

# Overleaf @CERN

## Usecase: CLIC

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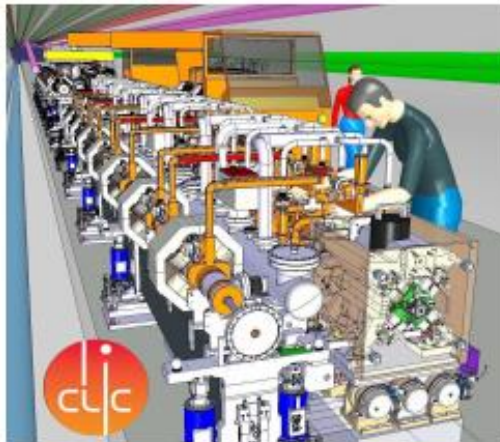
03.07.2019

## **First some words about me:**

- I work (mostly) for CLIC on the CLIC module
- Background is engineering and material science
- I used LaTeX first for my PhD in 2010 (MikTeX and JabRef) so I thought I was a pretty ok LaTeX user...

SLAC-R-985  
KEK Report 2012-1  
PSI-12-01  
JAI-2012-001  
CERN-2012-007  
12 October 2012

ORGANISATION EUROPÉENNE POUR LA RECHERCHE NUCLÉAIRE  
**CERN** EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH



A MULTI-TeV LINEAR COLLIDER  
BASED ON CLIC TECHNOLOGY

CLIC CONCEPTUAL DESIGN REPORT

GENEVA  
2012

## CLIC Conceptual Design Report 2012:

- Approx. 800 pages + 600 References
- Editorial team of 3
- Local MikTeX installations
- Versioning with CERN's SVN
- References offline with JabRef
- Approx. 80 "contributions" of which 40 Word...
  
- Editing time until final version 4-6 months

### Bad experience:

- Collaborative editing (SVN caused problems)
- References: had to do some major work
- Local installations needed some harmonisation in terms of setup
- Simply inefficient: sending around files via email...

## **Then I grew older and wiser...**

- One of my PhD students used Overleaf for an article and I got curious...
- Clicked around Overleaf and really liked it -> very positive first contact, but though this was quite limited (remembering how much LaTeX gymnastics I was doing during my PhD in 2010)
- Did not have a case where I could really give this a try...

CERN-2018-010-M  
20 December 2018

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THE COMPACT LINEAR COLLIDER (CLIC)  
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

GENEVA  
2018

## CLIC Project Implementation Plan 2018:

- Approx. 280 pages + 400 References
- Editorial team of 2,5
- Overleaf V1
- Git pull for references and offline with JabRef
- Approx. 10 "contributions" of which 3 Word...
- Chapter Responsibles collected material and some provided us Overleaf projects of their chapters
  
