Avoiding the tower of Babel syndrom: An integrated issue-based quality assurance system

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Samples of data acquired by the STAR Experiment at RHIC are examined at various stages of processing for quality assurance (QA) purposes. As STAR continues to mature and utilize new hardware and software, it remains imperative to the experiment to work cohesively to insure the quality of STAR data so that the collaboration may continue to produce many new physics results in the efficient and timely manner. From detector sub-system expert specific information, shift crew reports, online QA or offline reconstruction information, how to correlate such a rich set of information would pose a daunting challenge to any collaboration. Presentation of QA results in an organized and integrated fashion has proven vital to establishing robust communication of issues to both operators and users. We will present in this paper the integrated QA system developed to achieve these goals within the STAR experiment, from detector operations through to data production and analysis.

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