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The GridKa Tape System: status and outlook

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Tape storage is still a cost effective way to keep large amounts of data over a long period of time. It is expected that this will continue in the future. The GridKa tape environment is a complex system of many hardware components and software layers. Configuring this system for optimal performance for all use cases is a non-trivial task and requires a lot of experience. We present the current status of the GridKa tape environment, report on recent upgrades and improvements and plans to further develop and enhance the system, especially with regard to the future requirements of the HEP experiments to their large data centers. The short-term planning mainly includes the transition from TSM to HPSS as the backend and the effects on the connection of dCache and xrootd. Recent changes of the vendor situation of certain tape technologies require a precise analysis of the impact and eventual adaptation of the mid-term planning, in particular with respect to scalability challenge that comes with HL-LHC at the horizon.

Author: Dr RESSMANN, Doris (KIT)

Co-authors: Mr LOBONTU, Dorin (Karlsruhe Institut of Technology); BEITZINGER, Martin (Karlsruher Institut for Technology); SCHAEFER, Karin (Karlsruher Institut for Technology); HEISS, Andreas (KIT - Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (DE)); PETZOLD, Andreas (KIT - Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (DE))

Presenter: Dr RESSMANN, Doris (KIT)

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