Contribution ID: **246**   Type: **oral presentation**

The Development and Release Process for the CMS Software Project

Tuesday 14 February 2006 16:40 (20 minutes)

Releasing software for projects with large code bases is a challenging task. When developers are geographically dispersed, often in different time zones, coordination can be difficult. A successful release strategy is therefore paramount and clear guidelines for all the stages of software development are required. The CMS experiment recently started a major refactorization of its simulation, reconstruction and analysis software. At the same time, we revised our software development cycle to improve on release management, build management, distribution management and proper quality assurance via unit, regression and validation tests. In this paper we will report on the lessons learned from our previous experience and on how we are improving in the new project.

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Session Classification: Software Tools and Information Systems

Track Classification: Software Tools and Information Systems