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The CMS openstack, opportunistic, overlay, online-cluster Cloud (CMSooooCloud)

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The CMS online cluster consists of more than 3000 computers. It has been exclusively used for the Data Acquisition of the CMS experiment at CERN, archiving around 20Tbytes of data per day.

An openstack cloud layer has been deployed on part of the cluster (totalling more than 13000 cores) as a minimal overlay so as to leave the primary role of the computers untouched while allowing an opportunistic usage of the cluster. This allows running offline computing jobs on the online infrastructure while it is not (fully) used.

We will present the architectural choices made to deploy an unusual, as opposed to dedicated, “overlaid cloud infrastructure”. These architectural choices ensured a minimal impact on the running cluster configuration while giving a maximal segregation of the overlaid virtual computer infrastructure. Openvswitch was chosen during the proof of concept phase in order to avoid changes on the network infrastructure. Its use will be illustrated as well as the final networking configuration used. The design and performance of the openstack cloud controlling layer will be also presented together with new developments and experience from the first year of usage.

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