "NO"
vme-evr-230-default:
 prefix: "TT:VME-EVR-230:"
 ioc_start: "NO"
 hardware: "VME-EVR-230"
 use_scope: "YES"
 scope_prefix: "TT:PS3405D:"
 scope_port: "FP1"
 scope_channel: "B"
 evr_name: "EVR230"
 use_pva: "NO"
```



Basic EVR function tests

- Verify basic functions of the EVR.
- Use @pytest.mark.parametrize to define multiple sets of arguments and fixtures at the test function.
- Test item examples:
 - Event Code Receiving: Configure an event code counter to a specific event and verify event rate.
 - Heartbeat & Status: Poll status PVs to ensure the module is alive and reporting no errors.



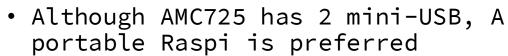
EVR IO validation

- Confirm that receiving a specific event code produces the correct electrical pulse at the physical output ports.
- This requires synchronizing an action (sending an event) with a measurement (capturing a waveform).
- Method:
 - Configure: Set up the EVR to output a pulse (with different pulse width) on a specific channel for a given event code.
 - Arm: Arm the Picoscope to trigger on the expected pulse.
 - Execute: Send the event command to the event receiver via EPICS.
 - Verify: The Picoscope triggers, captures the waveform, and the test script fetches and analyzes the data.



EPICS driver for Picoscope

• Raspberry Pi 5



- Picoscope 3405D, 4-ch, 100 MHz, 8-bit at 1 GS/s
 - Only require USB & Linux Support
- Software
 - Picoscope Linux drivers and API for 32-bit Raspberry Pi OS
 - Asynps3000a epics module (C++) based on asynPortDriver





#!../../bin/linux-arm/testasynps3000a epicsEnvSet("IOC", "ioctestasynps3000a") epicsEnvSet("TOP","/home/pi/epics/R7.0.9/modules/asynps3000 epicsEnvSet("ASYN","/home/pi/epics/R7.0.9/modules/asyn-4-45 epicsEnvSet("EPICS BASE","/home/pi/epics/R7.0.9/base") cd "/home/pi/epics/R7.0.9/modules/asynps3000a" ## Register all support components dbLoadDatabase "dbd/testasynps3000a.dbd" testasynps3000a