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A Distributed Storage Odyssey: from CentOS7 to ALMA9

On the 30th of June 2024, the end of CentOS 7 support marked a new era for the operation of the multi-petabytes distributed disk storage system used by CERN physics experiments. The EOS infrastructure at CERN is composed of approximately 1000 disk servers and 50 metadata management nodes. Their transition from CentOS 7 to Alma 9 was not as straightforward as anticipated.

This presentation will be all about explaining this transition. From the change of supported certificate and kerberos key signature lengths and algorithms, to openssl library hiccups and Linux kernel crashes, the EOS operation team had to take on different challenges to ensure a seamless operating system transition of the infrastructure while maintaining uninterrupted CERN experiments' data transfers.

Desired slot length

Speaker release

Yes

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