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Accelerating Debugging In A Highly Distributed Environment

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As more experiments move to a federated model of data access the environment becomes highly distributed and decentralized. In many cases this may pose obstacles in quickly resolving site issues; especially given vast time-zone differences. Spurred by ATLAS needs, Release 4 of XRootD incorporates a special mode of access to provide remote debugging capabilities. Essentially, XRootD allows a site to grant secure access to specific individuals to view certain XRootD information (e.g. log files, configuration files, etc). In a virtual view all of the information is laid out in a site independent way regardless of how the site configured its system. This allows experts at other locations to assist in resolving issues and alleviates time-zone vagaries. The view is available through XRootd or, optionally, HTTP. This talk provides the motivation for developing the remote debugging facility, why it is essential in highly distributed environments, and what can actually be done with it.

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