

## DIRAC Framework for Distributed Computing Systems

Many modern applications need large amounts of computing resources both for calculations and data storage. These resources are typically found in the computing grids but also in commercial clouds and computing clusters. Various user communities have access to different types of resources. The DIRAC project provides a solution for an easy aggregation of heterogeneous computing resources for a given user community. It helps also to organize the work of the users by applying policies regulating the usage of common resources. DIRAC was initially developed for the LHCb Collaboration - large High Energy Physics experiment on the LHC accelerator at CERN, Geneva. The project now offers a generic platform for building distributed computing systems. The design principles, architecture and main characteristics of the DIRAC software will be described and examples of its usage by various user communities will be presented.

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