



HTCondor Week 2021 Review to WLCG Grid Deployment Board

Mark Coatsworth
Center for High Throughput Computing
Department of Computer Sciences
University of Wisconsin-Madison
coatsworth@cs.wisc.edu



HTCondor Week



- Annual users group meeting brings the HTCondor community together
 - 22nd edition this year
- Typical year
 - 3.5 days
 - ~100 in-person attendees
 - ~55 presentations
- Held annually in Madison, WI each spring

HTCondor Week 2021



- Not a typical year!
- 2020: First online-only HTCondor Week
 - No precedent or understanding of how to run an online meeting
 - Poor familiarity with technology
- 2021: Second online-only HTCondor Week
 - Lots of precedent for how to run an online meeting
 - European HTCondor Autumn Workshop was really well run, gave us lots of good ideas
 - Technology improvements, familiarity



Attendees

- 387 registered participants
 - ~250 people actually showed up
- 31 different countries from North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Oceania
 - Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States



Affiliations

- 129+ different affiliations
- Affiliations by type approximations
 - Research / Academic / Universities: ~82
 - Government Labs / Agencies: ~27
 - Industry: ~17
 - Non-Profit: ~3



Agenda

- May 24-27, 2021
- 32 contributions by 34 different speakers over 4 days
- Timetable divided into 8 sessions, each ~1.5hrs long
- Detailed schedule: <https://agenda.hep.wisc.edu/event/1579/>



Agenda: HTCondor 9.0

- Major focus was our new HTCondor 9.0 release. Several talks:
 - What's New? What's Improved? (Todd Tannenbaum)
 - Introducing the HTCondor 9.0 Series for Users (Christina Koch)
 - Introducing the HTCondor 9.0 Series for Admins (Greg Thain)
 - Security in HTCondor 9.0 (Brian Bockelman)
 - Upgrading to HTCondor 9.0 (Todd Miller)



Agenda: User and Science Talks

- We're always interested in hearing how people are using HTCondor
- User talks from CMS, LIGO, IceCube, USGS, Google, Raytheon, Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, IHEP, Pegasus, UConn, George Washington University, University of Pittsburgh, University of Bonn
- Campus science talks from UW-Madison scientists working in genetics, animal sciences, behavioral sciences and chemistry



Agenda: Office Hours

- Office hours are a great way to interact with people
- Four different rooms:
 - General Questions and Getting Started
 - User-Focused Topics (submitting jobs, file transfer, DAGMan, etc.)
 - Admin-Focused Topics (installing, configuration, monitoring, etc.)
 - dHTC Technologies (HTCondor-CE, WLCG, OSG, etc.)



Agenda: Other

- Campus facilitation and improving HTC access for campus research
- Our new CHTC YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd1UBXmZlgB4p85t2tu-gLw>
- Workflows (Pegasus, Python, Dropbox)
- ~~Panel~~ Town hall discussions on GPUs, Authorization/Identity



Technical Considerations

- Online Facilities
 - Switched to Zoom this year, worked smoothly
 - Questions via "raise hand" and chat, no shared document
 - Recorded all talks and posted on Indico site same day
 - Some unregistered people attended; we disabled microphones and cameras to prevent Zoom bombs
 - Simple, under-engineered approach
- Pro: more attendees from around the world
- Con: lack of face to face networking, coffee break discussions, social activities

Survey Feedback



- Mostly administrators (47% of respondents)
 - Similarly, most (30%) people wanted more admin-focused content
 - Admin-focused office hours room was the busiest
- 36% of respondents still want to attend in-person
 - However people are hesitant to travel long distances when online is an option
- Zoom in the browser caused technical issues
 - Should have tested :(
- Length was just right for an online-only event

Plans for 2022



- Hoping to return to an in-person event
 - Lots of people missing the social aspects
 - Zoom fatigue
- However, online meeting makes us more accessible
 - Much greater reach to people who would otherwise be unable to join
 - Some manner of hybrid delivery will be the expectation going forward
 - By May 2022 we are hopeful that hybrid events will be well established, we won't need to make it up from scratch :)

European HTCondor Workshops



- HTCondor European Workshop will be happening in Autumn 2021
- Hoping to host this meeting in person, but still uncertainties around travel
 - Will likely be an online-only event
- Decision will be taken and communicated this summer
 - To htcondor-users, htcondor-world, hepix-users, etc.
 - Also the HTCondor website: <http://htcondor.org>
- Either way there will be an European HTCondor workshop this autumn!

The End



- Questions?