

LHCb Grid Shifters NEWSLETTER

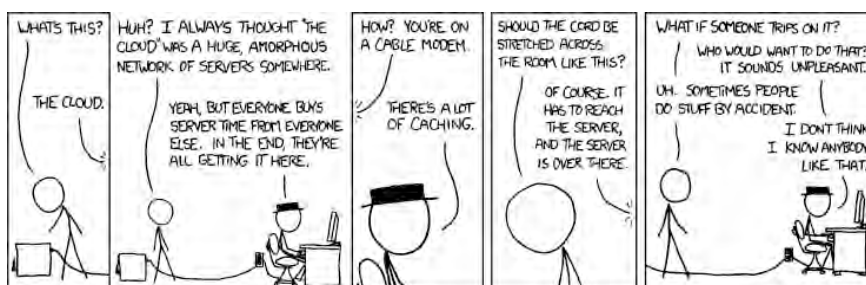
Some thoughts on CHEP 2013

Last week the “Computing in High Energy Physics” (CHEP) conference took place in Amsterdam. I attended mostly the track on “Distribute Data Processing” concentrating on “Infrastructure, Sites and Virtualization”. Having returned I wanted to share some thoughts with you. In the distributed computing area I believe two trends have emerged during that conference.

Opportunistic Computing was one of the big topics. ATLAS and CMS have shown several presentations where they explained their usage of high performance compute sites either for running additional workflows or to allow peak loads to be executed. The interfacing to these sites always took a few weeks but the gain in the end was a non negligible improvement for the overall VO computing power. On the other end of the “power spectrum” LHCb showed their usage of the BOINC infrastructure where individual users can provide Monte Carlo processing via virtual machines. FYI, the BOINC machines can be seen in the Dirac portal at the endpoint name “BOINC.World.org”.

The second important topic to my mind was **Cloud Computing**, where several talks showed

that LHC VOs are starting to use cloud infrastructures now in the “testing range” (some several hundred jobs running in parallel) successfully. This is true for the CERN/Openstack (Dirac endpoint “CLOUD.CERN.ch”) but also other cloud



<http://xkcd.com>

endpoints such as PIC/OpenNebula (“CLOUD.PIC.es”). The question now will be how to monitor these additional “machines” which are under the auspices of the experiments. We may need to think about this in the future, especially once we go for scaling up these resources.

If you are interested in any further reading all conference presentations are available at <http://indico.cern.ch/conferenceTimeTable.py?confId=214784#20131014>

LHCb moves to FTS3

As of last week LHCb is using the new FTS3 system for all data transfers (replacing FTS2). We

are using the CERN instance of the service and RAL as backup in case of problems. The “Data Transfer” plots of the shared shifter presenter page have been updated to reflect the change.

Cheers and happy shifting

LHCb Computing Operations Meeting at 11:30 (CEST) on Monday, Wednesday, Friday in **Room 2-R-14**