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Virtualization of Grid Services

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Virtualization techniques have become a key topic in computing in the last years. In the Grid, discussions on the virtualization of worker nodes is most prominent. Currently, concepts for the provenience and sharing if images are under debate. The virtualization of Grid servers though is already a common and successful practice.

At DESY, one of the largest WLCG Tier-2 centres world-wide and home of a number of global VOs, already half of the Grid services run on virtual machines. This approach helped to improve the reliability, redundancy, and efficiency of the Grid infrastructure.

In the contribution to CHEP 2012 we will describe our set-up with regard to the usage of virtualization techniques for Grid servers. We will discuss the choice of products, free and commercial ones, and their implications, and present findings and experiences of day-to-day operations.

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