CERN

General Info

CERNBox Use In EPC-LPC-Section

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CERN, *for* CERNBox User Forum, 2021-12-08 @ CERN

Document source https://edms.cern.ch/document/2663553/
Meeting link (indico) https://indico.cern.ch/event/1067354

Introduction

These slides describes our way to use CERNBox in the section, and in a project with several actors in particular.

Nothing very technical, but more user experience and finding “our” way to integrate CERNBox in our day to day life.

CERNBox integration in section mission

Mandate

Design, production, commissioning of Low Power Converters

- **Managing & Storing Documentation**
  - During design phase: CERNBox & DFS + EDMS
  - During operation: EDMS
- **Size of team working on same design project**
  - Between [3; 6] people
- **Type of documents proceeded**
  - CAD file
    - Large files & assembly requiring fast file access
  - Office docs
  - Electronic Simulation (large rendered file)
- **Work conditions**
  - Telework (crisis in past) & 1 day / week max
  - Documents must be easily accessible from Office & labs @ CERN

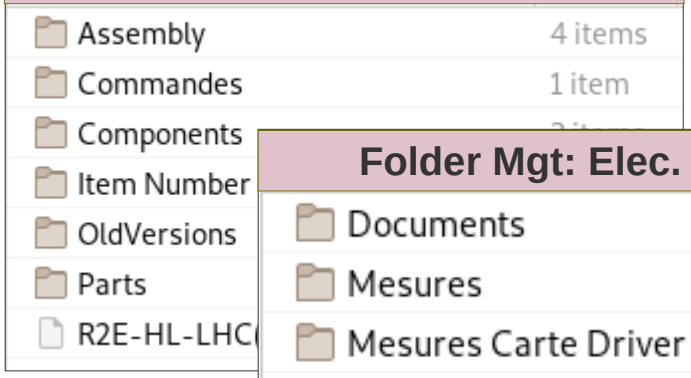
Our Ideal Transitory storage place is

- Providing a very fast access to files
  - On site or remote/telework on large files (CAD).
- Easy-use for other team docs access
  - Rare cases, since docs goest fast into EDMS.
- Adaptable working mode / work type.
  - Folder structure must be flexible when EDMS structures are, them, very rigid and imposed.

All documentation goes to EDMS

- Any measurement, any design, any specification, any PCB… during design or operation.