registerRecordDeviceDriver pdbbase epicsEnvSet("PP" epicsEnvSet("DEVICE NAME", "PS3405D" epicsEnvSet("EPICS CA MAX ARRAY BYTES", "10000000" epicsEnvSet("PREFIX", "TT: PS3405D: epicsEnvSet("PORT". "PICO") epicsEnvSet("MAX SAMPLES", "10000") PS3000AConfig("PICO", "10000") [INF] PS3000A:PS3000A:229 PicoScope 3000A Series Driver [INF] PS3000A:getInfo:322 device information: Driver Version: PS3000A Linux Driver, 2.2.153.7541 USB Version: 3.0

IOC for Picoscope

Kernel: 0.0 Digital H/W: 1 Analogue H/W: 1 Firmware 1: 1.7.5.0 Firmware 2: 1.0.67.0 dbLoadRecords("db/ps3000a.template", "P=TT:PS3405D:,R=,PORT=PICO,ADDR=0,TIMEOUT=1,MAX SAMPLES=10000") dbLoadRecords("db/ps3000aN.template","P=TT:PS3405D:,R=A-,PORT=PICO,ADDR=0,TIMEOUT=1,NAME=Channel A,MAX SAMPLES=10000" dbLoadRecords("db/ps3000aN.template","P=TT:PS3405D:,R=B-,PORT=PICO,ADDR=1,TIMEOUT=1,NAME=Channel B,MAX SAMPLES=10000") dbLoadRecords("db/ps3000aN.template","P=TT:PS3405D:,R=C-,PORT=PICO,ADDR=2,TIMEOUT=1,NAME=Channel C,MAX SAMPLES=10000" dbLoadRecords("db/ps3000aN.template","P=TT:PS3405D:,R=D-,PORT=PICO,ADDR=3,TIMEOUT=1,NAME=Channel D,MAX SAMPLES=10000") cd "/home/pi/epics/R7.0.9/modules/asynps3000a/iocBoot/ioctestasynps3000a" iocInit Starting iocInit ## EPICS R7.0.9 ## Rev. 2025-06-04T18:00+0900 ## Rev. Date build date/time: iocRun: All initialization complete

Thursday, Aug 7, 2025

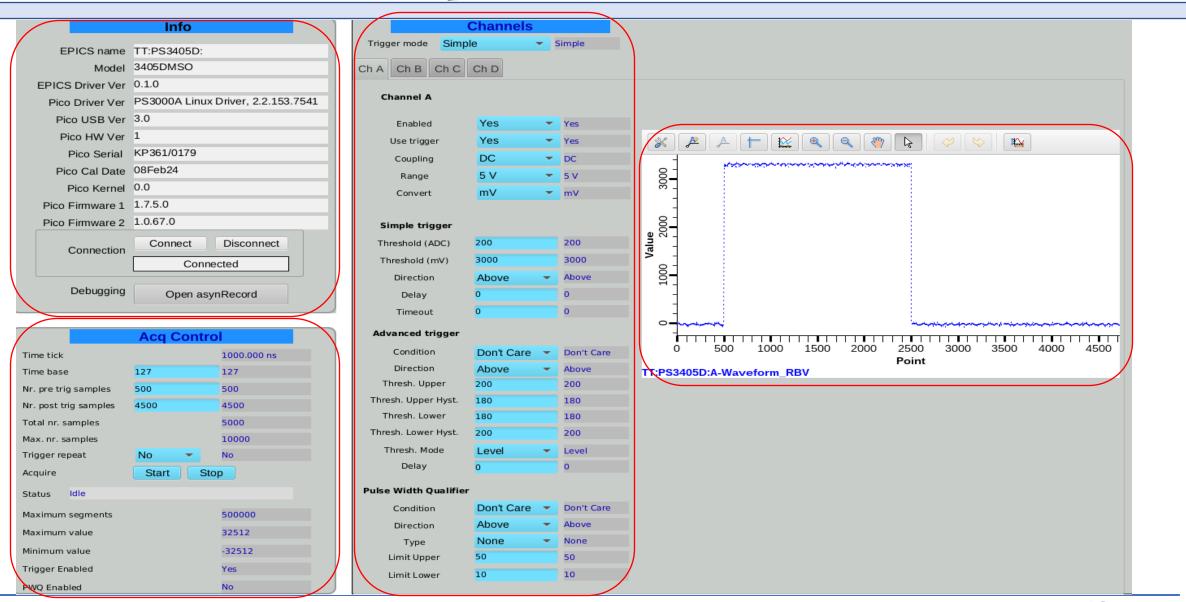
dbpf "TT:PS3405D:A-Enabled" "1"

Hardware Version: 1 Variant Info: 3405DMS0

Serial: KP361/0179 Cal Date: 08Feb24



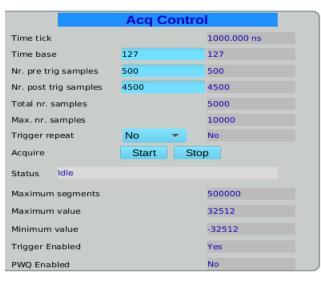
OPI for Picoscope IOC

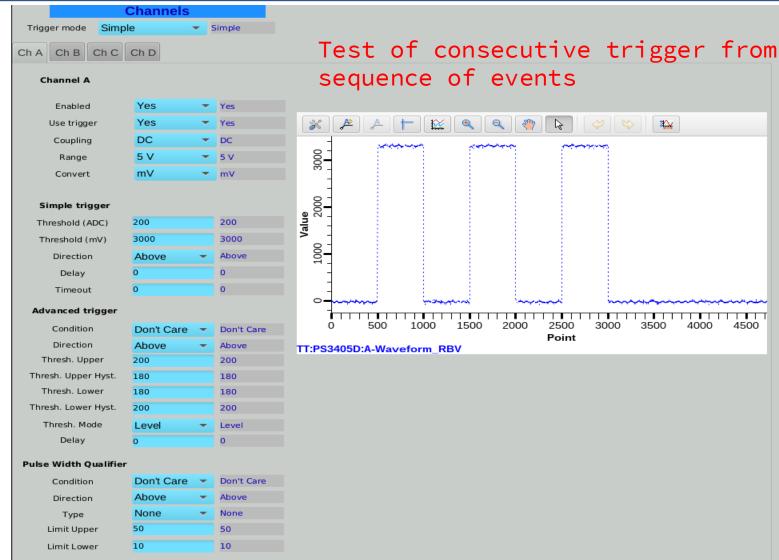




Test Examples









GitLab Automation

- 1. Hardware installation and cable connection
- 2. Add new tests/new config
- 3. Push commits to GitLab
- 4. Specify IOC name using GitLab CI/CD variables
- 5. GitLab Runner picks up the task
 - 1. Prepare environment
 - 2. Login to MTCA server
