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The Evolution of Databases in HEP - A Time-Traveler's Tale

Monday 13 February 2006 15:00 (20 minutes)

The past decade has been an era of sometimes tumultuous change in the area of Computing for High Energy Physics. This talk addresses the evolution of databases in HEP, starting from the LEP era and the visions presented during the CHEP 92 panel "Databases for High Energy Physics" (D. Baden, B. Linder, R. Mount, J. Shiers). It then reviews the rise and fall of Object Databases as a "one size fits all solution" in the mid to late 90's and finally summarises the more pragmatic approaches that are being taken in the final stages of preparation for LHC data taking. The various successes and failures (depending on one's viewpoint) regarding database deployment during this period are discussed, culminating in the current status of database deployment for the Worldwide LCG.

Primary author: Dr SHIERS, Jamie (CERN)

Presenter: Dr SHIERS, Jamie (CERN)

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