Production Activities and Results by ALICE





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Outline



- > PDC'06/SC4 goals and tasks
- > 1st Phase: Principles of operation and results
- > 2nd Phase: Principles of operation and results
- Conclusions and Plans





Main tasks of the ALICE Physics Data Challenge 2006 (PDC'06)



- Validation of the LCG/gLite workload management services
 - □Stability of the services is fundamental for the entire duration of the exercise
- Validation of the data transfer and storage services
 - □2nd phase of the PDC'06 (*currently fundamental part*)
 - □ The stability and support of the services have to be assured beyond the throughput tests
- Validation of the ALICE distributed reconstruction and calibration model
- ➤ Integration of all Grid resources within one single interfaces to different Grids (LCG, OSG, NDGF)
- End-user data analysis





PDC'06 Phases



- > First phase (ongoing):
 - □ Production of p+p and Pb+Pb MC events
 - □Conditions and samples agreed with PWGs
 - □Data migrated from all Tiers to CASTOR@CERN
- ➤ Second phase:
 - □Scheduled data transfers T0-T1
 - □Reconstruction of RAW data: 1st pass reconstruction at CERN, 2nd pass at T1
 - □Scheduled data transfers T2- (supporting)T1
- ➤ Third phase (end of the year)
 - ☐ End-user analysis on the GRID





Principles of Operation: VO-box



- VO-boxes deployed at all T0-T1-T2 sites providing resources for ALICE
 - ☐ Mandatory requirement to enter the production
 - ☐ Required in addition to all standard LCG Services
 - ☐ Entry door to the LCG Environment
 - ☐ Runs standard LCG components and ALICE specific ones
- Uniform deployment
 - ☐ Same behaviour for T1 and T2 in terms of production
 - ☐ Differences between T1 and T2 a matter of QoS only.
- Installation and maintenance entirely ALICE responsibility
 - ☐ Based on a regional principle
 - ☐ Set of ALICE experts matched to groups of sites
- Site related problems handled by site administrators
- LCG Service problems reported via GGUS
 - ☐ Not too much, ALICE has delivered experts in almost all sites





General Services Status



- > For production ALICE requires (beyond VO-BOXES), dedicated ALICE queues and if existing access to the local RB
 - ☐ Good respond of sites, good level of performance
 - ☐ Established a quite well define system of SW installation/running/monitoring/support
 - ☐ Important number of T2 sites joining (almost) continuously the production
 - ☐ However production unstable in some sites
 - o Competition with other VOs
 - o Local RB problems
 - o Problems at the site (i.e space in local disk for each job, etc)
 - o The experts team is able to find and recover the problem in a relative short time





ALICE in the World





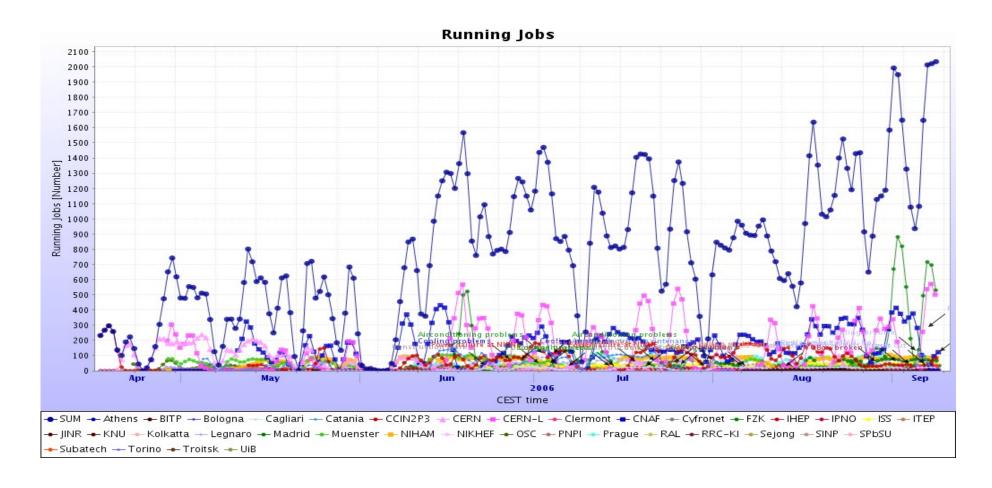




Results for the PDC'06



➤ Continuous running from April 2006







Results of the PDC'06 (2)