 - 3. (Optional) start IOC
 - 4. Run tests
 - 5. Collect and upload artifacts to GitLab
- 6. Examine test report







GitLab Automation

```
def test_dc(evr_device, suffix, value):
               Check Delay Compensation function
               if "230" in evr_device.hardware:
                   pytest.skip("This test only applies to EVR 300 series")
               ret = execute_and_assert(lambda: evr_device.get_pv(suffix, as_string=True))
  384 >
               assert ret == value
  385 F
               AssertionError: assert 'Medium' == 'Fine'
  386 E
  387 E
                 - Fine
  388 E
                 + Medium
  389 tests/test_basic.py:139: AssertionError
  390 - Generated html report: file:///nfs/linacfs-users/sdcswd/tmp/mrfioc2-tests/reports/report.html -
  391 ============= short test summary info ===================
  392 FAILED tests/test_basic.py::test_stable_errors[CntLinkTimo-I] - assert 71 == 64
  393 FAILED tests/test_basic.py::test_event_interval - assert 1.3353432038700624e-...
  394 FAILED tests/test_basic.py::test_dc[DCLck-Sts-Locked] - AssertionError: asser...
  395 FAILED tests/test_basic.py::test_dc[DCLckDat-Sts-Fine] - AssertionError: asse...
  396 ========= 4 failed, 102 passed in 296.49s (0:04:56) =================
397 Running after_script
  398 Running after script...
  399 $ which ssh-agent || ( apt-get update -y && apt-get install openssh-client -y )
  400 /usr/bin/ssh-agent
  401 $ eval $(ssh-agent -s)
  402 Agent pid 15
  403 $ echo "$SSH_PRIVATE_KEY" | tr -d '\r' | ssh-add - > /dev/null
  404 Identity added: (stdin) (gitlab-kekb_runner)
  405 $ mkdir -p ~/.ssh
  406 $ chmod 700 ~/.ssh
  407 $ scp -r -o StrictHostKeyChecking=no $SSH_USER@$SSH_HOST:~/tmp/$CI_PROJECT_NAME/reports $CI_PROJECT_DIR
  408 $ ssh -o StrictHostKeyChecking=no $SSH_USER@$SSH_HOST "rm -rf ~/tmp/$CI_PROJECT_NAME"
  409 $ rm -rf ~/.ssh

✓ 410 Uploading artifacts for failed job

