Contribution ID: **4** Type: **not specified**

Keeping the LHC colliding: Providing Extended Lifecycle support for EL7

The operation of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) is critically dependent on several hundred Front-End Computers (FECs), that manage all facets of its internals. These custom systems were not able to be upgraded during the long shutdown (LS2), and with the coinciding end-of-life of EL7 of 30.06.2024, this posed a significant challenge to the successful operation of Run 3.

This presentation will focus on how CERN IT is providing the Red Hat "Extended Lifecycle Support" (ELS) product across the CERN accelerator sector. We will discuss how this solution ensures operational continuity by maintaining software support for legacy hardware, bridging the gap between aging infrastructure and current security requirements. Technical details on how this is achieved, as well as shortcomings and lessons learned will be shared with the audience.

Desired slot length

Speaker release

Yes

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Session Classification: Cloud Technologies, Virtualization & Orchestration, Operating Systems

Track Classification: Cloud Technologies, Virtualization & Orchestration, Operating Systems