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Scaling the AFS service at CERN

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Serving more than 3 billion accesses per day, the CERN AFS cell is one of the most active installations in the world. Limited by overall cost, the ever increasing demand for more space and higher I/O rates drive an architectural change from small high-end disks organised in fibre-channel fabrics towards external SAS based storage units with large commodity drives. The presentation will summarise the challenges to scale the AFS service at CERN, discuss the approach taken, and highlight some of the applied techniques, such as SSD block level caching or transparent AFS server failover.

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