- Gradual inclusion of sites in the ALICE Grid current status:
 - □6 T1s: CCIN2P3, CERN, CNAF, GridKA, NIKHEF, RAL
 - □30 T2s
- ➤ Currently available CPU power 2000 CPUs for ALICE (expected ~4000)
 - □Competing for resources with the other LHC experiments
 - □Computing centres are waiting for the last moment to buy hardware will get more for the same price
 - □ Expect additional resources from Nordic countries and from US (LBL and LLNL)

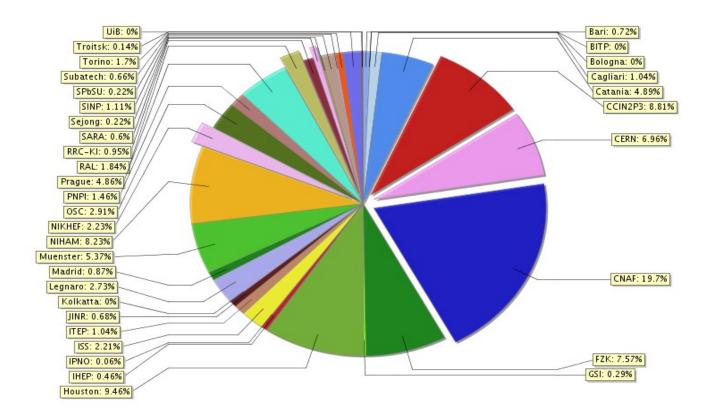




Resources Statistics



- > Resources contribution (normalized Si2K units): 50% from T1s, 50% from T2s
 - ☐ The role of the T2 remains very high!







2nd Part of PDC'06



- > T0-T1 transfers: Methodology and Status
 - Next Part of the talk
- > Asynchronous to the Production (1st phase)
 - □Combining the production with this exercise





Principle of Operations: FTS and LFC



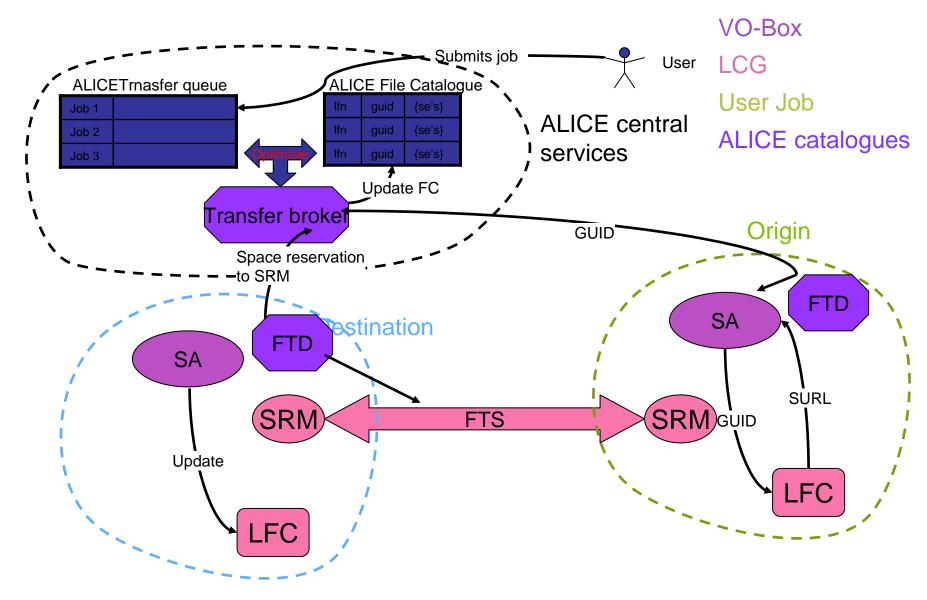
- > FTS Service deployed at all sites
 - ☐ Used for scheduled replication of data between computing centers
 - □Lower level tool that underlies the data placement
 - ☐ Used as plug-in in the AliEn File Transfer Daemon (FTD)
 - o FTS has been implemented through the FTS Perl APIs
 - o FTD running in the VO-box as one of the ALICE services
- > LFC required at all sites
 - ☐ Used as a local catalogue for the site
- > Access to the SRM SE at all sites also required





File Replication









FTS Tests: Strategy



- > The main goal is to test the stability of FTS as service and integration with FTD
 - ☐ T0-T1 (disk to tape): 7 days required of sustained transfer rates to all T1s
 - o Exercise still continuing
 - ☐ T1-T2 (disk to disk) and T1-T1 (disk to disk): 2 days required of sustained transfers to T2
 - o STILL TO BE FULLY PERFORMED
- Data types
 - ☐ T0-T1: Migration of raw and 1st pass reconstructed data
 - ☐ T1-T2 and T2-T1: Transfers of ESDs, AODs (T1-T2) and T2 MC production for custodial storage (T2-T1)
 - ☐ T1-T1: Replication of ESDs and AODs





