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Distributed Database Access in the LHC Computing Grid with CORAL

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The CORAL package is the LCG Persistency Framework foundation for accessing relational databases. From the start CORAL has been designed to facilitate the deployment of the LHC experiment database applications in a distributed computing environment. This contribution focuses on the description of CORAL features for distributed database deployment.
In particular we cover
- improvements to database service scalability by client side connection management
- improved application reliability provided by automated reconnection and fail-over strategies
- a secure authentication and authorisation scheme integrated with existing grid services
We will summarize the deployment experience from several experiment productions using the distributed database infrastructure, which is now available in LCG. Finally, we present perspectives for future developments in this area.

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