

Cloudscaping the Data Center

The Experience of the INFN National Computing Center SLAC, Feb 21, 2012

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Summary slide



VS.





Agenda

Introduction:
 The Context



The INFN Tier-1:
 The Status



(More) Clouds at the horizon:
 The Challenges





About me

- Physics degree from U Bologna in 1990, then for 8 years with INFN
 - Working mostly with networks and network protocols
- At SLAC, from Jan 1999 to Feb 2001
 - SCS Networking
- From 2001 to 2005 in the Netherlands
 - Working for the private and public sector; R&D with networking and distributed computing
- From 2006 with INFN (again)
 - Computing Manager at the INFN Tier-1 from 2006 to 2011
 - Computing Research Director at CNAF from fall 2011





INFN

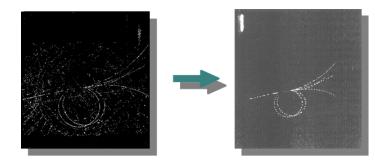
- INFN: Italian National Institute of Nuclear Physics – a research institution with the mission to study the fundamental constituents of matter.
- For more than 60 years (founded in 1951), INFN has been carrying on theoretical and experimental research in the fields of subneuclear, nuclear, astro-particle physics and research and development in related technological areas.
- Today: 19 sites spread all over Italy, 4 national labs (Frascati, Legnaro, Catania, Gran Sasso), and 1 national computing center (CNAF, in Bologna).
- Currently about 2,000 employees, plus approx. 2,450 university researchers and professors, and approx. 1,300 students and research associates.





CNAF then...

- Created in 1962 in Bologna, for the purpose of high-precision digitalization of pictures coming out of bubble chambers
 - Hence the acronym, "Centro
 Nazionale Analisi Fotogrammi".
- One of the first adopters in Italy of the IBM 7090 – for what it was at the time called "large scale scientific applications".







... and now

- 80's-90's: the first definition and implementation of the Italian Internet
 - CNAF becomes the main driver of the new INFN national network, then migrated into GARR, the Italian Academic and Research Network. CNAF hosted the first GARR NOC (moved to Rome in 2001).
- 2000-today: INFN creates and opens its National Computing Center at CNAF to serve scientific experiments and, in particular, those at the LHC.
- In the same years, the Grid architecture is defined and implemented. CNAF attracts a large number of physicists and computing experts working to define computing models and software frameworks.
- Today: approx. 60 people (23 staff)



The INFN Tier-1

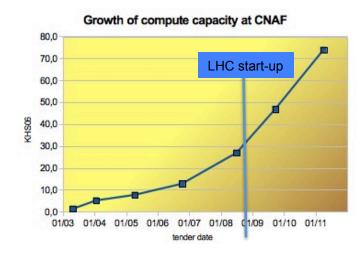
- Called "Tier-1" to emphasize its role in the Worldwide LHC Computing Grid, but it also acts as Tier-0, Tier-2 or Tier-3 for other experiments.
 - The Tier-1 currently supports about 20 scientific international collaborations
 - It is rather young: officially opened in 2005, re-engineered in 2009.
- A 1,000m² computing room, with space for 120 racks and several tape libraries. 5 MVA of electrical power, 6 chillers, 2 power lines, 2 rotary UPS systems + diesel engine.
- More than 1,300 CPU servers, O(10⁴) cores, about 110 KHEP-SPEC06.
- Approx 9 PB of disk space, 10 PB of tape space.
- Connected to CERN and other computing centers with an aggregated networking capacity of about 40 Gbit/s.
- Redundant technological infrastructure for 24x7 operations.

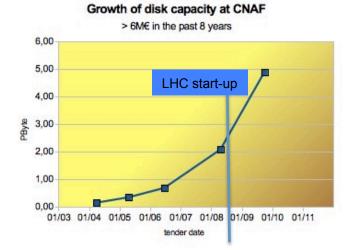


Resources at the INFN Tier-1

- Exponential growth trend in resource acquisition (2011 and 2012 tenders not considered in the plots)
 - Typically one tender per year
- Emphasize resource sharing

