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dCache-CTA Integration: One Year in Production at DESY

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The huge volume of data generated by scientific facilities such as EuXFEL or LHC places immense strain on the data management infrastructure within laboratories. This includes poorly shareable resources of archival storage, typically, tape libraries. Maximising the efficiency of these tape resources necessitates a deep integration between hardware and software components.

CERN's Tape Archive (CTA) is an open-source storage management system developed by CERN to handle LHC data on tape. Although the primary target of CTA is CERN Tier-0, the Data Management Group considers CTA as the compelling alternative to commercial Hierarchical Storage Management (HSM) systems.

dCache, with its adaptable tape interface allows connectivity to any tape system. Collaborating closely with the CERN Tape Archive team, we have been working on the seamless integration of CTA into the dCache ecosystem.

This work shows the design, current progress, and initial deployment experiences of the dCache-CTA integration at DESY.

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