



Contribution ID: 444

Type: oral presentation

The CERN Analysis Facility - A PROOF Cluster for Day-One Physics Analysis

Monday 3 September 2007 14:40 (20 minutes)

ALICE (A Large Ion Collider Experiment) at the LHC plans to use a PROOF cluster at CERN (CAF - Cern Analysis

Facility) for fast analysis. The system is especially aimed at the prototyping phase of analyses that need a high number of development iterations and thus desire a short response time. Typical examples are the tuning of cuts

during the development of an analysis as well as calibration and alignment. Furthermore, the use of an interactive

system with very fast response will allow ALICE to extract physics observables out of first data quickly. A test setup consisting of 40 machines exists for evaluation since May 2006. The PROOF system enables the distributed usage and xrootd the access to locally distributed files. An automatic staging system of files migrated to

CASTOR and files available in the AliEn Grid has been developed.

The talk will present the current setup as well as performance tests that have been performed. The integration of

PROOF into ALICE's software framework (AliRoot) will be shown.

Submitted on behalf of Collaboration (ex, BaBar, ATLAS)

ALICE

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Session Classification: Distributed data analysis and information management

Track Classification: Distributed data analysis and information management