CNAF PLAN APRIL 2011						
	2011			2012		
Experiment	CPU	DISK	TAPE	CPU	DISK	TAPE
	HS06	TB-N	ТВ	HS06	TB-N	ТВ
ALICE 22%	22200					
ATLAS 329	22600					
CMS 35%	18300	2400			2860	6630
LHCB 119	9750	525	520	16950	1425	930
Total LHC TIER1	72850	6906	12420	87590	8734	15112
BaBar	2360			1600		
SuperB (dal 2011)	2500			2500		
CDF	7000	300) 15	7000	300	15
LHCB TIER2	5400) () (7200	0	
TOTALE GRUPPO I	17260	700				
AMS2	2457					55
ARGO	800					
AUGER	1200			1200		_
FERMI/GLAST	1400					
MAGIC	450					
PAMELA	600					64
Virgo	7500) 469	348	7500	660	660
TOTALE GRUPPO	4 4 4 4 5		4000		4000	400
 	14407					
All experiments	104517					
All w/ overlap factor	87098	7853	13755	100529	9761	17092
CNAF TOTAL (PLAN)	87098	7853	13755	100529	9761	17092
overlap mitigation				102098	9761	
Effective overlap				1.18		
	04474	4440	F00.4			
CNAF to be procured	21171	1148	5294			
with overlap mitigation	1			15000	1558	



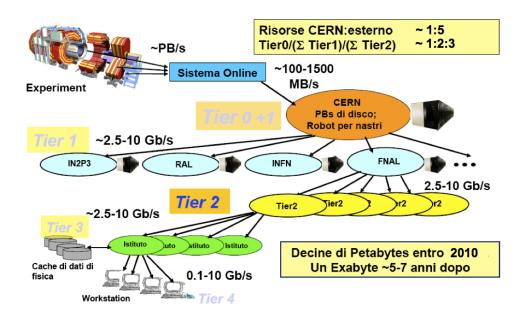


Center - D.Salomoni



Grid-based Processing

- The LHC case:
 originally, a rather
 rigid hierarchical
 architecture See
 the Monarc model,
 circa 2000
- Uniformity of environments translates to simplification – but it is also a hindrance





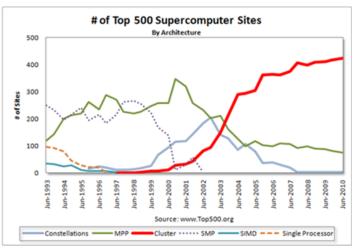
Distributed computing, main historical drivers

- Cost: the cost of a cluster made of many cheap computers can be lower than the cost of a single supercomputer
 - See also energy costs

Reliability: avoid SPoF

 Scalability / expansion: modular architecture









(intermezzo)





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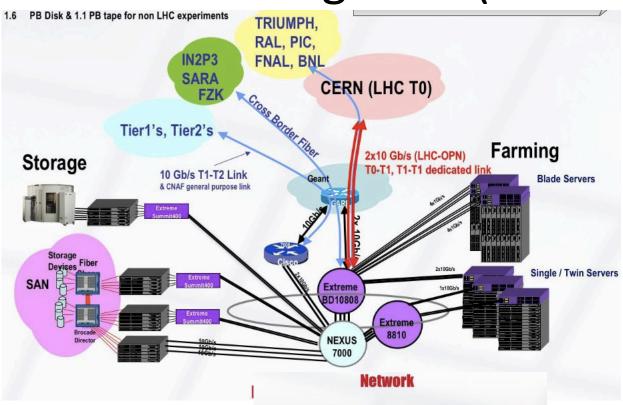


Main roles (relevant here) of CNAF

- CNAF charter: develop, implement, manage equipment / services, conduct technological R&D work serving the mission of INFN
 - Tier-1 director
 - Storage, Network, Farming, Infrastructure services
 - R&D director
 - New services, national/int'l research projects (e.g., IT/EU projects, WLCG R&D, Cloud & virtualization, SuperB, Intel MIC, etc.)
 - User support director
 - User support, outreach
- The R&D and the Tier-1 parts are actually tightly coupled.
 - Explicitly, we don't have nor want (anymore) any "R&D vs. operations" rigid distinction.

