

Arrangements for Hands-On Session (8/16 - Day 1) of
Fifth CERN-Fermilab Hadron Collider Physics
Summer School, August 16-27, 2010

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Charles Plager, Keith Ellis,

The first day (8/16) begins at 9 AM, in 1W Wilson Hall. It's our understanding that the conference will have people (i.e., Charles Plager) there that day between 8 AM -- 8:30 to help attendees who haven't completed (or started) the self installation of the Monte Carlo tool software. The conference has WH1W and WH1N all day. There are no other reservations for the rooms during these days.

The attendees are grad students and young postdocs. The Summer School is expecting 90 people with 75 having their own laptops and 15 needing to make use of the loaner laptops the Computing Division has available. The Hands-On session goes only for one day. The loaner laptops will be provided only for that time.

The goal is to get things set up ahead of time so as to maximize the length of time available for study. In particular, there will be an attempt on the part of the Summer School organizers to have instructions written up ahead of time so that people can use the write-ups to install the software and data sample ahead of time before they come.

If the students all show up with their own laptops with software already installed, we might not need any laptops—but we are planning to have some just in case the attendees don't have the laptops or the computer expertise to do the installation. It is not required that they have either in order to participate in the summer school.

The summer school meeting rooms will be split according to the expertise of the students so that the resources (loaner laptops and the conference support) can efficiently be allocated instead of making it necessary to run all over Wilson Hall.

We are thinking that we will have the loaner laptops locked down in WH-1N and have the newbies go there. That way the laptops can stay in one room and not move around.

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Charles will make instructions. Keith will disseminate. They're hoping to get the instructions ready to put out Tuesday or Wednesday of this week.

Regarding ROOT, C++, and FORTRAN—Comments of Charles Plager:

Installation should work for Windows, Mac, and Linux. If laptops are Windows, there should be no problem—everything will just work. **Backup Plan:** If Linux machines, then one will need to make sure the FORTRAN libraries work.

More about Windows—Comments of Charles Plager:

The installation is based on CYGWIN (i.e., Linux emulation on top of Windows). This should get the participants everything they need.

- He says it doesn't make a difference whether 32 bit or 64 bit.
- He is confident this will run under Windows.
- He wants to test that it does actually work on one of our laptops ahead of having to put it into actual practice.
- We will have a laptop for him to check out from the Service Desk as soon as he is ready.
- He will need a local admin account and local non-admin account for students. These are strictly local accounts. There will be no e-mail client. We will provide web browser so that the student can access the web mail of their choice.
- We can't guarantee more than 15 laptops.

Questions: How early do laptops need to be in the room and operational:

Answer: 9:30 AM. We can do final deployment (from locker in WH to WH-1N Monday morning and not leave in room over weekend before).

The CPU on their local machines is the only CPU they need to use. They do not need to be able to submit batch jobs. There is only six hours so can't really do lengthy computation.

Software will be installed and tested ahead of time on the 15 laptops by Charles. All CD is doing the "day-of" is moving from WH locker to WH-1N, locking them down, turning them on, and logging in. The laptops can be set up in some other room on Friday. Charles can check them out, and then they can be placed in the locker. CD staff will move them into the final room on Monday AM. They will only be moving from the ground floor—not a big trip.

Mark Kaletka has notified the networking people to expect increased activity. DR has notified service desk to expect increased activity.

The conference organization has submitted a Service Desk request to increase the N day registration limit to be greater than or equal to the number of conference days.

The conference organization will ask students to confirm that they're up and running so we may have a better count as the session gets closer.

Tom will e-mail a list of gotchas that people should avoid in order to work on network without getting blocked. Tom is sending these documents to Charles and to Keith.

Tom will look into having some Service Desk people available to help troubleshoot connection issues arising from people bringing their own laptops. (In some cases, external people bringing their own laptops have needed tech help getting on the network due to issues like having terminal services running unbeknownst to them.)

Hopefully, sending documents ahead of time will reduce (if not eliminate) such gotchas.

Conference staff and CD personnel should review each room for safety issues, such as trip hazards (electrical cords) and have tape or other remedy on hand for the workshop day. CD will provide power bricks for each of the 15 laptops and adequate electrical strips. It is up to the Conference staff to provide needed strips for the laptops brought by other attendees. Note: Most laptops cannot last through a 6 hour workshop simply on battery.

Some action items:

1. Charles to pick up 1 Windows laptop with local admin and local ordinary (i.e., non-admin) accounts from Service Desk to test installation of needed software and upon success return laptop to Service Desk for secure storage until morning of Summer School.
2. Charles to pick up 14 Windows laptop with local admin and local ordinary (i.e., non-admin) accounts from Service Desk to perform installation of needed software and upon success return 14 laptops to Service Desk for secure storage until morning of Summer School.
3. Service Desk to deliver 15 Windows laptops to WH-1N the morning of Summer School Monte Carlo Day from WH locker, locking them down, turning them on, and assigning the laptops to specific individuals by virtue of their knowing the password made at assignment.
4. John Urish has enough power strips for 15 computers that he can bring.

Useful Phone Numbers

E-mail Addresses

David Ritchie cell: 630-369-9415
E-mail: ritchie@fnal.gov

Charles Plager: 630-421-3141
E-mail: cplager@fnal.gov

Mark Kaletka cell: 630-841-2120
E-mail: kaletka@fnal.gov

Keith Ellis: 630-840-3749
E-mail: ellis@fnal.gov

Schedule

http://projects.fnal.gov/hcpss/hcpss10/images/HCPSS10DraftAgenda02aug10_3pages.pdf

ⁱ Thanks to Laura Mengel for taking notes.