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ValDb: an aggregation platform to collect reports on the validation of CMS software and calibrations

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The scrutiny and validation of the software and of the calibrations used to simulate and reconstruct the collision events, have been key elements to the physics performance of the CMS experiment.

Such scrutiny is performed in stages by approximately one hundred experts who master specific areas of expertise, ranging from the low-level reconstruction and calibration which specific to a sub-detector, to the reconstruction of higher level quantities such as particle candidates and global event properties.

In this paper we present ValDb, a web-based aggregation platform which collects from the all validation experts reports consisting of a concise write-up and links to pictures and plots. The reports are organized in campaigns, each targeting one specific software release or calibration update, and are all marked with a final summary icon (pass, fail, changes expected). ValDb is integrated with the CMS hypernews mailing system, where reports are sent to concerned fora.

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