

A community Q&A for HEP Software and Computing?

*A very condensed summary
of discussions that started within the HEP Software Foundation
and of a previous presentation during an EP-SFT group meeting*
<https://indico.cern.ch/event/535891/>

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IT Lightning Talks – 16th September 2016

How often do you use these sites?



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307 questions tagged

openstack about »

OpenStack (<http://openstack.org>) is a collection of open source projects that enables an open, scalable cloud infrastructure. The core of OpenStack is meant to provide consistent APIs and interfaces to a variety of potential back-ends.

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sql about »

Structured Query Language (SQL) is a language for querying databases. Questions should include code examples, table structure, sample data, [SQL Fiddle](<http://sqlfiddle.com>) and a tag for the DBMS implementation (e.g. MySQL, PostgreSQL, Oracle, MS SQL Server, IBM DB2) being used. If your question ...

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0 votes SQL Error: Msg 8115, Level 16, State 2, Line 1 Arithmetic overflow error converting expression to data type datetime

0 answers I am receiving the following error when trying to execute the query below: Msg 8115, Level 16, State 2, Line 1 Arithmetic overflow error converting expression to data type datetime. WITH recursion (...)

5 views sql asked 2 mins ago



tltiger333 1

Looking for a job?

DevOps Engineer - Luxembourg

Doctel Holding
Luxembourg City, Luxembourg

RELOCATION

linux shell

Software Engineer (Quality Assurance)

CERN European Organization for Nuclear Research
Geneva, Switzerland

scada wincc-oa

(and did one of you post this job ad here?!)



Tagged Questions

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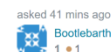
For questions specific to Windows 10. Use [windows] instead for questions inv

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0 votes Desktop shortcut to run access with an mxd file option fails

0 answers the shortcut target contains "C:\Users\Peter\Documents\My Bases\Tooling_Music[1].mxd" /w/gpr "C:\Users\Peter\Documents\My Bases\pd1.mxd" Access reports "couldn't find file 'C:\Users\Peter\Documents\..."

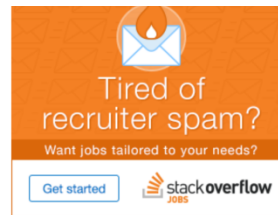
windows-10



asked 41 mins ago
Bootlebarth 1 1

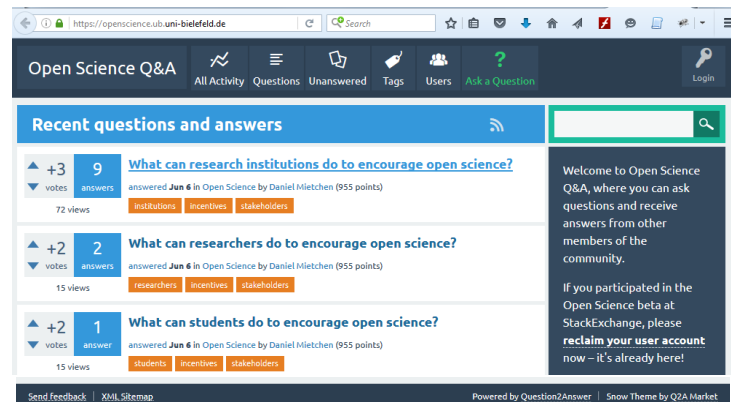
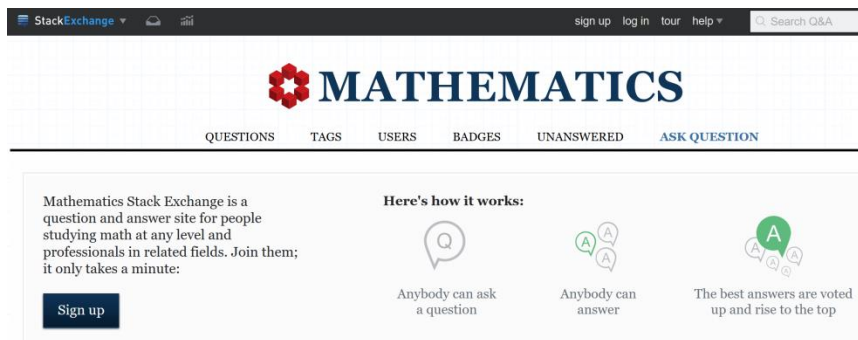
0 votes My ps/2 port keyboard does not function after BIOS. Can I fix this?

