ADC Development and R&D

Simone Campana CERN IT-ES

ATLAS Computing Model

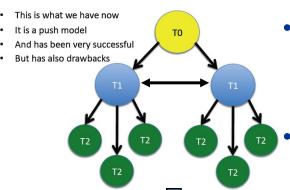
- Global computing within a hierarchy of Tiered centers organized in (primarily) regional 'clouds'
 - Optimize data flow in an environment of expensive, limited-bandwidth networks
- Cloud model has limitations that are avoidable in the era of abundant networking
 - Cloud boundaries negatively impact efficient data processing, data placement and access, disk space usage, network bandwidth, ...
- Exploit ability of our networks to move data effectively between as well as within clouds



Operational Experience

- Our Tier 1s have been very effective as expected as flexible, efficient processing and data serving centers
- A lesson of experience is that Tier 2s are extremely effective and flexible as well – and not just as an appendage of a Tier 1
- Greater equivalency between Tier 1s and Tier 2s can lead to fuller and more efficient resource utilization
- Trend today and for the future: flattening of the hierarchy

Steps toward a new model



PD2P: Dynamic Data Placement

- Automatically spread in-demand data across resources
- Tier2D: Tier2s directly connected to Tier 1s, Tier 2Ds and CERN

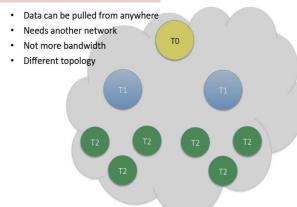
Nordic Grid didn't deploy MONARC model and NDGF model is very close to one we are considering now

Evolve the model; not a discontinuous change

Network monitoring becomes essential

Tier2 connectivity vital; T2s becomes T2Ds when capable and validated

Utilize a hybrid approach of strategic pre-placement and dynamic usage-driven placement; continuously optimize



Growing Importance of Tier 2s

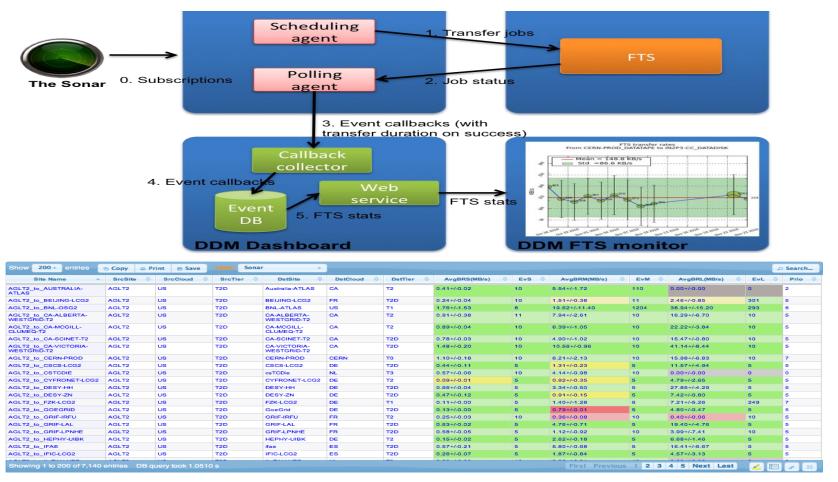
- Nearly half are now T2Ds can service data requests across ATLAS
 - Target is all Tier 2s are T2Ds
- T2Ds can join clouds other than their home cloud multi-cloud mode so clouds are fluid and flexible rather than static to respond to production needs
 - eg. grow a cloud beyond its regional bounds to pump a high priority task through quickly
 - T1s can join another cloud in the same way
- T2s as primary replica repositories under study
- T2s hosting more and more group production activities, using dedicated group space at T2s

Evolution of Data Placement

- Move towards intelligent caching of data rather than solely planned placement
- Decrease number of *primary* replicas. N *primary* replicas are always guaranteed
- 2011 began with no planned data placement at Tier2s, only dynamic caching
 - T2 analysis activities dropped; strategic planned placement reintroduced to complement caching
- Use data popularity and data age information to regulate number of replicas ATLAS wide
- Use planned placement for the data samples, formats known to be popular (D3PDs, AODs)
- Allow users to drive placement themselves (DaTRI)
- Use both Tier1s and Tier2Ds as data sources



Network monitoring: sonar



http://dashb-atlas-ssb.cern.ch/dashboard/request.py/siteview#currentView=Sonar



Network Monitoring: perfSONAR

- ATLAS suggests the deployment of perfSONAR at all T1s and T2s.
 - Point to point network monitoring based on iperf.
 - Latency and throughput
- Details in: https://twiki.cern.ch/twiki/bin/view/LHCONE/Sit eList
- We consider network monitoring a key aspect of the infrastructure
 - We asked WLCG to support this initiative as part of the project. Very positive feedback.