The Tier-1 at a glance (Oct 2011)





Farming

- The Tier-1 common cluster computing power is 100,000 HEP-SPEC06 (to be brought to about 125,000 HEP-SPEC06 by 2012) with 10,000 CPU cores.
- About 20 scientific interbational collaborations are using Tier-1 resources.
- More than 50,000 computing jobs are executed every day on the computing farm.
- Virtual Machines are transparently and dynamically provisioned as Virtual computing nodes using the INFN Worker Nodes on Demand Service (WNoDeS)

WAN Connections

Core Route/Switches 4 Core Switches 2 x 10Gb/s T0 (CERN)-T1, T1-T1 200 x 10Gb/s Ports 468x 1Gb/s Ports

1 x 10Gb/s T1-T2, General purpose

1 x 10Gb/s T1-T1 (Karlsruhe, IN2P3, SARA)

Aggregation Switches 78 Switches (1 Rack Unit) 21Blade Switches

4300x 1Gb/s Ports 100 x 100Mb/s Ports

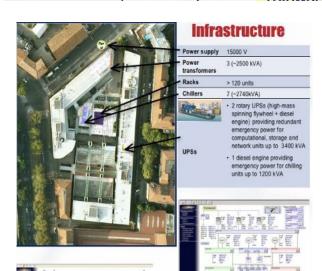
36 x 10Gb/s

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Storage NOW 2012 9 PB disk capacity (SAN) 12 PB disk capacity (SAN) 110 Disk Servers (50% 10Gbit) Disk Servers (50% 10Gbit) 10 Tape TSM-HSM clients Tape TSM-HSM Clients FC Directors (core switches) **FC Directors** 20 FC edge switches (peripheral) FC edge switches 10 PB On-Line Tape Capacity 18 PB On-Line Tape Capacity

GrifFTP StoRM GPFS TSM

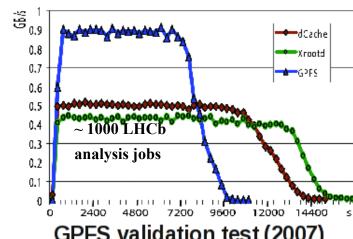
- TSM server (one in stand-by)
- **GPFS** server
- StoRM instance
- **GridFTP Server**
- TB Disk & 620 TB tape for LHCb
- PB Disk & 3.6 PB tape for CMS
- PB Disk & 1 PB tape for ATLAS
- PB Disk & 300 TB tape for ALICE
- PB Disk & 1.1 PB tape for non LHC experiments





Storage: MSS, 2003-2007

- CASTOR was the "traditional" solution for MSS at CNAF for all VO's since 2003
 - CMS has historically been the main CASTOR user (end Q3 2009: ~ 1 PB on tape)
- Large number of issues
 - At the set-up/admin and at the VO level (complexity, scalability, stability, support)
 - Still, successfully used in production, despite with sometimes large operational overhead
- In parallel to production, in 2006 CNAF started to search for a potentially more scalable, performant and robust solution
 - Q1 2007: GPFS (from IBM) adopted for disk-based storage after extensive comparison tests
 - outstanding I/O perf, stability and easiness of mgt
 - Q2 2007: StoRM (developed at INFN) implemented the SRM 2.2 specs
 - Q3-Q4 2007: StoRM/GPFS in production for D1T0 for LHCb and
 - Clear benefits for both experiments (highly reduced load on CASTOR)
 - No major impact on CMS workflows (no large use of D1T0)
- However, we were still looking for a complete MSS solution based on StoRM/GPFS



GPFS validation test (2007)



Storage: MSS, 2007-now

End 2007: a project was started to define a comprehensive gridenabled HSM solution based on StoRM/GPFS/TSM

- StoRM was extended to include the SRM methods required to manage data on tape
- GPFS specific features (available since version 3.2) were combined with TSM (also from IBM) and StoRM
- An interface between GPFS and TSM was implemented (not all needed functionalities were provided out of the box)

Q2 2008: First implementation (D1T1, i.e. w/o user driven recalls) in production for LHCb (CCRC'08)

Q2 2009: "GEMSS" (StoRM/GPFS/TSM) supporting a full HSM solution ready for production at CNAF

Pre-production test-bed built to accommodate the scaling needs of CMS

Q3 2009: CMS@CNAF moved from CASTOR to GEMSS



GEMSS: GPFS/TSM/StoRM integration

- StoRM (developed by INFN) implements SRM 2.2
 - In use at the INFN Tier-1 since 2007 and at other centers for T0D1 service challenges
 - Designed to leverage the advantages of parallel / POSIX file systems in a Grid environment
- We combined the features introduced in GPFS v3.2 (*now running 3.4*) and TSM with StoRM, to provide a transparent grid-enabled HSM solution.
 - The GPFS Information Lifecycle Management (ILM) engine is used to identify candidates files for migration to tape and to trigger the data movement between the disk and tape pools
- An interface between GPFS and TSM (named YAMSS) was implemented to enable tape-ordered recalls
 - For the ALICE experiment, an xrootd plug-in was developed
- GEMSS is now used by all the experiments supported at CNAF
- Future: while TSM licensing does not worry us too much, GPFS does.