I recently created a boot drive for Windows 10 from the Media creation tool that I downloaded from the

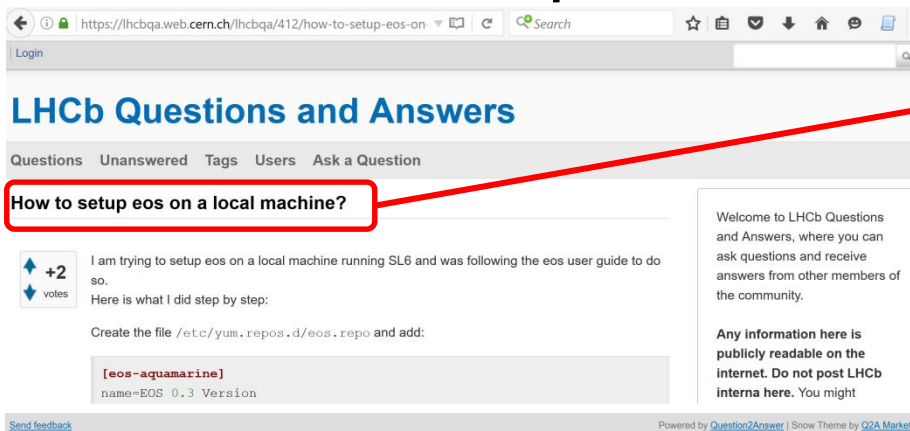


What if we had a **common** Q&A for the HEP Software and Computing community?

- Other scientific communities have their own Q&As



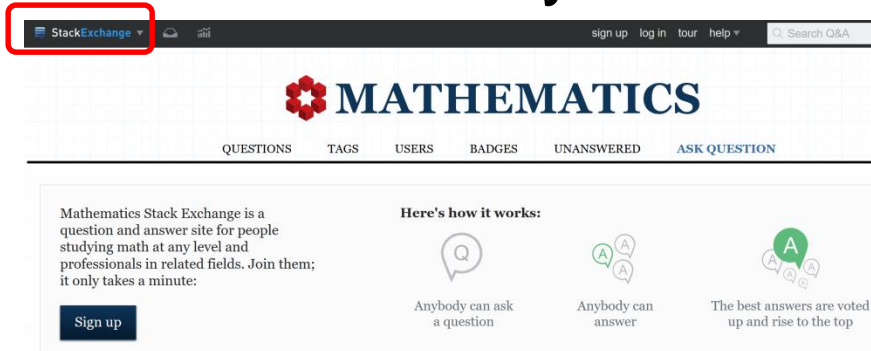
- And one LHC experiment has its own Q&A too (since March 2016)



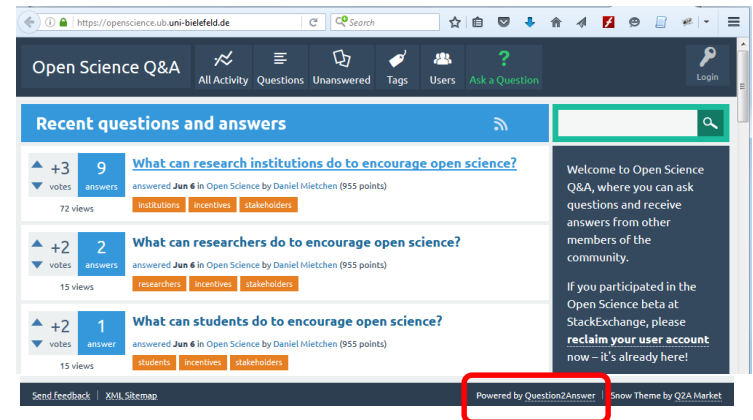
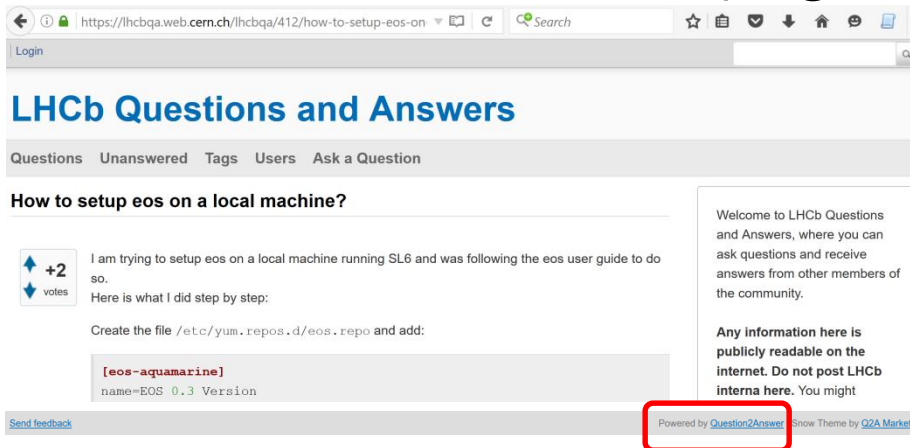
(where some question are not LHCb-specific at all...)