FTS: Transfer Rates



- >T0-T1: disk-tape transfers at an aggregate rate of 300MB/s from CERN
 - □ Distributed according the MSS resources pledged by the sites in the LCG MoU:
 - o CNAF: 20%
 - o CCIN2P3: 20%
 - o GridKA: 20%
 - o SARA: 10%
 - o RAL: 10%
 - o US (one center): 20%
- >T1-T2: Following the T1-T2 relation matrix
 - ☐ Test of the services performance, no specific target for transfer rates





FTS Tests Remarks



- The FTS transfers will not be synchronous with the data production
- > The sites should provide mechanism for garbage collector
- > Transfers based on LFN is not required
- The automatic update of the LFC catalogue is not required
 - ☐ ALICE will take care of the catalogues update
- Summary of requirements:
 - □ ALICE FTS Endpoints at the T0 and T1
 - ☐ SRM-enabled storage with automatic data deletion if needed
 - ☐ FTS service at all sites
 - Support during the whole tests (and beyond)





Monitor Tools



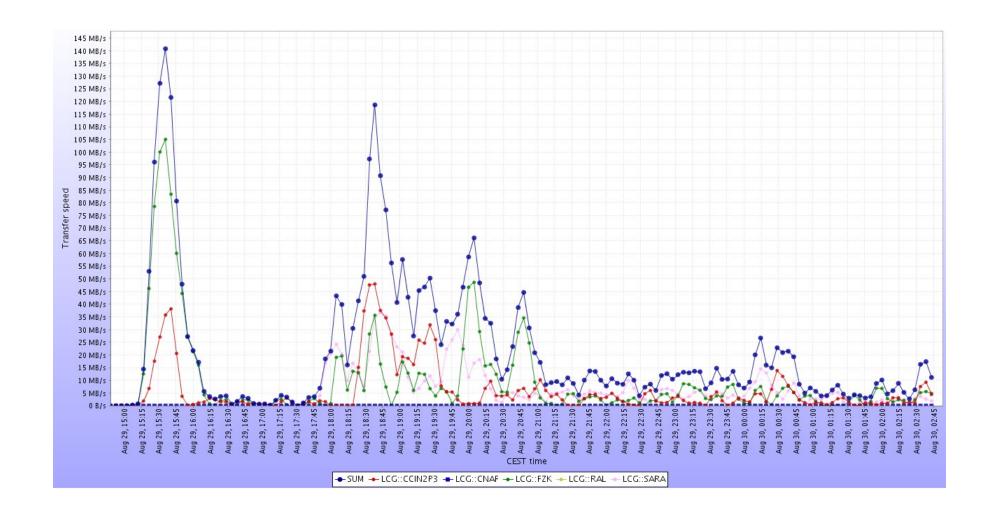
- > We are controlling the status of the transfers with different tools
 - ☐ MonaLisa controls all FTD status
 - □ Dashboard follows the FTS errors
 - ☐ The status of the transfers are fully monitored also in the VO-BOXES through the FTD logs
- > All problems have been reported inmediatly using GGUS
- ➤ Good support of the SC Experts





