

# Improving Quattor's Accessibility

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# Introduction

- This presentation is a follow-up for Cal's presentation in London
  - <https://trac.lal.in2p3.fr/QWG/wiki/Meetings/20090311#ImprovingQuattorsAccessibility-C.Loomis>
  - First 2 slides copied from it...
- This presentations contains a few proposals to address some of these issues

# Quattor's Learning Curve

- Quattor has a steep and difficult learning curve both for users and for developers.
- Some of this is linked to the comprehensive and complete nature of the quattor toolkit.
- But, much is linked to:
  - Inadequate documentation.
  - Lack of consistency.
  - Treating quattor as an all or nothing affair.
  - Organic development.
  - Evolutionary leftovers.

# Inconsistent Branding

- Although it is called the “Quattor” toolkit, the name “quattor” is very seldom seen in the individual tools.
  - ccm-fetch, aii-shellfe, panc, ...
  - ncm-cdispd, ncm-ncd, ncm-query...
  - EDG::WP4::CCM::, CAF::, LC::
  - /etc/ccm.conf, /etc/ncm-cdispd.conf, ...
  - NCM components
- Do the acronyms—CCM, AII, NCM, etc.—really serve any useful purpose now?
- This complexity is an unnecessary barrier for both users and developers.

# Rewording Proposals

- Rename *NCM components* into *Quattor Configuration Modules*
  - NCM is meaningless for people outside the community and possibly some inside...
  - Realized when writing QUEST proposal: component is very confusing as it has also a very generic meaning
  - No change to component name: too disruptive
- Rename *Dummy WN* into *profile cloning*
  - Dummy WN is really awkward: very difficult to figure out what it is about, even for an expert...
  - *Exact node* renamed *reference node*
    - Already done (partly) in QWG wiki
  - Other proposals welcome but we need to agree asap and update documentation and variables
- CDB: both a component in Quattor architecture and one of its implementation
  - Suggestions welcome

# Commands

- Work done by David to implement a *quattor* command on managed machines
  - Do we adopt it?
  - Currently a wrapper: is it enough?
  - If we agree, distribute it as part of the core toolkit and reference it in the documentation
- AII: *aII-shellfe* is difficult to remember for newbies
  - Any suggestion?

# What's Left?

- Cal mentionned a lot of other issues, more internal and more related to internal developments
  - APIs: multiple APIs for the same thing, generally new ones and legacy ones
  - Lack of coding practices (except for Perl) and of tools to enforce them
  - Missing bits: panc editor/debugger, NCM component debugger
- One reason for QUEST is to address them
  - Require a significant and focused effort, difficult to do in spare time on a best-effort basis
  - Proposal is to delay any significant work on these until we know if QUEST is funded or not
  - If not, we'll have to address them in the future anyway...
    - But we **really** hope we'll get funded!