 ATLAS and CMS started an R&D on storage federations 2 years ago.

Currently, the only usable technology is xrootd

 Basically all storages offer LAN and WAN access capabilities through xrootd



Xrootd Federation R&D to Production

Positive experience in USATLAS

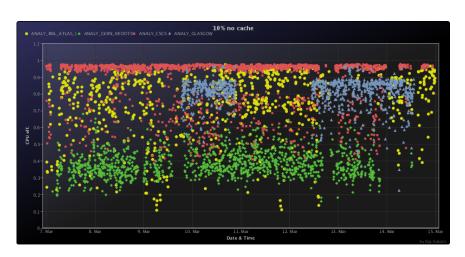
- Will extend to pilot sites in Europe.
 - UK and DE volunteered to try regional federations

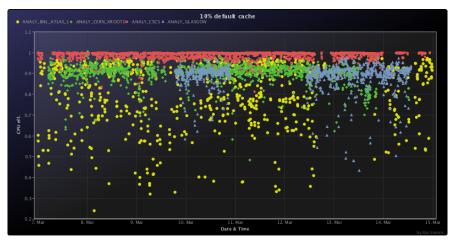
- Use cases of increasing complexity
 - 1. Fallback solution for I/O issues at with the local storage
 - 2. Brokering at sites with no complete data sample



Federations and WAN access

Obviously, need good WAN access performance





http://http://ivukotic.web.cern.ch/ivukotic/WAN/index.asp

- TTreeCache increases performance in avg of 3x
- Studies ongoing.



Evolving Distributed Data Management: The Next-Generation DDM System

- Objective: streamline & simplify the system based on operational experience and new developments
 - Eliminate unused features, focus on performance and scalability of critical functions, add new needed capabilities, track evolution of middleware, leverage newly available technologies
- Impact: DDM has many dependent clients, from end users to distributed analysis to the production system
 - Boundary condition: no interruption to ongoing DDM operations (present version supported through transition)
 - The largest single ADC development project for the near future
- Status: conceptual model for the next-gen system 'Rucio' documented and currently under discussion with the many user communities
- Timeline:
 - Architecture document & detailed design ~Jan 2012
 - Iterative development throughout 2012
 - Validation and deployment for production in 2013



SRM and protocols

- ATLAS is in line with the outcome of the WLCG TEG:
 - SRM will still be needed as interface to Mass Storage
 - In general, the access to storage will rely less and less on SRM
 - ATLAS already by-passes SRM whenever possible (i.e. local access)
- Development in pipeline
 - ATLAS tools being able to leverage other protocols for storage access
 - gridFTP w/o SRM, xrootd, http
 - Grid tools being able to leverage other protocols for storage access
 - gridFTP is already there, need FTS-3 for others.



CVMFS

- Software installation, database releases and conditions data
 - CERNVM File System as a common technology
- ATLAS invites all sites to migrate to CVMFS ASAP
 - Sometime soon, no more need of HOTDISK
 - Thanks to CVMFS we can run on nightlies on the Grid
- Very soon, ATLAS SW installation will move away from WMS and use Panda
 - No more need of special high priority queues

AGIS

- ATLAS is developing a Information Service (AGIS)
 - Used for some use-cases already
- AGIS caches information from various sources
 - Including the BDII
- Correctness of infos in the BDII is very important
 - Queue status
 - Disk Space
 - Pledges and HEPSPEC benchmarks



Multicores

- Multicore or whole-node scheduling coming
 - 64 bit reco memory footprint & AthenaMP
 - local batch system scaling otherwise #slots blows up
 - cloud computing whole-node (VM) by definition
 - Reduce number of transient files and access to storage
- but not there yet ... : deployment
 - dedicated multi-core resources wasted when only serial jobs
 - serial-to-Ncore is expensive drain last job
 - Ok for steady stream of Ncore jobs
- But not there yet...: software
 - AthenaMP for Reco and G4sim, but not digi (prevents MC reco usage)
 - File merging is still serialized ...
- Need to get more experience. Not ready for production.



gLexec

- ATLAS si not particularly fan of gLexec ...
 - We believe it creates more problems than it solves
- Nevertheless, WLCG Security TEG provided quite clear indications
 - In addition we can leverage the identity switching to optimize resource usage
- Two possibilities under evolution:
 - handle gLexec from the ATLAS pilot
 - Original idea, was fragile but many problems could be fixed by now. Re-testing.
 - Handle gLexec through glideinWMS
 - It works, but introduce a considerable overlay and complication
- If gLexec is broken at your site today, we will not complain...



