

Some feedback on AliEn

Renaud Vernet
Consorzio COMETA (Catania)

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My latest analyses

- I launched jobs on AliEn for
 - *resonance analysis*
 - 500k PDC06 pp mbias events
 - *validation of Correction Framework current structure*
 - 160 PDC07 HIJING events
 - 100k PDC07 pp mbias events
- Everything ran smoothly
 - *usually the waiting time before job runs was small*
- ⇒ got an overall job efficiency close to 100%
- ⇒ no problem to relate about AliEn efficiency itself

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but...

A few impressions

- rather-objective thoughts :
 - *once a user has set up everything correctly, the benefits from using AliEn are considerable*
 - *A. Peters' AliEn User Guide quite detailed and useful*
 - *savannah bug submission system is efficient*

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- rather-objective thoughts :
 - *once a user has set up everything correctly, the benefits from using AliEn are considerable*
 - *A. Peters' AliEn User Guide quite detailed and useful*
 - *savannah bug submission system is efficient*
- But the main problem remains the many operations to perform before having a working environment
 - *read the User Guide (!)*
 - *get the certificate, extract pem's, setup ~/.globus*
 - *install the AliEn client*
 - *setup the environment variables*
 - *compile root with AliEn support*
 - *recompile gapi and xrootd*
 - *./tmp/gclient_env_\$UID for connecting from (ali)root*
 - *etc.....*

A few impressions

⇒ one of these steps may not be understood/done in the right way and cause problems... and the user may give up before completing the procedure!



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- However, most of the common problems can be solved
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About user difficulties

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 - *reading savannah's bug digest*
 - *submitting a bug*
- Specific problems *-often due to distribution issues-* should be submitted to savannah
- So, what new information does this presentation bring ?
 - ↘ well, maybe not much...

Conclusion

my own experience is rather positive
I have been using AliEn rather intensively for ~1 year
the very first steps were painful though...

- perseverance is required ! -