DPM: Future Proof Storage
Alejandro Alvarez, Alexandre Beche, Fabrizio Furano, Martin Hellmich, Oliver Keeble, Ricardo Rocha

Lightweight  Scalable  Standards Based  Extensible

Summary
The main objective of the Disk Pool Manager (DPM) is to provide a lightweight, standards based and grid-aware data storage solution. It simplifies the life of users and administrators, while offering good performance and allowing easy integration with new tools and systems.

Preparing the future: standards and dmlite
We have added standard protocol compliant frontends to the previous entry points of our system, basing them on standard building blocks as much as possible. For adequate performance, we have refactored the native daemons. The result is a plugin-based library called dmlite, which also opens our system to other existing tools and storage backends.

Plugins can be stacked at will. Existing implementations include Native DPM, MySQL, Oracle, Memcache and Hadoop/HDFS. S3/cloud coming very soon.

Performance Comparison
Offering the frontends direct database access (no daemon contact) has given us an improvement of up to 7 times in stat operations - the most frequent.

Monitoring and Configuration
DPM offers an extensive set of Nagios probes to track service status, metadata queries, system usage, and much more. We also provide Puppet manifests for easier deployment and service configuration.

Testing and Documentation
All new components follow a "release early, release often" principle - help us testing by using our beta repository. Check our website for further documentation, webinars and tutorials.

Acknowledgements
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Conclusions and Future Work
DPM has come a long way, and it stays as the most widely used grid storage system. With the most recent developments we have greatly improved performance and reduced the load of packaging, deploying and configuring a complete storage system. Future work will continue focusing on improved performance and the introduction of new features by reusing standard and well supported building blocks.

Metadata Performance with memcache
Plugin implementation for Namespace Management, offering even greater metadata access performance.

Best single node performance with a local memcached instance
Higher performance possible with multiple instances (horizontal scalability)

Extensibility, integration - HDFS, S3, ...
With dmlite sites can deploy new pools with distinct storage backends, under a single namespace. Currently HDFS and an early S3/cloud prototype.

Testing
HTTP Request  HTTP DPM  DMLITE
HTTP Redirection, Direct Data Node Access

Thanks to dmlite and the nice HDFS APIs, the implementation took 2 weeks
We envision integration with other popular storage systems