Cloud Computing

- Buzz word or powerful tool?
- Could be the latter if it offers the uniform homogeneity across computing resources that grids never quite gave us
- Potential to complement and augment the grid
- Adoption of virtualization by facilities has begun
- Academic clouds already exist, commercial clouds may (sooner or later) be cost-effective for peak processing
 - CERN has one! lxcloud
- Funding agencies have started asking us about cloud utilization
- Prudent course: cloud-enable our processing so we can evaluate utility of clouds and be able to leverage them
 - Answer for ourselves: are they useful? Will they be?
 - Effective integration with storage is a central issue



ATLAS Cloud Computing R&D

- Condor Cloud Scheduler (U Victoria)
 - Leverage Condor to run PanDA pilots on CERNVM VMs, no PanDA changes required
 - Cloud Scheduler manages VM creation and proxy based authorization/authentication
 - Proof of concept working, needs pilot factory for real-world use
- Cloud Factories (CERN)
 - Understand how to run PanDA sites in the cloud
 - Manage VMs directly using a cloud API
 - Running example on CERN's lxcloud with CERN SE data access
 - Target use case: a personal cloud factory
 - Eg. Amazon + credit card = analysis done by conference deadline

Cloud Futures

- Many of the activities are reaching a point where we can start getting feedback from users
 - Should focus in the next months on eliminating options, and determine what we can deliver in production
- Cloud Storage
 - This is the hard part. Some free S3 endpoints are just coming online, so effective R&D is only starting now.
 - Looking forward to good progress in caching (Xrootd/HDFS in cloud) and DDM S3 Evaluation (Rucio incubator proposal)
- Support the grid sites who want to offer private cloud resources
 - Develop guidelines, best practices
 - Good examples already, e.g. LxCloud, PIC, BNL, and others.



NoSQL (ops, Structured Storage)

- Relational database management systems
 - Vertical scalability ("scale up")
 - Few powerful nodes
 - Shared state
 - Explicit partitioning
 - Resistant hardware
 - ACID
 - Implicit queries (WHAT)
- Structured storage
 - Horizontal scalability ("scale out")
 - Lots of interconnected low cost nodes
 - Shared nothing architecture
 - Implicit partitioning
 - Reliability in software
 - BASE
 - Explicit data pipeline (HOW)

Main problems addressed:

- There is an upper limit of processing power you can put in a single node
- 2. Explicit partitioning can be cumbersome
- 3. Relaxation of ACID properties can be necessary
- Query plans need information about the data contents



Comparison of technologies

	MongoDB	Cassandra	Hadoop/HBase
Installation/ Configuration	Download, unpack, run	Download, unpack, configure, run	Distribution, Complex config
Buffered read 256	250'000/sec	180'000/sec	150'000/sec
Random read 256	20'000/sec	20'000/sec	20'000/sec
Relaxed write 256	10'000/sec	19'000/sec	9'000/sec
Durable Write 256	2'500/sec	9'000/sec	6'000/sec
Analytics	Limited MapReduce	Hadoop MapReduce	MapReduce, Pig, Hive
Durability support	Full	Full	Full
Native API	Binary JSON	Java	Java
Generic API	None	Thrift	Thrift, REST

ATLAS and the WLCG Database TEG decided for Hadoop



NoSQL: "Big data processing"

- DDM use cases
 - disk pool access, log file analysis, trace mining, file sharing, accounting, search
 - Leveraging an existing Hadoop installation at CERN

- Panda use cases
 - Data Mining and Monitoring
 - Currently running on Cassandra@BNL
 - will be ported to Hadoop@CERN



Summary

- Operations is Key, but some amount of computing development and R&D is essential to keep up with the state-of-the-art in scalability and efficiency
- In the short term we expect to see some concrete deliverables in production
- Work is still ongoing in all of these activities some activities are closer to wrapping up than others.
- Thank you to all who help prepare these slides!

