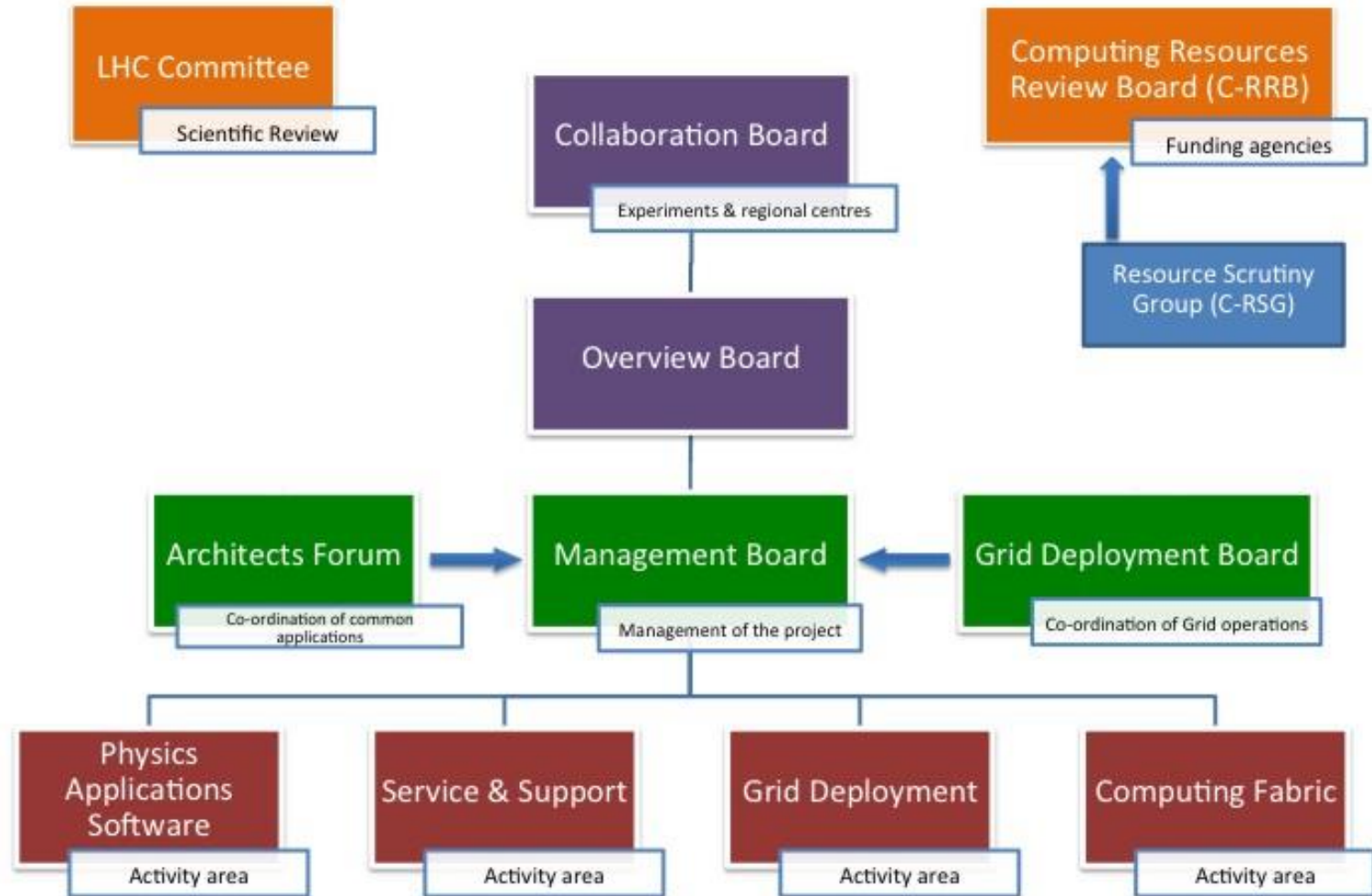


# Architects Forum (re)organization

Predrag Buncic

# Worldwide LHC Computing Grid - Organisation



# Architects Forum – evolution

- 2003:
  - The AF was created as a part of the original Application Area of the WLCG Project.
    - This was the place to have heated discussions on software issues and make decisions if needed.
  - The SFT group that was created to host the development of ROOT and G4 and to provide the common software tools and services to the LHC collaborations
- 2010:
  - Once the Grid dust settled and after the AA funding ran out, the AF evolved to become more of the coordination body still reporting to WLCG MB .
- 2018:
  - Following the birth and rise of HSF, the WLCG MB concluded that having the AF and HSF as two places for strategic decisions are very confusing
  - AF was transformed into a provider-users meeting between SFT and LHC experiments

