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HyperNews - managing discussions in HEP

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Content :

In the increasingly distributed collaborations of today's experiments, there is a need to bring people together and manage all discussions. The main ways for doing this on-line are the use of e-mail or web forums. HyperNews is a discussion management system which bridges these two, by including the use of e-mail for input, but also archiving the discussions in easy to access web pages. The discussions are divided into separate forums, and within these forums the discussions are divided into threads, allowing for rapidly finding a discussion and seeing how the discussion progressed. A search engine has also been added to the system to provide for fast access of appropriate postings based on content. This system has been in constant use for the past nine years in the BaBar experiment, and has archived discussions during this time in a quarter of a million postings. The experience of BaBar has shown that such a system is needed for current experiments -- to increase communication; archive discussions; and provide information. New deployments of HyperNews continue, including strong interest and deployments by LHC experiments. Experiences on the use of the system will be discussed, and information on the use of the system for any experiment will be provided. For more information and to download code for use see: http://hypernews.slac.stanford.edu.

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