  411 Uploading artifacts...
  412 reports/: found 2 matching artifact files and directories
  413 Uploading artifacts as "archive" to coordinator... 201 Created id=1374 responseStatus=201 Created token=glcbt-64

✓ 414 Cleaning up project directory and file based variables

  415 ERROR: Job failed: exit code 1
```

```
285 tests/test_fpout.py::test_pulser_consecutive_trigger[6] PASSED
                                                                               [ 83%]
  286 tests/test_fpout.py::test_pulser_consecutive_trigger[7] PASSED
                                                                               [ 84%]
                                                                              [ 85%]
  287 tests/test_fpout.py::test_pulser_consecutive_trigger[8] PASSED
  288 tests/test_fpout.py::test_pulser_consecutive_trigger[9] PASSED
                                                                               [ 86%]
                                                                              [ 87%]
  289 tests/test_fpout.py::test_pulser_consecutive_trigger[10] PASSED
  290 tests/test_fpout.py::test_pulser_consecutive_trigger[11] PASSED
                                                                               [ 88%]
  291 tests/test_fpout.py::test_pulser_consecutive_trigger[12] PASSED
                                                                              [ 89%]
                                                                               [ 90%]
  292 tests/test_fpout.py::test_pulser_consecutive_trigger[13] PASSED
  293 tests/test_fpout.py::test_pulser_consecutive_trigger[14] PASSED
                                                                              [ 91%]
                                                                              [ 92%]
  294 tests/test_fpout.py::test_pulser_consecutive_trigger[15] PASSED
  295 tests/test_fpout.py::test_pulser_ff[0] PASSED
                                                                              [ 93%]
  296 tests/test_fpout.py::test_pulser_ff[1] PASSED
                                                                               [ 94%]
                                                                              [ 95%]
  297 tests/test_fpout.py::test_pulser_ff[2] PASSED
                                                                               [ 96%]
  298 tests/test_fpout.py::test_pulser_ff[3] PASSED
  299 tests/test_fpout.py::test_pulser_ff[4] PASSED
                                                                              [ 97%]
  300 tests/test_fpout.py::test_pulser_ff[5] PASSED
                                                                               [ 98%]
  301 tests/test_fpout.py::test_pulser_ff[6] PASSED
                                                                              [ 99%]
  302 tests/test_fpout.py::test_pulser_ff[7] PASSED
                                                                               [100%]
  303 - Generated html report: file:///nfs/linacfs-users/sdcswd/tmp/mrfioc2-tests/reports/report.html -
  304 =================== 106 passed in 296.67s (0:04:56) =======================
305 Running after_script
  306 Running after script...
  307 $ which ssh-agent || ( apt-get update -y && apt-get install openssh-client -y )
  308 /usr/bin/ssh-agent
  309 $ eval $(ssh-agent -s)
  310 Agent pid 15
