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Evolution of Data Acquisition in the PHENIX Experiment

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The architecture of the PHENIX data acquisition system will be reviewed, and how it has evolved in 12 years of operation. Custom data acquisition hardware front end modules embedded in the detector operated in a largely inaccessible experimental hall have been controlled and monitored, and a large software infrastructure has been developed around remote objects which are controlled from a relatively small number of applications. A number of different networking technologies are used to control, acquire, and record data from a dozen different detectors. The challenges of adapting new detectors and increasing performance while continuing to operate the experiment will be discussed.

Primary author: HAGGERTY, John (Brookhaven National Laboratory)

Presenter: HAGGERTY, John (Brookhaven National Laboratory)

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