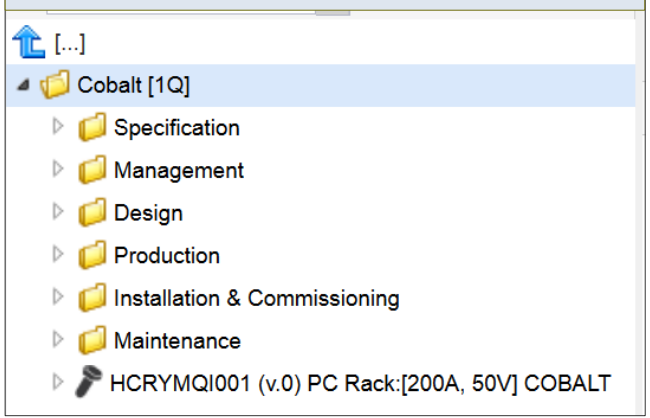
Folder Mgt: CAD Meca Design



Flexible

Folder Mgt: Elec. Design

Converter EDMS Structure



Long term & legacy storage place: EDMS

CERNBox Implementation in a project team

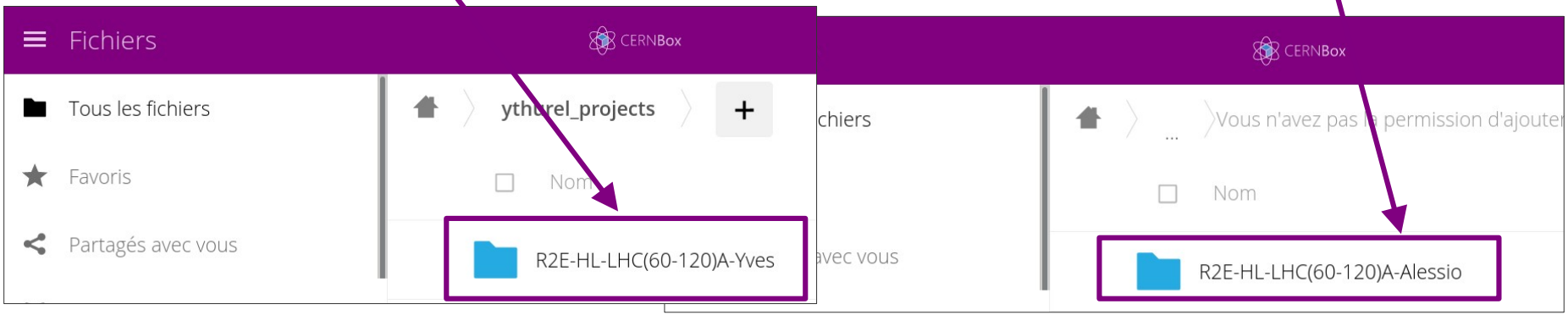
Accessing docs from team members, not using CERNBox projects & relying more on member’s Home Folder

Each one creates a shared folder on its CERNBox home: "*Project-ActorName*"

Project Shared CERNBox Folder & emails Links

Yves	Benoit	Jeanne	Jeremie	Alessio	Baptiste
Remote-Link (Linux)	Remote-Link (Linux)	Remote-Link (Linux)	Remote-Link (Linux)	Remote-Link (Linux)	Remote-Link (Linux)
OnSite-Link (Linux)	OnSite-Link (Linux)	OnSite-Link (Linux)	OnSite-Link (Linux)	OnSite-Link (Linux)	OnSite-Link (Linux)
Direct-Link (Win)	Direct-Link (Win)	Direct-Link (Win)	Direct-Link (Win)	Direct-Link (Win)	Direct-Link (Win)

CERN Shared Folder links.



Web Access

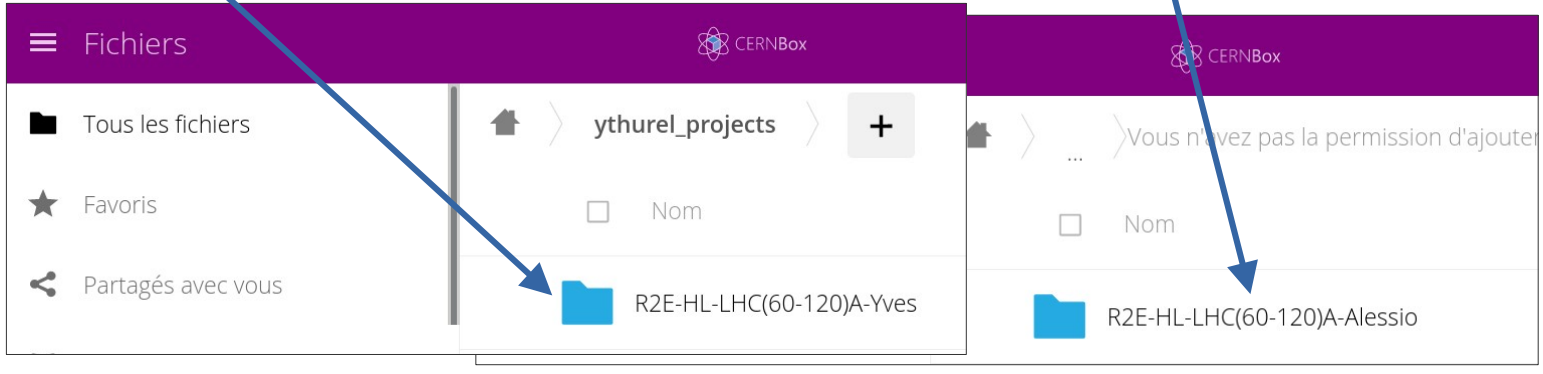
They can be accessed through CERNBox web interface (any browser)

Project Shared CERNBox Folder & emails Links

Yves	Benoit	Jeanne	Jeremie	Alessio	Baptiste
Remote-Link (Linux)	Remote-Link (Linux)	Remote-Link (Linux)	Remote-Link (Linux)	Remote-Link (Linux)	Remote-Link (Linux)
OnSite-Link (Linux)	OnSite-Link (Linux)	OnSite-Link (Linux)	OnSite-Link (Linux)	OnSite-Link (Linux)	OnSite-Link (Linux)
Direct-Link (Win)	Direct-Link (Win)	Direct-Link (Win)	Direct-Link (Win)	Direct-Link (Win)	Direct-Link (Win)

CERN Shared Folder links.

