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CVMFS - a file system for the CernVM virtual appliance

The CernVM Virtual Software Appliance contains a minimal operating system sufficient to host the application frameworks developed by the LHC experiments. In CernVM model the experiment application software and it dependencies are built independently from CernVM Virtual Machine. The procedures for building, installing and validating each software release remains in the hands and under responsibility of each user community. We provide the tools to synchronize pre-built and configured experiment software releases with our central distribution point that we plan to evolve into decentralized content delivery network.

We will describe the architecture of the CVMFS file system and the implementation of the highly available service infrastructure, which is required in order to provide the reliable central component of this file system. In addition, we will outline how we plan to evolve this into a decentralized content delivery network.

Primary authors: AGUADO SANCHEZ, Carlos (CERN); BUNCIC, Predrag (CERN)

Co-authors: BLOOMER, Jakob (Univ. of Karlsruhe); FRANCO, Leandro (CERN); MATO, Pere (CERN); KLE-MER, Steffen (Georg-August-University Goettingen)

Presenter: AGUADO SANCHEZ, Carlos (CERN)

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