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Boosting your IT infrastructure with SWAN

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Since mid 2016 CERN offers to scientists a service for interactive web based data analysis: once logged in, a scientist can start analysing data without the need of any setup nor configuration.

Prominent features of the service are the availability of a complete scientific software ecosystem, the possibility to synchronise the user space from the cloud to any device and vice versa and the tight integration with other widely adopted IT services such as mass and synchronised storage, batch system, software distribution vectors

In this contribution we review the usage patterns of the SWAN service adopted by CERN scientists and engineers coming from different backgrounds such as beam and high energy particle physics, accelerator technologies or IT. Concrete examples will be shown and discussed. Lessons learned and solutions adopted based on users' feedback are then discussed with the goal of highlighting what features of a SWAN-like service are most desirable in a big research laboratory.

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