Two approaches to Q&A's, basically

- A site hosted by the StackExchange network



- Or a self-hosted site (e.g. using Questions2Answers)



Area 51

- Launching a StackExchange site goes through the “Area 51” process
 - **Proposal**: a handful of people are needed already within a few days
 - **Definition**: the community must propose and approve 40 typical questions
 - **Commit**: enough individual users must pledge to contribute to the community
 - **Beta period**: the community must achieve some metrics (e.g. 10 questions/day)
 - SE site proposals may fail (close) or succeed (be launched)

Need critical mass... and more!

- *Not suited for a single HEP experiment or project*
- *Need 100 committers with 200+ reputation on other SE sites*

Catch-22? How many of you have 200+ reputation?

Example: the 2nd attempt at OpenScience SE
(1st failed and a self-hosted site was launched)

definition commitment

This proposal is in:

Commitment

Before the site is created, it needs people to commit to use it. Right now, it's

14%

complete. When it reaches 100%, the beta will begin.

▲ less info

The commitment score is the minimum of three scores:

- 14% 29/200 committers in total
- 16% 16/100 committers with 200+ rep on any other site**
- 27% commitment score, based on committers' activity on all other sites and how old the commitment is

proposed by

Franck Demoncourt
113k • 92 • 567 • 1646

11 months ago

Area 51 - Science

Open Science

29 committed

Commit! Share This

flag

There was a previous attempt that did not make it and moved to open-science.uni-bielefeld.de - what would be the advantage of a new attempt here?

-1 votes 0 answers

1d ago konrad 51

Q&A (SE) vs Forum (Discourse)

Interview to Jeff Atwood, co-founder of both StackExchange and Discourse

<https://interviews.slashdot.org/story/15/11/30/1736215/interviews-stack-overflow-co-founder-jeff-atwood-answers-your-questions>

Atwood: Sorting a conversation by votes is a pretty effective way to destroy conversation. How can you follow the logical flow of back and forth, chronological dialog when the ground is constantly shifting underneath you as posts get voted up or down? You can't.

Stack is a system of technical Q&A, where opinions are fascinating, and all, but they are completely trumped by facts, data, and science. Stack only tolerates the minimum amount of discussion necessary to get the best questions and the best answers. The goal isn't for people to talk to each other, the goal is for people to *answer the damn question*. Ideally with the aforementioned facts, data, and science, so our peers can objectively decide if the answer is correct and works.

Discourse, on the other hand, is explicitly a system of discussion and opinion. There is no right and wrong. You can't tell me my opinion that Wolverine is the coolest X-Man is wrong. Long after people have forgotten what exactly was said, they will remember how you made them feel. That's what the like (heart) action is about, and why it is featured so prominently: empathy. Discourse is a system of empathy.

RootTalk (a Forum, not a Q&A) is moving to Discourse

Summary and outlook

- Looked into the idea of a common Q&A for HEP computing
 - Very positive feedback from some experiments/projects
 - But other solutions exist or are planned (e.g. Discourse for RootTalk)
 - Concerns about fragmentation and support load
- A StackExchange site seems out of the question
 - Need too much exclusive commitment from the community
 - Need enough high-reputation “committers” (inside or outside HEP)
- A self-hosted site may be a better option if people need it
 - Lower the stakes and consider this as one more tool, not THE tool
 - But, for the moment, nothing is planned... **That's all, Folks!**