  311 $ echo "$SSH_PRIVATE_KEY" | tr -d '\r' | ssh-add - > /dev/null
  312 Identity added: (stdin) (gitlab-kekb_runner)
  313 $ mkdir -p ~/.ssh
  314 $ chmod 700 ~/.ssh
  315 $ scp -r -o StrictHostKeyChecking=no $SSH_USER@$SSH_HOST:~/tmp/$CI_PROJECT_NAME/reports $CI_PROJECT_DIR
  316 $ ssh -o StrictHostKeyChecking=no $SSH_USER@$SSH_HOST "rm -rf ~/tmp/$CI_PROJECT_NAME"
  317 $ rm -rf ~/.ssh

▼ 318 Uploading artifacts for successful job

  319 Uploading artifacts...
  320 reports/: found 2 matching artifact files and directories
  321 Uploading artifacts as "archive" to coordinator... 201 Created id=1375 responseStatus=201 Created token=glcbt-64

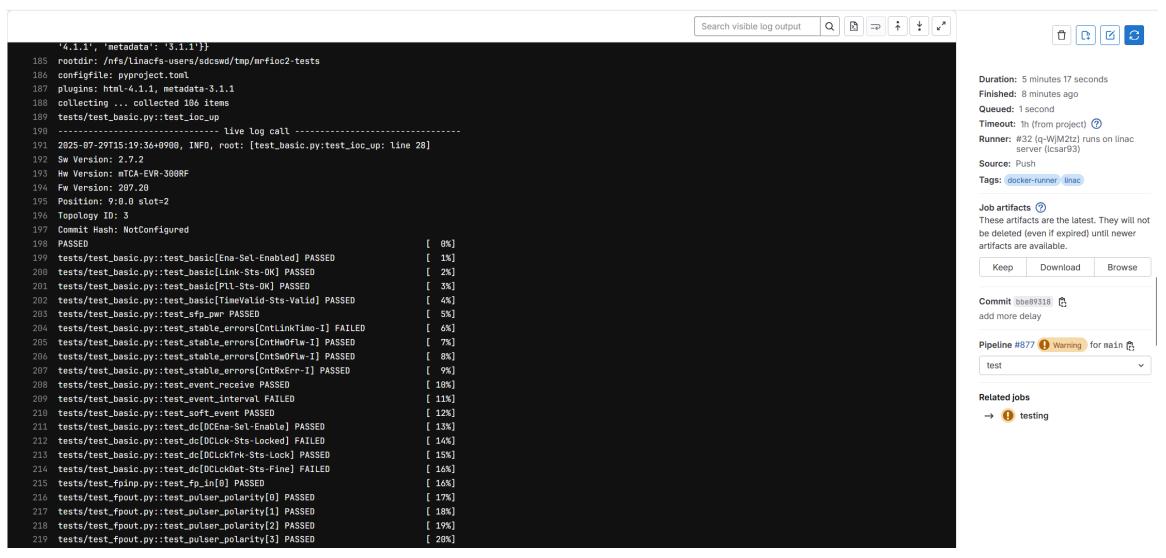
√ 322 Cleaning up project directory and file based variables

  323 Job succeeded
```



GitLab Automation

LinacCont / timing / mrfioc2-tests / Jobs / #1374





Example Test Report

Environment Python 3.13.4				tests/test_basic.py::test_loc_up		live les sel	1			
Python 3 13.4 Platform Linux.6.14.0.603.20.1 et 85.006.64.w86.04										
Priston 3.13.4	Environ	nment								
Package = pytest 8.4.0	Python	3.13.4		Fw Version: 207.20	Evample	failed	tast	command	line	output
* pluging 16.0 * pluging 16.0 * html 4.1.1 * metadata 3.1.1 * metadata 3.1.1 * metadata 3.1.1 * start/rest_basic.py:ites	Platform	Linux-5.14.0	0-503.26.1.el9_5.x86_64-x86_64-with-glibc2.34		LXample	rarteu	d test co	Command	t IIIe	oucpuc
Plugins htms: 4.1.1	Packages			tests/test_basic.py::test_basic[Er						[11%]
Summary	Plugins			<pre>tests/test_basic.py::test_basic[P] tests/test_basic.py::test_basic[T]</pre>	l-Sts-OK] PASSED meValid-Sts-Valid] PASSED					[23%] [29%]
State Stat	Summa	ary		<pre>tests/test_basic.py::test_stable_c tests/test_basic.py::test_stable_c tests/test_basic.py::test_stable_c</pre>	rrors[CntLinkTimo-I] FAILED rrors[CntHwOflw-I] PASSED rrors[CntSwOflw-I] PASSED					[41%] [47%] [52%]
(Un)check the boxes to filter the results. A Failed A Salay A Sa	17 tests to	ook 00:00:51.		tests/test_basic.py::test_event_re	ceive PASSED					[64%]
Failed 13 Passed, 0 Skapped, 0 Expected failures, 0 Unexpect tests/test_basic.py::test_dc[DtckAfrk-5ts-tock] passed 18	(Un)check	the boxes to fi	ilter the results.	<pre>tests/test_basic.py::test_soft_eve tests/test_basic.py::test_dc[DCEna</pre>	nt PASSED -Sel-Enable] PASSED					[76%] [82%]
Failed tests/test_basic.py::test_stable_errors[CntLinkTimo-I]	4 Faile	ed, 🔽 13 Passe	ed, 🗹 0 Skipped, 🗹 0 Expected failures, 🗹 0 U	<pre>Jnexpe(tests/test_basic.py::test_dc[DCLc]</pre>	Trk-Sts-Lock] PASSED					[94%]
<pre>evr_device = <core.evr_device.evrdevice 0x7fea9fc46cf0="" at="" object="">, suffix = 'CntLinkTimo-I' @pytest.mark.parametrize("suffix", (("CntLinkTimo-I"), ("CntHwOflw-I"), ("CntSwOflw-I"), ("CntRxErr-I")) def test_stable_errors(evr_device, suffix): """ Check if the error counters are stable (not increasing) """ before = execute_and_assert(lambda: evr_device.get_pv(suffix)) sleep(10) after = execute_and_assert(lambda: evr_device.get_pv(suffix)) assort after == before assort 1471814 == 1471808 tests/test_basic.py:65: AssertionError Failed tests/test_basic.py:test_event_interval</core.evr_device.evrdevice></pre>	Result 🚄		Test	tests/test_basic.py::test_dc[DCLc)	Dat-Sts-Fine FAILED					[100%]
<pre># @pytest.mark.parametrize(</pre>	Failed		tests/test_basic.py::test_stable_errors[CntLinl	cTimo-l]		00:0	00:10			
