



HEPiX Spring 2012 Highlights

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- 20-years old, self-organised forum of people involved in site management in HEP
 - More service managers/sysadmins than IT managers
 - Open to anyone interested
 - Further information, including archives of past meetings: <http://www.hepixon.org/>
- Mix of large and small sites, many involved in WLCG
 - Present recent work and future plans, share experience, advise managers
- 1-week meetings twice per year
 - Spring in Europe, autumn typically in North America
- Working groups on specific issues

Spring 2012 Meeting (1)

- Held 23 - 27 April at the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic
 - Tier 2 centre in LCG
 - Excellent local organisation
 - Prague: town with a very rich history, impressive architecture, good beer, rich food, ...
- Sponsored by a number of companies: Dell, WD, Netapp, IBM; EMC2; SGI, Bull, Proact

Spring 2012 Meeting (2)

- Format: Pre-defined tracks with conveners and invited speakers per track
 - Extremely rich, interesting and (over-)packed agenda
 - Novelty: three weeks before the meeting, the agenda was full
 - abstracts needed to be rejected, accepted talk slots shortened
 - New track on business continuity, convener: Alan
 - Judging by number of submitted abstracts, most interesting topic was IT infrastructure (17 talks!). 10 storage, 7 Grid/cloud/virtualisation, 6 network and security, 5 computing, 4 business continuity, 3 miscellaneous... plus 22(!) site reports
- Full details and slides:
<http://indico.cern.ch/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=160737>
- Trip report by Alan Silverman available, too
 - Linked to Indico page above



Spring 2012 Meeting (3)

- 97 registered participants
 - Vancouver Oct 2011: 98; GSI May 2011: 84
- 74 talks
 - Vancouver Oct 2011: 55; GSI May 2011: 54
- HEPiX Board meeting: new European co-chair elected (HM)
 - Succession of Michel Jouvin, who stepped down following his election to become GDB chair
 - 4 candidates from 3 European institutes

Topical Highlights (1)

- Business Continuity: New track, of interest not only to large (T0/T1) sites
 - Presentations by FNAL, CERN, RAL
 - AGLT2 also thinking about it...
- Continuous interest in infrastructure
 - Energy efficiency will be a dedicated topic in future meeting
- Fabric management changing in many places
 - CERN: AI; many labs moving to Puppet; Quattor also healthy; some sites moving monitoring away from Nagios

Topical Highlights (2)

- Batch scheduler
 - Many sites report scaling issues with PBS etc.
 - Condor and Slurm on the rise
 - xGE introduced in some places - forum created for exchange between scientific sites
- Cloud computing on the horizon of realism
 - Private clouds: Openstack, OpenNebula
- Storage: dynamic federations; what comes after RAID
- Networking and security: identity federations, IPv6, computer security

Working Groups

- Virtualisation: very active, reports regularly given
- IPv6: idem
- Storage: activities in bursts, coming up soon
- Benchmarking: same status as in Vancouver

HEPiX Future

- Next meetings:
 - Autumn 2012: Beijing (hosted by IHEP); 15 to 19 October
 - Spring 2013: Bologna (date to be decided)
 - Autumn 2013: Interest by U Michigan, Ann Arbor, US
- Large number of participants and talks this time round
- Interest for a North-American meeting in 18 months' time
- Interest by LCG to use HEPiX as advisory body for site matters
- HEPiX appears to be very healthy