M2.13 – Define further milestones in the light of usage and feedback

In discussion with WP3, and also as a result of the fourth Management Committee meeting, the following additional milestones have been added to the work-plan for WP2.

M2.21 – Provide failover for NHM[1] Scratchpad servers – Month 18

In response to a number of complaints and comments by our most active users, we would like to greatly improve the performance of the Scratchpad server based at the NHM. This will greatly improve the user experience, and help ensure that ViBRANT and the Scratchpads appear to be professional and reliable. Performance will be improved by adding, at least, one additional server. This server will act as a database slave to the main database server, and will also act as an additional application server. Depending on budget, and the resources that can be made available to us by the NHM, we may well take this much further and utilise four separate servers. This would give us two application servers, and two database servers.

M2.22 – Large image annotation – Month 24

In connection with the E-Monocot[2] project, and an internal NHM project, we plan to enable users to upload very large images to their Scratchpads and to enable the users of that Scratchpad to perform a number of actions on those images, including annotation and cropping. The source of these images are very high resolution scans of herbarium sheets, and specimen drawers. The images can be processed locally, or, can be processed by a service integrated into the tools being provided by WP5. An outreach component will be integrated into this tool, allowing naïve users (general public) to assist in the annotation and cropping of specimen drawers. The tasks completed by the naïve user could simply be to click on/crop a single specimen from a drawer of many specimens, or they could help in the transcription of the specimen labels from the herbarium sheets.

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1 Natural History Museum, London
2 http://e-monocot.org/