- Editing time until final version 2 months

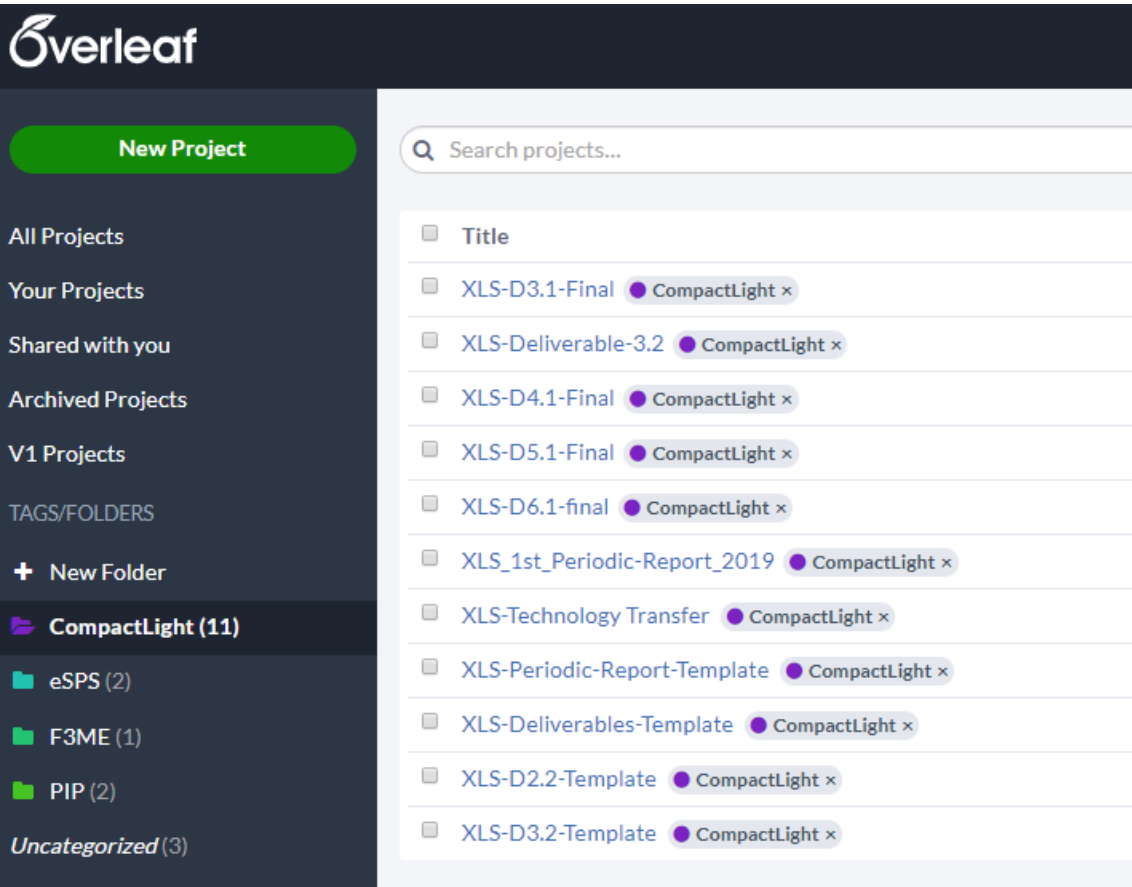
## Bad experience:

- References: did NOT provide a proper template, so people made bibitems...
- Sometimes the git interaction produced some unexpected errors...
- For full compilations (with new .aux files) timeout...

## **Then I grew even older and (a tiny bit) wiser...**

- After CLIC PIP exploring some possibilities for enhancing workflow with Overleaf V2. Specifically: references
- Discovered Mendeley and Zotero implementation and made some trials and comparisons
- At the same time explored some templates from the CLICdp group which have very advanced use of LaTeX (preconfigured virtual machines and quite neat and powerfull templates regularly updated)

... This is where I realized that I am still a LaTeX rookie compared to the CLICdp guys



## CompactLight Project:

- 25 partner institution worldwide in project with approx 120 persons total
- Currently 6 deliverables (30-100 pages each) with 5 written in Overleaf
- Editorial team of 0.5
- Overleaf V2 + Mendeley
- Mendeley group 17 members with 420 references
- Final Deliverable end of 2020: full CDR
- Editing time until final version: in parallel

## **Positive experience (Overleaf&Mendeley combo)**

- After having provided very nice, neat and simple Overleaf template projects for the individual work packages the community recieved really well the workflow
- Mendeley database is already now very impressive and a lot of people contributed
- The hope is that all the prework we are doing for the deliverables is paying off when writing the CDR
- Workflow entirely nullifies local files and versioning problems!



## Negative experience (Overleaf&Mendeley combo)

- Importing .bib file from Mendeley changes reference keys!
  - Known issue and work around found from 2014
  - <https://tex.stackexchange.com/questions/473516/citation-key-changes-when-syncing-mendeley-with-overleaf>
- Only the person who linked the .bib file to the corresponding Mendeley group can refresh (manually!)
- Sometimes people put entries manually into Mendeley and make copy paste mistakes...
  - Imported an open bracked into the overleaf .bib file and that broke all Deliverables 4 days prior to submission deadline
  - I would love to see a (simple) sanity check in Overleaf when synching from Mendeley
- Project ownership cannot be transfered... annoying

## **Upcoming projects for me:**

- More deliverables for CompactLight (2019 and 2020)
- CDR Compact light (2020)
- CDR eSPS (end of 2019)

**Thanks for listening and Thanks for Overleaf!**

... If I had known "Overleaf" 10 years ago I would have had much less sleepless nights during my PhD