

Notes from the FSP-CMS Computing Team Phone Meeting May 25th, 2011

=====

Participants:

RWTH: Thomas Kress, Andreas Nowack, Oleg, Michael

KA: Günter Quast

UHH: Hartmut Stadie

DESY: Christoph Wissing [Protocol]

Slides and additional information can be found on the following indico page: <http://indico.desy.de/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=4071>

1.) WebDAV access to D-Cache

The D-Cache at RWTH allows read-only access via WebDAV. Oleg presented some technical insides and an overview of clients. (<http://indico.desy.de/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=4438>).

Discussion:

In addition to access via http and https 1.9.12 offers an "globus aware" https including VOMS support. This has not been tested yet, but is rather interesting.

The DESY CMS D-Cache will also be accessible via WebDAV. It will be done after the upgrade from 1.9.10 to 1.9.12, which scheduled for 2nd half of June (exact date to be communicated).

Presently only read access is allowed. Enabling write access would be a nice opportunity to allow easy deletion, which has its issues when done via SRM. It was considered too dangerous for now.

WebDAV access to the German CMS SEs will be announced in the next FSP video meeting, even if DESY still has to do the upgrade. [Not discussed in the meeting: What about SEs in Karlsruhe?]

Could CMSSW read files via WebDAV? One would need to try. Not excluded to work, since ROOT supports file access via http.

2.) FSP Computing projects

=====

"Plot machinery"

During the DPG-Meeting we identified this as good project. In the discussion it became clear that we need to define the relevant set of plots. Christoph and Thomas will collect a set of plots, that were recently shown in "political" meetings (DESY PRC, TAB and/or OB at GridKa). Furthermore we are in favor of implementing this plotting machinery in HappyFace to make sure that it runs in a well maintained frame and the development gets a sustained perspective.

Further projects

The key item for further projects should be along the topics Performance Tuning, Networking and Clouds. Those are the hot topics discussed in the context of

any followup projects of the Terascale Alliance.

At DESY and UniHH the performance studies that were done already last year will continue now with a bit additional person power. Main focus is the systematic testing of real world analysis steps with various storage access protocols, namely xrootd and NFS4.1.

The usage of HappyFace for the NAF will hopefully start with summer students project at DESY. From the D-CMS side some input is required, what are the most relevant monitoring values for the NAF.

A.O.B

=====

Thomas reported that their funding request went not through as smoothly as we had hoped for. Additional discussions are required and purchases are delayed.

Recently RWTH had severe problems with two file servers and some data were lost with the possibility to recover. Both servers were running a more recent kernel and XFS version. Data losses due to problems with XFS are known incidents at DESY as well. Christoph and Andreas want to exchange some technical details. RWTH colleagues are considering to mirror /store/user and perhaps /store/results and /store/group.

Günter reports that Armin Scheuer will move to new challenges in June. We all thank him for his contribution to D-CMS computing and wish him the very best for the future.