Direct WebAccess



Folder Access

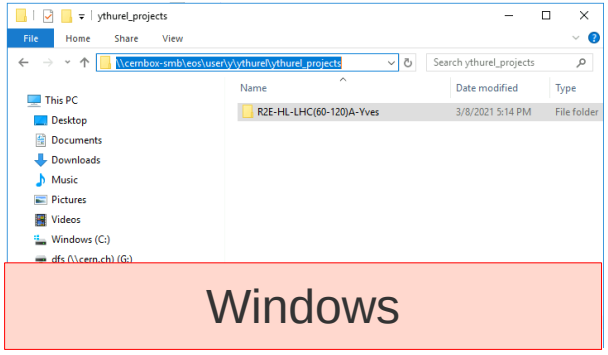
They can be accessed with native file manager, LINUX or Windows.

Project Shared CERNBox Folder & emails Links

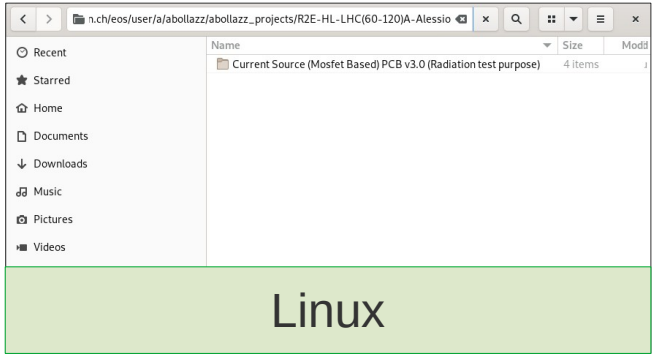
Yves	Benoit	Jeanne	Jeremie	Alessio	Baptiste
Remote-Link (Linux)	Remote-Link (Linux)	Remote-Link (Linux)	Remote-Link (Linux)	Remote-Link (Linux)	Remote-Link (Linux)
OnSite-Link (Linux)	OnSite-Link (Linux)	OnSite-Link (Linux)	OnSite-Link (Linux)	OnSite-Link (Linux)	OnSite-Link (Linux)
Direct-Link (Win)	Direct-Link (Win)	Direct-Link (Win)	Direct-Link (Win)	Direct-Link (Win)	Direct-Link (Win)

CERN Shared Folder links.

All links (3x) ready for direct folder access



Windows



Linux

Linux: Works when on site or not

Remote work with CERNBox

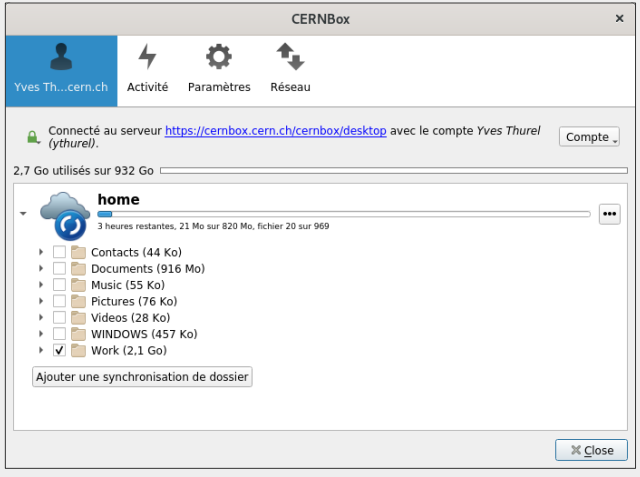
Keeping efficiency high in any conditions: network quality, large file processing...

HOME Folder

Accessing HOME files:

- Using web browser for navigating files & folder using CERNBox Web Interface
- Using OS (linux or windows) Native File Manager – often preferred
  - Using CERNBox Sync Client to work always on local file using your OS file manager.