# 2020 – (re)organization

- Further confirmation of the AF as provider-user meeting in a forum format
- *AF is the forum to discuss the software development process between the SFT group and its major stakeholders aiming to*
  - *Help the SFT group to focus on development and support efforts.*
  - *Coordinate with experiments and IT development projects.*
  - *Identify common software components.*
  - *Serve as an open discussion forum to share (positive and negative) experiences in the software development process.*
  - *Help others make the right choices and avoid mistakes and pitfalls.*

# If it ain't broke, why fix it?

## The Architects' Forum Meeting

- We appreciate the AF meetings: **getting together 10 times per year is useful**
- The current format seems to aim to share information (which is very useful). **We propose that the AF also becomes the high level strategic liaison between SFT and the experiments**, in order to
  - Provide the entry point to talk to SFT projects
  - Steer ongoing R&D projects
  - Have actionable actors present, e.g. project leaders
- Of course, at the AF, experiments want to continue to attentively **listen to SFT feedback, e.g. group needs, wishes or changes in the previously agreed PoWs.**





This is not a revolution. From the original AF mandate: “*[...] Through this forum the experiments participate directly in the planning, management, and architectural and technical direction of applications area project activities. [...]*”

# Architects Forum – mandate



**WLCG**  
Worldwide LHC Computing Grid

## Boards

- › CB
- › GDB
- › MB
- › OB
- › Architects Forum
- › C-RRB  +
- › WLCG RRB members 
- › CRSG
- › LHCC 
- › Workshops 

## Architects Forum

### Indico

<https://indico.cern.ch/category/6866/> 

### Mailing list

[project-lcg-af@cern.ch](mailto:project-lcg-af@cern.ch) 

The Architects Forum (AF) consists of the experiment architects and the applications area manager (who chairs it), plus invited participants. Architects represent the interests of their experiment and contribute their expertise. Through this forum the experiments participate directly in the planning, management, and architectural and technical direction of applications area project activities.

The AF decides the difficult issues that cannot be resolved in open forums such as the applications area meeting. Most of the time, the AF will converge on a decision. If not, the applications area manager takes a decision. Such decisions can be accepted or challenged by the experiments. Challenged decisions go to the LCG Management Board (MB).

The AF meets once a month or so.

<https://wlcg.web.cern.ch/collaboration/management/architects-forum>

# How to implement this?

- Aim for 1h meeting duration (but could run longer in some cases)
  - First Thursday every month, 14:00
  - SFT Line management, Project reports, Experiments Feedback
  - Project Reports in the form of shared documents to be prepared before the meeting
  - Devote 5 min to the silent reading of the document followed by 10 min discussions
- The rest of the meeting will be devoted to topical discussion with some fixed topics, such as
  - 2x per year meetings devoted to the preparation of the meeting with LHCC referees
  - 1x per year feedback from the experiments on SFT PoW
  - 1x per year review of EP R&D results and PoW
  - ....
- The other subjects can be proposed for discussion, and this will follow the pattern
  - Upon identifying the issue for discussion, the AF will name the subgroup that will report on the subject in 1-2 months
  - The outcome and recommendations will be discussed at the meeting, and necessary actions taken and decisions recorded

# Conclusion

- AF meeting attendance (unchanged)
  - Leaders of the SFT software projects, GL
  - Experiment Computing/Software Coordinators and/or delegates
    - ALICE, ATLAS, CMS, LHCb, CLIC, FCC
  - Leaders of the relevant IT software projects, Openlab, etc.
  - WLCG PL
- This will again be the meeting to discuss and make strategic decisions concerning the SFT projects
- It is the responsibility of the experiment's Computing & Software Coordinators to attend the meeting in person or delegate responsibility to their representative
- The AF Chair will (again) represent the AF and SFT projects in the WLCG MB meetings as stipulated in the mandate
  - Need to bring this to the attention of WLCG MB