



Contribution ID: 366

Type: oral presentation

Globally Distributed User Analysis Computing at CDF

Thursday 30 September 2004 18:10 (20 minutes)

To maximize the physics potential of the data currently being taken, the CDF collaboration at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory has started to deploy user analysis computing facilities at several locations throughout the world. Over 600 users are signed up and able to submit their physics analysis and simulation applications directly from their desktop or laptop computers to these facilities. These resources consist of a mix of customized computing centers and a decentralized version of our Central Analysis Facility (CAF) initially used at Fermilab, which we have designated Decentralized CDF Analysis Facilities (DCAFs).

We report on experience gained during the initial deployment and use of these resources for the summer conference season 2004. During this period, we allowed MC generation as well as data analysis of selected data samples at several globally distributed centers. In addition, we discuss a migration path from this first generation distributed computing infrastructure towards a more open implementation that will be interoperable with LCG, OSG and other general-purpose grid installations at the participating sites.

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Session Classification: Distributed Computing Systems and Experiences

Track Classification: Track 5 - Distributed Computing Systems and Experiences