Data Movement: MonaLisa



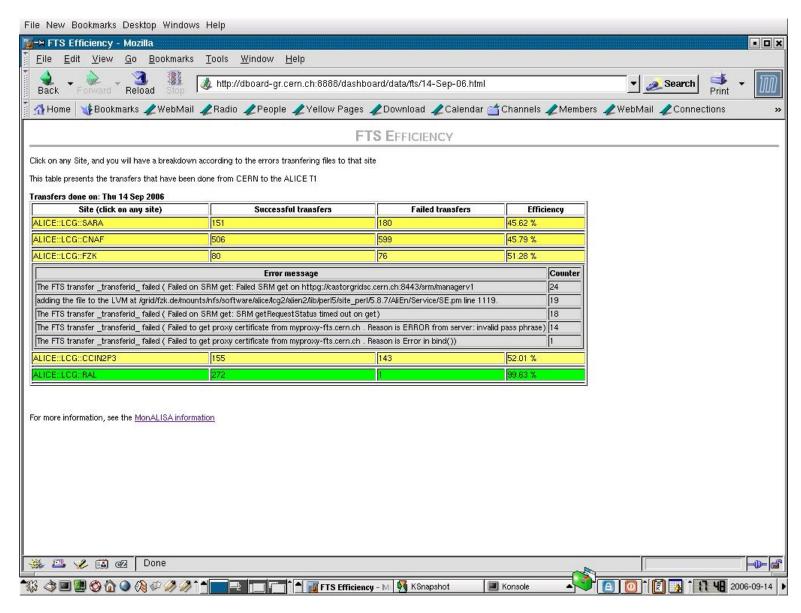






Data Movement: DashBoard









Status of FTS Transfers



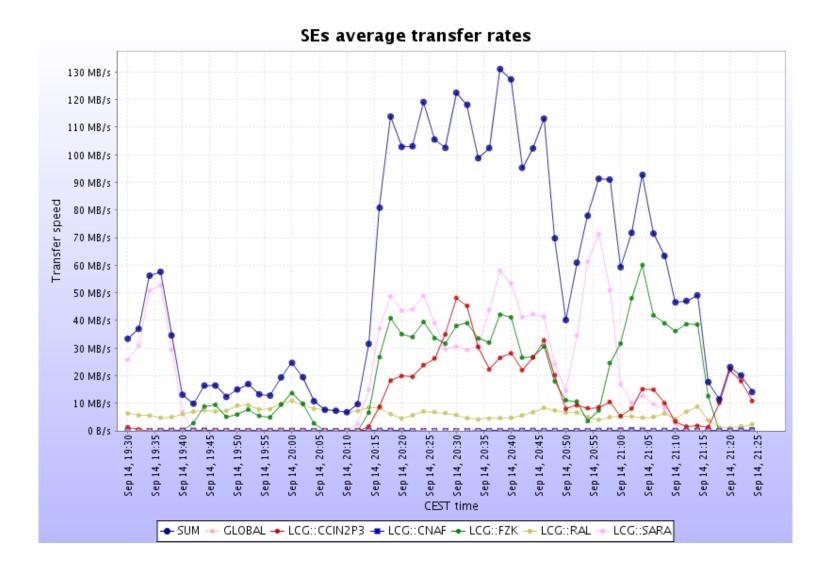
- > These are the problems we are facing at this moment
 - ☐ Problems with Castor at the origin (CERN) and the destination (CNAF)
 - ☐ FTS server at CERN hanging
 - ☐ Problems with the access to the catalogue in all sites
 - o Setcomment API may be having problems
 - ☐ Certain instabilities found in the VOBOXES
 - o CERN (substituted by a new VOBOX) and SARA
 - ☐ Recovering now the transfers
- > From the ALICE site
 - ☐ Increase the size of the transferred files
 - o Done
 - ☐ Increase the number of simultaneous transfers per site
 - o Done, increased to 100 simultaneous transfers to all sites





After ALICE actions









Proposed ALICE T1-T2 Connections



- > CCIN2P3
 - ☐ French T2s, Sejong (Korea), Lyon T2, Madrid (Spain)
- > CFRN
 - ☐ Cape Town (South Africa), Kolkatta (India), T2 Federation (Romania), RMKI (Hungary), Athens (Greece), Slovakia, T2 Federation (Poland), Wuhan (China)
- > FZK
 - ☐ FZU (Czech Republic), RDIG (Russia), GSI and Muenster (Germany)
- > CNAF
 - ☐ ItalianT2s
- > RAL
 - Birmingham
- SARA/NIKHEF
- > NDGF
- > PDSF
 - Houston

- a) Still to be decided if this proposal is approved
- b) Status of FTS services at T2 to be checked
- c) ALICE T2 sites aware of the requirements





Conclusions



- ➤ The ALICE PDC`06
 - □ Complete test of the ALICE computing model and Grid services readiness for data taking in 2007
 - □ Production of data ongoing, integration of LCG and ALICE specific services through the VO-box framework progressing extremely well
 - Building of support infrastructure and relations with ALICE sites is on track
- > The 2nd Phase of PDC'06 is a fundamental issue
 - Stability
 - ☐ Efficiency in the tickets response
 - ☐ Still to establish certain strategy points for the T1-T2 transfers
- ➤ The 3rd phase (end-user analysis) at the end of the year





Plans for Next Year



- > Continue with MC production for physics performance and detector studies
 - ☐ List of events/conditions from ALICE PWGs is growing
- > Continue the tests of the storage facilities at the sites and file replication of RAW data (CERN>>T1) and ESD/AOD (T1<<>>T2) through the FTS service
- > Continue and improve the user analysis of the Grid (starting October 2006) and the CAF
- > Include all detectors commisioning exercises and test data
- Continue the build-up of ALICE related experts support at the computing centers providing ALICE resources