

A Proposal for a Legal Foundation for the HSF

Elizabeth Sexton-Kennedy and Fons Rademakers

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.



HSF

ROOT