A Proposal for a Legal Foundation for the HSF

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Why?

• Developed by the community for the community, does not have clear ownership
  • IP is retained by authors unless signed over
  • Many of the tools have been generated by multiple individuals at multiple institutions being employed under a multitude of contracts, and do not belong to any single experiment or organization
  • Without clear ownership, it is not possible to agree on an appropriate license
  • Having a clear license is important for any collaboration outside of the field or with industry.
Our Claim

The field needs a neutral third party that the various owners can sign their IP over to. In a manner similar to the Apache Server which formed the kernel around which the Apache Foundation was formed, ROOT could be the kernel around which a HEP Software Foundation could be formed.
PROs. - CONs.

• PROs
  • Clear IP management
  • Finding Sponsors (including funding agencies)
  • Evangelizing outside of HEP

• CONs
  • Overhead of time to set it up
  • The financial investment and getting buy in from institutes.