Using TSM to create a high-performance tape connection

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At GridKa an initial capacity of 1.5 PB online and 2 PB background storage is needed for the LHC start in 2007. Afterwards the capacity is expected to grow almost exponentially. No computing site will be able to keep this amount of data in online storage, hence a highly accessible tape connection is needed. This paper describes a high-performance connection of the online storage to an IBM Tivoli Storage Manager (TSM) environment.

The performance of a system does not only depend on the hardware, but also on the architecture of the application. The scenario we are describing distributes its files over a large number of file servers, storing their data with the help of a proxy node to tape. Each file server can restore the data independent on the file server which has stored the data originally. Furthermore with the LAN free connection to the tape drives the data transfers bypass the TSM server which otherwise would be a bottleneck. The system is completely transparent to the user.

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