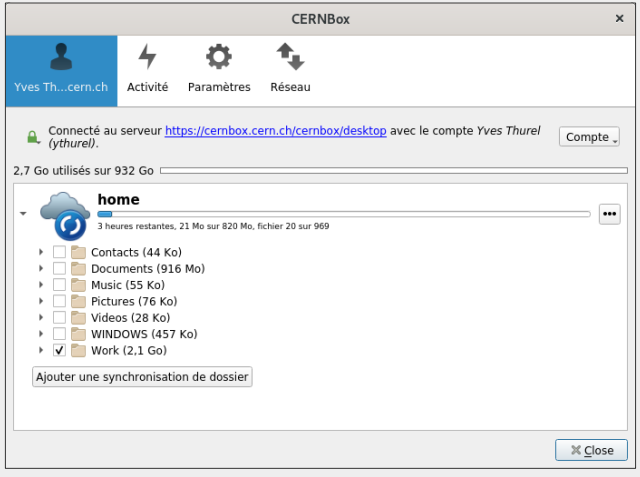
CERN Site Machine



CERNBox sync client installed per default

CERNBox files sync with local machine folder

Home Personal Machine



Install yourself CERNBox sync client on your home machine. *Choose what to sync.*

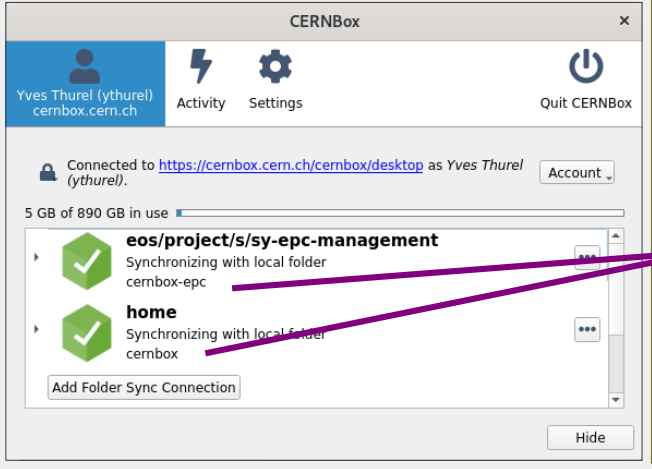
CERNBox files sync with local machine folder

Project Folder

Accessing Shared files with CERNBox Projects (not HOME):

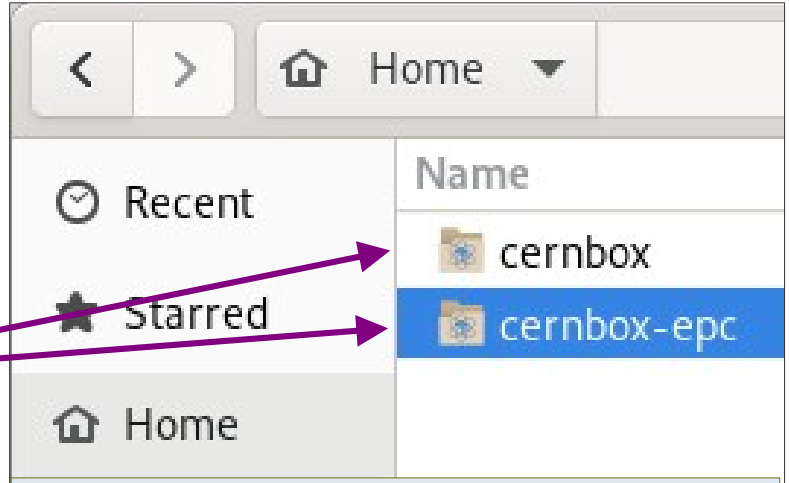
- Using Web Interface (ok for rare use)
- Using OS Native File Manager – often preferred
  - Using CERNBox Sync Client to work always on local file using your OS file manager.

CERN Site or HOME Personal Machine



CERNBox sync client adding other CERNBox folders to sync.

CERNBox files sync with local machine folder



Tip: All synchronised folders on local machine are at the same level, indicating cernbox-*detail.*

Managing different Office document format through CERNBox App.

