

A New Nightly Build System for LHCb

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The LHCb Experiment runs every night builds and tests of its software to ensure that changes do not introduce bugs or inconsistencies and to test new features, new platforms, new libraries, etc. We test every night ~24 combinations of ~20 projects on ~6 platforms using 8 machines (72 cores).

Features of the Old System

- configuration in 3 dimensions
 - slot (build context)
 - software project
 - platform (OS, compiler, ...)
- dynamic
 - the configuration can change every day
- flexible
 - variable size of axes

see CHEP2010 <http://cern.ch/go/6pQc>

Limitations of the Old System

- monolithic design
 - cannot add additional software repositories (e.g. git)
 - cannot use different build systems (e.g. CMake)
- heavy development cycle
 - full set up required to test new features

we designed a new system based on off-the-shelf open source tools

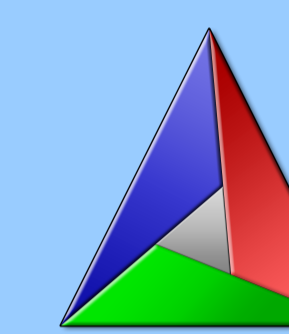
Used Open Source Tools



Jenkins

<http://jenkins-ci.org/>

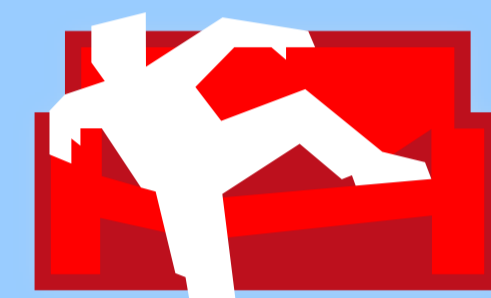
extensible system for continuous integration builds and tests



CMake
Cross-platform Make

<http://www.cmake.org/>

build system with integrated testing facility (CTest)



