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CERN's openlab for Datagrid applications

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For the last 18 months CERN has collaborated closely with several industrial partners to evaluate, through the opencluster project, technology that may (and hopefully will) play a strong role in the future computing solutions, primarily for LHC but possibly also for other HEP computing environments. Unlike conventional field testing where solutions from industry are evaluated rather independently, the openlab principle is based on active collaboration between all partners, with the common goal of constructing a coherent system.
The talk will discuss our experience to date with the following hardware
- 64-bit computing (in our case represented by the Itanium processor). This will also
include the porting of applications and Grid software to 64 bits.
- Rack mounted servers
- The use of 10 Gbps Ethernet for both LAN and WAN connectivity
- An iSCSI-based Storage System that promises to scale to Petabyte dimensions
- The use of 10 Gbps Infiniband as a cluster interconnect
On the software side we will review our experience with the latest grid-enabled release of Oracle, the so-called release "10g".
The talk will review the results obtained so far, either in stand alone tests or as part of the larger LCG testbed, and it will describe the plans for the future in this three-year collaboration with industry.

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