VObox operations status

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VOboxes at PIC

- At PIC we run VOboxes for the 3 experiments we support:
  - ATLAS, CMS and LHCb
- For each of the experiments we have one person on-site acting as liaison who knows
  - about and operates the VObox services (CMS)
  - who to contact in the experiment for VObox issues (ATLAS, LHCb)
- VOboxes run
  - CMS: Phedex Agents
  - ATLAS: Data Transfer agents (Don Quijote)
  - LHCb: DIRAC Configuration Service and Transfer Agents

VOboxes operations

- Backup
  - No backup requested to the site
    - CMS: Only important files to keep are Phedex agents conf files. These are kept in an external (CMS-owned) CVS
    - ATLAS: The MySQL tables are re-generated centrally in case of failure
- Monitoring
  - No VO-specific sensors provided for sites to show VObox status
  - All experiments have VO-specific sensors external to the site that detect if VO specific agents are ok
    - If any problem occurs, VO contacts the local experiment liaison
    - Site operators do not get noticed
  - Site should only monitor basic metrics (host is alive, cpuload …)
    - If any of these is triggered, the local experiment liaison is notified
- Recovery actions
  - No special recovery action. If a big problem happens, try to reboot
  - If the machine is lost, reinstall a new default vobox
    - The local experiment liaison will redeploy all the VO agents stuff

Issues

- The CMS vobox still doing quite a lot of "class 2" things. Today it would not work if taken out of the site LAN.
  - For instance: checking wether a pre-staged file is already on disk using "local" commands (castor1 commands for instance)
  - Is this just a temporary solution until we get SRM-v2.2?
- We observe that many of the LHCb transfers hitting PIC's SRMs do not use FTS
  - The Transfer Agents in the vobox seem to play the FTS role (transfer queue, retries, etc)
  - This prevents our sysadmins to have any control on the LHCb data flow. If transfers are mainly FTS-driven, we can administer the FTS channels (in particular, close them when there are problems). For LHCb, we can not do this since only LHCb people can interact with transfer agents in the VObox
- There are some LHCb Tier-2s with no disk at all
  - The data flow from these Tier-2s into PIC will always come directly from WN to SRM. We lack the FTS “operations” control.
  - Is this a temporary situation, or every T2 should have some small SRM-disk to act as a bufferr for transfers?