

The Development and Release Process for the CMS Software Project

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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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