

The ATLAS Computing Agora (ACA): a resource web site for citizen science projects

The ATLAS collaboration has recently setup a number of citizen science projects which have a strong IT component: event simulation through volunteer computing, algorithm improvements via Machine Learning challenges, event scanning on citizen science platforms, use of open data, etc. Most of the interactions with volunteers are handled through message boards, but specific outreach material has also been developed, giving enhanced visibility to the ATLAS software and computing techniques, challenges and community. The need for a dedicated platform was thus identified and discussed within the ATLAS Computing group. In the proposed “ATLAS Computing Agora” web site, static descriptions of the software and computing domains are combined with links to outreach activities and news pieces, in order to reach and engage communities beyond the usual circles of followers. Analysis of the number of visitors and evaluation surveys will help to better identify the origin, needs, wishes and motivation of our visitors.