apache **CouchDB**
relax

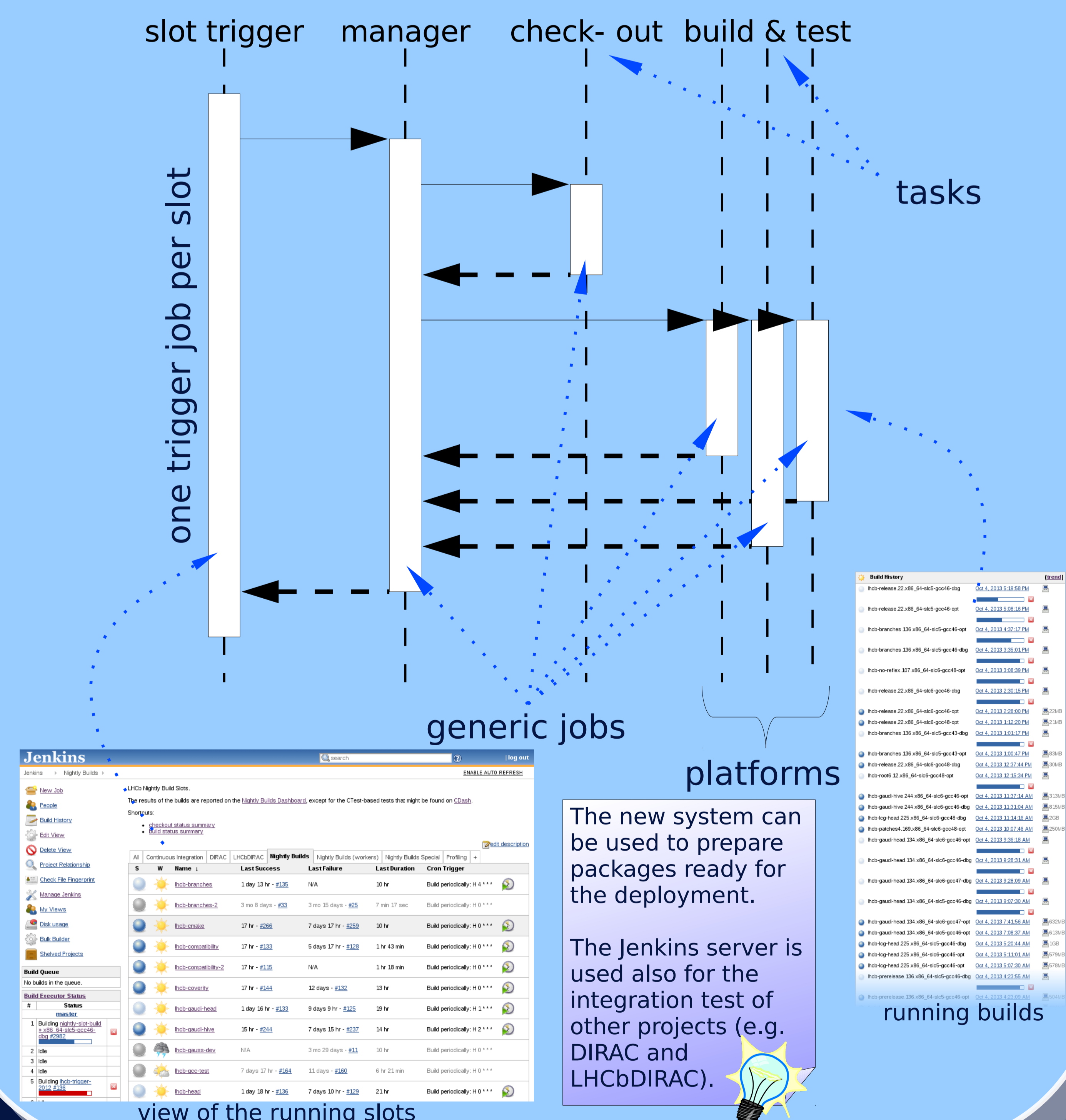
<http://couchdb.apache.org/>

scalable document database with map/reduce and embedded HTTP server

Scheduling Builds and Tests

Jenkins as a scheduler:

