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# PROOF: status and perspectives

*Tuesday 27 March 2007 17:00 (30 minutes)*

The goal of PROOF (Parallel ROOt Facility) is to enable the interactive analysis of distributed data sets in a transparent way. PROOF represents an alternative to a batch-oriented usage of a distributed computing system. The system is being successfully used by the PHOBOS experiment since a few years.

In view of the startup of the LHC analysis PROOF underwent several developments and improvements mainly with the purpose to adapt it to the large multi-user analysis environments found at LHC. The ALICE collaboration has pioneered test-stressing of the system using the first CAF (Central Analysis Facility), composed by 40 machines located at CERN. The test-CAF represents a realistic environment for LHC analysis, with a non-negligible amount of local disk space managed by the XROOTD daemon populated with dedicated upload facilities (e.g. on-demand stage-in from the CASTOR system).

The ALICE tests have brought in several new developments, among which:

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* augmentation and fine-tuning of package management and environment setting facilities;
* a new ``packetizer'' (the system element responsible for work distribution) optimizing the load balancing alg
* the integration of the system with a user-scheduling facility with the main purpose of increasing fairness in
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In this talk we will describe in detail the status of the new developments and outline the future plans to bring PROOF in production for LHC analysis.

**Presenter:**   GANIS, Gerardo (CERN/SFT)