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Managing third-party software for the LCG

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The External Software Service of the LCG SPI project provides open source and public domain packages required by the LCG projects and experiments. Presently, more than 50 libraries and tools are provided for a set of platforms decided by the architect forum. All packages are installed following a standard procedure and are documented on the web.
A set of scripts has been developed to ease new installations.

In addition to providing these packages, a software configuration management "toolbox" is provided, containing a coherent set of package-version combinations for each release of a project, as well as a distribution script which manages the dependencies of the LCG projects such that users can easily download and install a release of a project including its depended packages. Emphasis here has been put on ease of use for the end-user.

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