

CHEP06 - CMS internal refereeing process

Abstracts book

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Managing Workflows with ShReek

The Shahkar Runtime Execution Environment Kit (ShREEK) is a threaded workflow execution tool designed to run and intelligently manage arbitrary task workflows within a batch job. The Kit consists of three main components, an executor that runs tasks, a control point system to allow reordering of the workflow during execution and a thread based pluggable monitoring framework that offers both event driven and periodic monitoring. Developed specifically to address the challenges of running High Energy Physics processing jobs in complex workflow arrangements, with highly varied monitoring needs, the ShREEK toolkit is in use at multiple HEP experiments, and can be adapted for a variety of other uses such as wrapping batch jobs to provide detailed interactive monitoring for administrators and users alike. In this presentation we will discuss the architecture of the ShReek system and the experience using it in several experiment workflows.

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Configuring the CMS Software on OSG Sites

The configuration of complex HEP software applications with external dependencies across diverse grid sites is difficult. In this paper we present development work on CMSSoftDB, which has been used to configure the CMS software distribute on Open Science Grid sites. CMSSoftDB is a lightweight, python and XML based tool that provides a uniform interface for dealing with CMS Application Software across different sites. An XML based Database structure is used to track software installed on a site including site and version specific details, as well as different methods of installation. This information is then used to generate site and version specific runtime environments while exposing the same interface to users. The CMSSoftDB tool uses python to manage and interact with the software metadata published to it. The tool requires only standard python libraries and a small disk area to be installed in. It is a site-local command line or python API tool. CMSSoftDB allows the setup for any executable at a given site to be expressed in terms of shell variables and commands for a specific shell, including any scram details if required, and stores them in an XML DB. The user command line API then allows the user access to that tool without having to know specifics of the site or software version to use it. CMSSoftDB was originally developed to provide a uniform interface to CMS Software installations for OSG sites, by allowing site and version specific information to be held in a site-local instance of CMSSoftDB, which is made available to users in a common location. Generic OSG jobs can then go to any site and set up the software needed in a uniform manner.

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On Demand, Policy Based Monte Carlo Production and Tracking, Leveraging Clarens, MonALISA and RunJob

We describe a set of Web Services, created to support scientists in performing distributed production tasks (e.g. Monte Carlo). The Web Services described in this paper provide a portal for scientists to execute different production workflows which can consist of many consecutive steps. The main design goal of the Web Services discussed is to provide controlled access for (multiple) set(s) of users in different roles (e.g. scientists, administrators, grid operators,...) to complex production workflows without the added trouble of updating, configuring, and patching these ever evolving applications and keep the users focused on their core tasks (running production), while experts at the tier2 centers keep the software up to date. Once users execute a workflow they receive a tracking number that is used to track the job status which is propagated through MonALISA. Job anomalies can be further investigated using the JobMon service. The Web Services have been implemented inside the Clarens Web Service framework. This Python (and Java) based framework provides, amongst others, x509 authorization, access control and VO management for its services. The Web Services discussed in this paper re-use several of these Clarens components in providing access control and usage quotas. Initially the services described in this paper were developed to support users in Monte Carlo production activities, however due to their generic design, can be used to expose other (potentially complex) applications to users as will be shown in this paper.

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Development of the Tier-1 Facility at Fermilab

CMS is preparing seven remote Tier-1 computing facilities to archive and serve experiment data. These centers represent the bulk of CMS's data serving capacity, a significant resource for reprocessing data, all of the simulation archiving capacity, and operational support for Tier-2 centers and analysis facilities. In this paper we present the progress on deploying the largest remote Tier-1 facility for CMS, located at Fermilab. We will present the development, procurement and operations experiences during the final two years of preparation. We will discuss the development and deployment to support grid interfaces for the Worldwide LHC Computing Grid and the Open Science Grid on the same physical resources. We will outline the hardware selection and procurement and plans for the future to meet the needs of the experiment and the constraints of the physical facility. We will also discuss the successes and challenges associated with enabling a mass storage system to meet the various experimental needs at a significant increase in scale over what is currently achievable. Finally we will discuss the model to support US Tier-2 centers from the Tier-1 facility.

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Distributing software applications based on runtime environment

Packaging and distribution of experiment-specific software becomes a complicated task when the number of versions and external dependencies increases. In order to run a single application, it is often enough to create appropriate runtime environment that ensures availability of required shared objects and data files. The idea of distributing software applications based on runtime environment is employed by Distribution After Release (DAR) tool. DAR allows to automatically replicate application's runtime environment based on the reference software installation. Assuming that software is relocatable, applications can be packaged into a completely self-consistent "darball" and executed on any computing node, which is binary compatible with the reference software installation. Such light-weight distribution can be used on opportunistic GRID resources to avoid excessive efforts of complete installation of experiment-specific software. For over three years, DAR tool has been successfully used by CMS for Monte-Carlo mass production, helping physicists to get results earlier. In version 2, DAR was completely redesigned, optimized, and enriched with new features, ready to meet future challenges. The paper presents general concept of the tool and new features available in DAR 2.