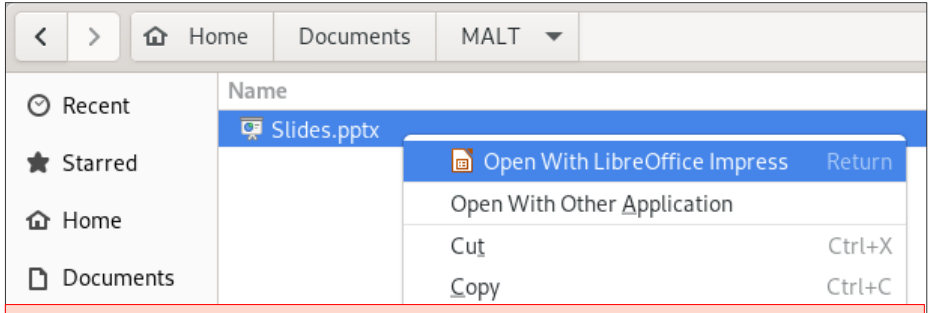
CERNBox managing several Office Document Format

The section decided to switch to LibreOffice instead of Microsoft Suite

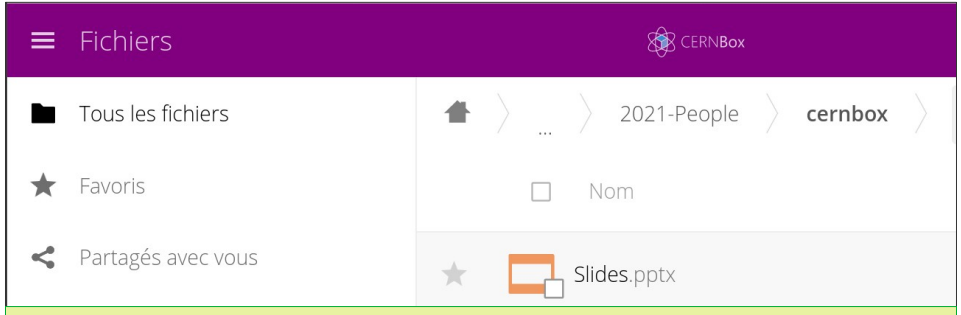
- Fellow, TTE, Trainee in the section don't install MS OFFICE Suite per default.
- Some are even working on Linux station.

How to access & modify OOXML shared files by CERN colleagues?

- CERNBox webapp is a solid solution surviving without MS Office Suite!



Don't do this! LibreOffice Impress opening pptx… is not always great!



Prefer CERNBox available app.: Native PowerPoint Online app.

Working on Linux station using CERNBox App...opening OOXML docs!

Conclusion & Feedback on CERNBox

Feedback

CERNBox was a MUST when in CERN Covid quarantine.

- It allowed LINUX home user to work on their home computer.
- It even allowed any user to work on his computer local files (synchronized).

Collaborative work is not often used (personal taste)

- Not in our standard way to work

CERNBox is facilitator for Office online editors

- The whole section adopted LibreOffice and ODF. Still, many CERN users use OOXML format (MS). CERNBox allows to open them in a native environment, without any issue regarding compatibility, and without installing MS Office suite.
- It makes Linux & LibreOffice appearing as a credible open source option.

Room for improvement?

- Web Interface “shared with you” tab becomes quickly crowdy
- Favorites do not work (solution to above comment)
- Not always sure what to do when sync issues happen.
- We didn’t find how to access a distant folder stored in CERNBox, through non-onsite windows machine file manager. (it works on LINUX + DAVS). Obliged to use CERNBox web interface or Sync Client.

We tried CERNBox projects… but we tend to give it up for the moment...

… using home folder + sharing, this choice driven by our intensive use of EDMS, and minimizing people customization on CERNBox sync client options.

Retrieving deleted / backup files

- DFS mechanism for retrieving old/deleted files was found more intuitive to use.

Installation issue

- On a fresh debian-11, seems not possible to install CERNBox sync client.
  - Dependencies not satisfied (libicu63).

Collaborative work is often “badly” used

- Not entirely linked to CERNBox, more linked to people use.
- People use their Excel or Word version (sync folder) when the file, thought as collaborative one, should only be used through CERNBox (and then or Collabora Online or MS Office ONLINE suites, ok for collaborative work).

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