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The NOvA Data Acquisition Error Handling System

The NOvA experiment studies neutrino oscillations with 2 functionally identical detectors separated by a baseline of 810km. The Data Acquisition (DAQ) system for the far detector in Ash River in Minnesota comprises more than 10,000 Front End Boards, and a cluster of 168 custom PPC-based, and 206 COTS x86 linux nodes performing a variety of functions.

An Error Handling system has been developed to facilitate operation of this expansive system, using status messages generated by DAQ applications, a dedicated "rule engine" for analyzing status messages for specific or general patterns, and an Error Handler for taking pre-defined actions based on the outcome of the message analysis.

The performance of the Error Handling system in the context of production data-taking on the near and far NOvA detectors will be presented.

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