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Development of the Monte Carlo Processing Service for CMS

The Monte Carlo Processing Service (MCPS) package is a Python based workflow modelling and job creation package used to realise CMS Software workflows and create executable jobs for different environments ranging from local node operation to wide ranging distributed computing platforms. A component based approach to modelling workflows is taken to allow both executable tasks as well as data handling and management tasks to be included within the workflow. Job Creation is controlled so that regardless of the components used, a common self contained job sandbox and execution structure is produced allowing the job to be run on most batch systems via a submission interface. In this presentation we will discuss the architectural choices made in MCPS, the development status, and experiences deploying to both the European and U.S Grid infrastructure.

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Schema Independent Application Server Development Paradigm

The idea of an application database server is not new. It is a key element in multi-tiered architectures and business application frameworks. We present here a paradigm of developing such an application server in a complete schema independent way. We introduce a Generic Query Object Layer (QOL) and set of Database/Query Objects (D/QO) as the key component of the multi-layer Application server alongwith set of tools for generating such objects. In Query Object Layer each database table is represented as a C++ Object (Database Object) and structured complex queries spanning multiple tables are written into Object Representations, calling them Query Objects. All database operations (select/insert etc) are performed via these Objects. In general, developments of such servers tend to pre-identify interesting join conditions and hardwire queries for such Query Objects, for the ease of development. We have tried to enhance this concept by generalizing creation of such Query Objects based on existing/defined relations among the tables involved in the join, like foreign key relations, and any other user-defined join-condition. Also delaying and generalizing creation of actual SQL Query till the execution time. This is an enormously complex task, joins with cyclic conditions and multi-relations going to same table are hard to convert into Query Objects. The task is divided into three major components. A SQL Parser that reads-in Table definitions and create C++ Objects (Database Objects). A Query Object View Creator that generates Query Object according to existing and user-defined join conditions for multiple tables. And Object Layer Algorithms that are generic enough to deal with any Dataset or Query Object. In addition to this the whole fabric of Application server is tied by exchanging self describing objects that do not need any changes in case of a schema change. The Business Logic Layer can be quickly built for know set of operations, writtens as "Managers" and Client interface is done through data structures that can also be semi-generated through SQL Parser. The process of adapting the system for a new schema is very fast. The maintenance over head is also very low.

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Distributed CMS Analysis on the Open Science Grid

The CMS computing model provides reconstruction and access to recorded data of the CMS detector as well as to Monte Carlo (MC) generated data. Due to the increased complexity, these functionalities will be provided by a tier structure of globally located computing centers using GRID technologies. In the CMS baseline, user access to data is provided by the CMS Remote Analysis Builder (CRAB) analysis tool which enables the user to execute analysis applications on locally resident data using GRID tools independent of the geographical location. Currently, mostly two different toolkits provide the needed functionalities, the Worldwide LHC Computing Grid (LCG) and the OpenScience Grid (OSG). Due to infrastructure and service differences between the two toolkits, analysis tools developed for one are frequently not immediately compatible with the other.. In this paper, we will describe the development of additions to the CRAB tool to run user analysis on OSG sites. We will discuss the approach of using the GRID submission of the CONDOR batch system (CONDOR-G) to provide a sandbox functionality for the user's analysis job. For LCG sites, this is provided amongst other things by the resource broker. We will discuss the differences of user analysis on LCG and OSG sites and present first experiences running CMS user jobs at OSG sites.

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Automatic Publishing and Prepatation of CMS Simulated Datasets

Event Data in CMS is viewed as a set of Datasets organized in a federation. Individual datasets are described by the META Data associated with each dataset. The distributed nature of data production (MC Simulation) has caused description of datasets scattered over several systems. This includes a central database called RefDB (Reference DB) that holds a considerable portion of META Data required to describe a dataset and sites parameters that host data. In order to create a usable federation, datasets need to be described collecting all scattered descriptions and then published for users to access. More specifically, individual files within datasets need to be cataloged and each run need to be described in META Data to correspond to related files. The whole process of publishing is a set of several cumbersome steps. CMSGLIDE is a tool built using the workflow framework deployed for CMS production that creates the dataset. Dataset Publishing is also an intermediate step for MC Production chain and the official CMS simulation production tool has a specific dependency on CMSGLIDE. CMSGLIDE is integrated with other tools like the CMS publication and transfer tools and is widely used within CMS. In the presentation we describe the development and operations of CMSGLIDE and the integration of the tool into the CMS data management system.

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