

Virtualization on the Track

This is a personal summary of the virtualization track on the HEPiX meeting in spring 2009 in Umeå (Sweden):

The full day track consisting of 4 sessions was providing 13 talks and was surrounded by 2 chair man notes, followed by a short plenary discussion. The talks covered various virtualization related topics from host virtualization to cloud computing giving in-depth information on the current state and art of virtualization including management, performance and security issues. Further steps may be based on the major results:

- Virtualization is more complex than standard technology.
- The technology of host virtualization has reached production quality. Management systems - either commercial or open source - are available providing high level operating and scaling support.
- It would be helpful to have a tight integration of virtualization into batch computing in order to ease middleware distribution and dynamic support of different operating systems.
- Using imported, static or other miscellaneous operation system images e.g. for running in a cloud or grid might easily break privacy and security standards. There is currently no protecting sandbox available.
- At first glance cloud computing appears to be a new promising technology. Until now it lacks of standard interfaces, cheap data access, security and other essential features, but we (and our users) will see a fast evolving (commercial) market.

Information sharing within the HEPiX community will help to face and solve the upcoming challenges concerning virtualization.

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