

The UK particle physics Grid - status and developments

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During 2008 we have seen several notable changes in the way the LHC experiments have tried to tackle outstanding gaps in the implementation of their computing models. The development of space tokens and changes in job submission and data movement tools are key examples. The first section of this paper will review these changes and the technical/configuration impacts they have had at the site level across the GridPP sites. The second section will look in more detail at challenges that have been faced the RAL Tier-1 site, and in particular work that has been done to improve the resilience and stability of core services. The third section of the paper will examine required recent changes in the operational model across the UK Tier-1 and Tier-2s as the focus has shifted to better supporting users and understanding how the user view of services differs from that of the infrastructure provider. This will be tackled through the use of several use cases which highlight common problems that still need to be overcome. The fourth and final section of the paper will present an analysis of GridPP metrics used within the project to assess progress, problems and issues.

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