NAF User Meeting — 2nd December 2010

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We collected feedback before this meeting. Around 40 users contributed, mainly from DESY.

Overall picture:

- the currently available resources, especially CPU in the batch system, could provide good working conditions, when all systems are working properly
- the provided support (ATLAS and NAF) is good
- BUT there are problems

Support, mainly NAF Helpdesk:

- turn around time at naf-helpdesk is felt to be too long
- response from naf-helpdesk often not informative
- reported problems invisible to other users
 - use egroup for problem reporting/notification with open subscription policy
 - document sub system status on a web page

Work Group Server:

- sometimes high load on work group servers due to dq2-get, PROOF Lite, cmt, athena, ...
 - move jobs to the batch where applicable some documentation/tools already provided (dq2-get-naf, qrsh, ...)
 - extend number of ATLAS work group server
- shell response sometimes slow, might be due to network congestion (see above), but not checkable by ATLAS support
- if you see last problem, write tickets to naf-helpdesk@desy.de

AFS:

- the recurring AFS outages since a few months are a major annoyance
 - · login is not possible
 - work on work group server hangs
 - jobs on the batch system die because of unreachable libraries or programs
 - ightarrow it is not possible to finish work in due time and to meet deadlines for meetings and conferences
- external AFS access via the naf_token script is not working for common systems as Ubuntu and MacOSX
- AFS is a requirement to use the naf_token script, but no information provided how to install it on common systems as Ubuntu and MacOSX

Lustre:

- usually the available space it full
 - add more space
 - · deletion of unused files
 - → needs privileges for ATLAS support
- sometimes very slow for metadata access as ls -1, interactive work hardly possible
- read spead at Hamburg site not sufficient for fast turn around → missing Infiniband connection?

dCache:

- DESY-HH_LOCALGROUPDISK is very often congested.
 This is due to a few pools having high load or are above the number of allowed concurrent open connections
 - as files are distributed over all pools, almost every user is affected
 - transfer rate is either low (100 events/s) or stalled