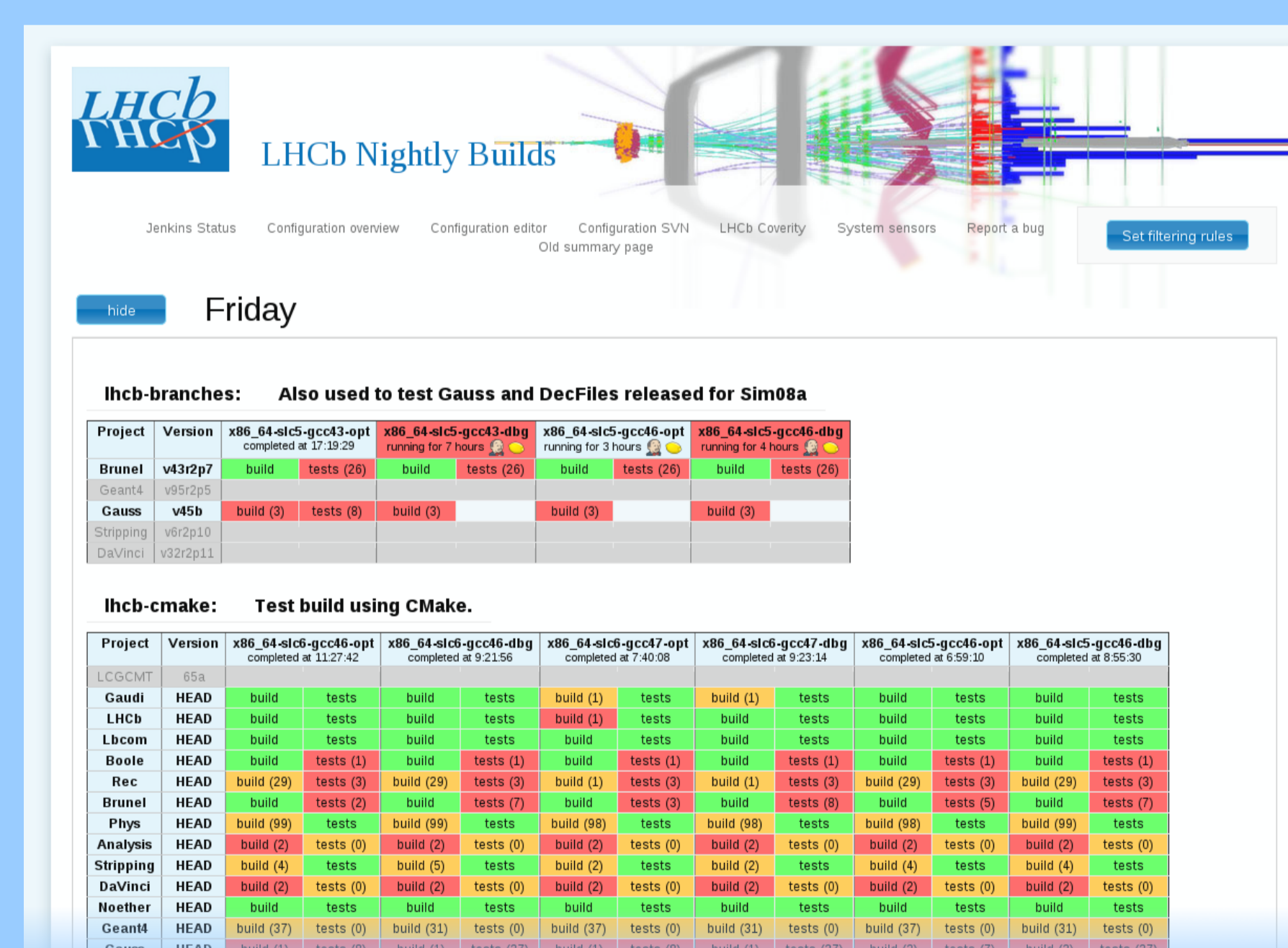
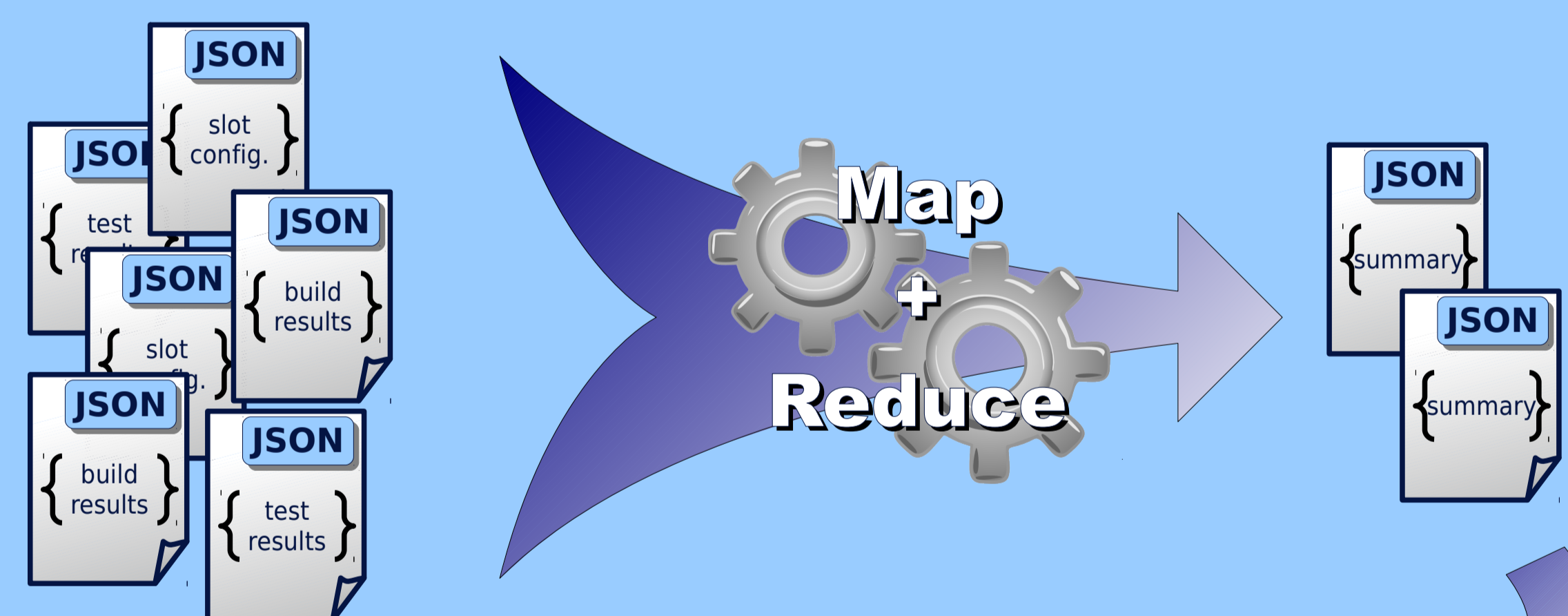
- trigger builds regularly or on demand
- chain of generic Jenkins jobs
- stand-alone scripts for the different tasks



Dashboard

CouchDB Application:

- details and status of builds and tests stored as JSON documents
- map-reduce algorithms to extract and digest the informations
- HTML + jQuery + JSON, served from CouchDB



web page reporting summaries of builds and tests

Apache is used as reverse proxy for security and performance.

More applications using the database are under development (RSS, stats, ...).

Summary and Considerations

The Nightly Build System we set up is based on widely available open source tools and can be easily adapted to other projects with the same requirements as LHCb.

Jenkins proved to be extremely easy to use for *standard* projects, but a lot of work was required to accommodate the LHCb requirements using only existing plugins. The development of a custom plugin would make the configuration of Jenkins straight forward and we may decide to work on it for a future version.

The implementation of the CouchDB database for the Nightly Builds Dashboard was trivial (including the development of the required map+reduce functions). What took most of the time was the development of the web interface, mainly because hosting the web application on CouchDB requires that any change must be deployed to a development instance of the database to be tested.