<pre>evr_device = <core.evr_device.evrdevice 0x7fea9fc46cf0="" at="" object=""> def test_event_interval(evr_device): # monitor event 1 (50 Hz) execute_and_assert(lambda: evr_device.put_pv("EvtA-SP", "1")) execute_and_assert(lambda: evr_device.put_pv("EvtA-SP.OUT", f"@OBJ={evr_device.evr_name},Code=1"))</core.evr_device.evrdevice></pre>	> E	check if """ before = sleep(10) after = e assert af assert 14	the error counters are stable (not sexecute_and_assert(lambda: evr_device) execute_and_assert(lambda: evr_device) ter == before 171814 == 1471808	ce.get_pv(suffix))						
def test_event_interval(evr_device): # monitor event 1 (50 Hz) execute_and_assert(lambda: evr_device.put_pv("EvtA-SP", "1")) execute_and_assert(lambda: evr_device.put_pv("EvtA-SP.OUT", f"@OBJ={evr_device.evr_name},Code=1"))	Failed		tests/test_basic.py::test_event_interval			00:0	00:06			
<pre>avgts = avgTimestamp() evr_device.monitor_pv("EvtACnt-I", avgts.readValue)</pre>	_	# monitor execute_a execute_a sleep(1) avgts = a evr_devic sleep(5) evr_devic #TODO: ch assert ab assert 1.	t_interval(evr_device): r event 1 (50 Hz) and_assert(lambda: evr_device.put_pv avgTimestamp() re.monitor_pv("EvtACnt-I", avgts.read reck if this limit is good enough resk(avgts.getAvg()-0.02) < 1e-05 reck if 1.7312712458722457e-05 = abs((0.02)	("EvtA-SP", "1")) ("EvtA-SP.OUT", f"@OBJ={evr_divalue}	_		TML r			
E + where 0.020017312712458723 = qetAvq() Failed tests/test basic.pv::test dc[DCLck-Sts-Locked] 28 ms	E	+ whe	ere 0.020017312712458723 = getAvg()							

Thursday, Aug 7, 2025



Example Test Report

report.html

Report generated on 29-Jul-2025 at 18:10:13 by pytest-html v4.1.1

Environment

Python	3.13.4
Platform	Linux-5.14.0-503.26.1.el9_5.x86_64-x86_64-with-glibc2.34
Packages	• pytest: 8.4.0 • pluggy: 1.6.0
Plugins	• html: 4.1.1 • metadata: 3.1.1

Example successful test HTML report

Summary

106 tests took 00:04:56.

(Un)check the boxes to filter the results.

	✓ 0 Failed, ✓ 106 Passed, ✓ 0 Skipped, ✓ 0 Expected failures, ✓ 0 Unexpected passes, ✓ 0 Errors, ✓ 0 Reruns					
Result 📤	Test	Duration	Links			
Passed	tests/test_basic.py::test_ioc_up	228 ms				
Passed	tests/test_basic.py::test_basic[Ena-Sel-Enabled]	25 ms				
Passed	tests/test_basic.py::test_basic[Link-Sts-OK]	26 ms				
Passed	tests/test_basic.py::test_basic[PII-Sts-OK]	26 ms				
Passed	tests/test_basic.py::test_basic[TimeValid-Sts-Valid]	26 ms				
Passed	tests/test_basic.py::test_sfp_pwr	26 ms				
Passed	tests/test_basic.py::test_stable_errors[CntLinkTimo-I]	00:00:10				
Passed	tests/test_basic.py::test_stable_errors[CntHwOflw-I]	00:00:10				
Passed	tests/test_basic.py::test_stable_errors[CntSwOflw-I]	00:00:10				
Passed	tests/test_basic.py::test_stable_errors[CntRxErr-I]	00:00:10				



Achievements & Future Work

Achievements

- Efficiency: Reduced SAT execution time from several hours manually to several minutes automatically.
- Reliability: Eliminated human error, ensuring every new module is tested against the exact same criteria.
- Traceability: Automatically generated HTML reports provide a permanent, time-stamped record of test results for every device.
- Scalability: The framework is easily extendable to timing modules other than MTCA form factor.

Future Enhancements

- Developing a GUI wrapper (e.g., using Python) for easier usage by technicians.
- Expanding the test library to cover long-term stability and stress tests.