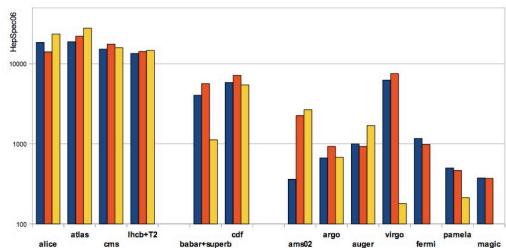
Farming

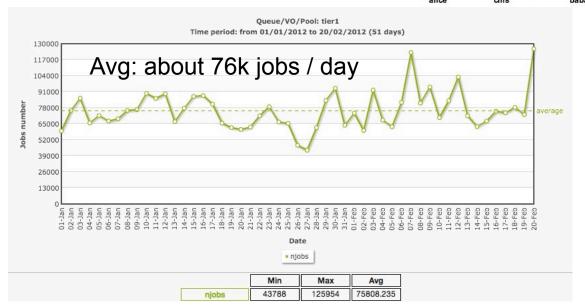
- Currently about 110 KHS06, all servers installed in a single big cluster
 - Heterogeneous hardware (from 8-core to 24-core systems, multiple vendors)
 - Very limited installation (and use) of GPU's
 - Very limited MPI requirements so far
 - Compute nodes are now all redundant wrt power supply
- The LRMS is LSF (7.0.6)
 - Hierarchical fairsharing
 - INFN-wide licenses
 - LSF licenses not playing very well with how we use dynamic virtualization (see later) a similar licensing problem may arise with GPFS
 - Double support channel (local integrators and Platform/IBM)
 - Currently evaluating support for many-core requests (not MPI)
 - There is some growing interest in evaluating alternatives to LSF
- O(60) machines used to support services like squid servers, Grid computing elements, info systems, monitoring, accounting servers
 - Several on (static) VM's

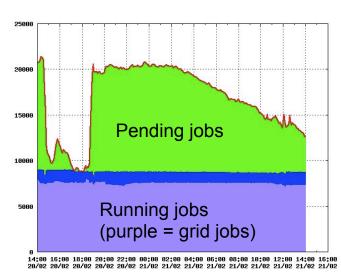


Farming usage

- Fairsharing, example from Jan 1, 2012 to Feb 16, 2012
- Labels: HS06 pledged vs.
 HS06 available (installed) vs.
 HS06 actually used

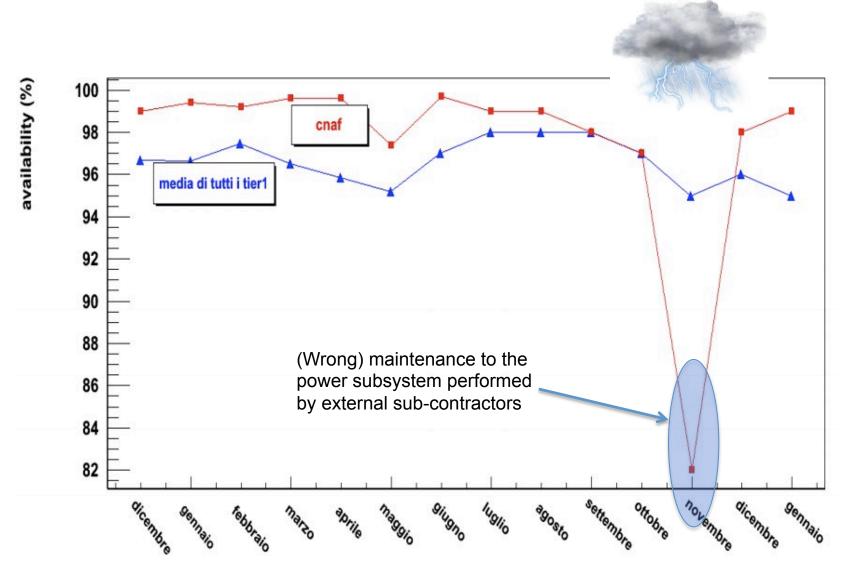








Tier-1 availability, Jan 2011-Jan 2012





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Challenges



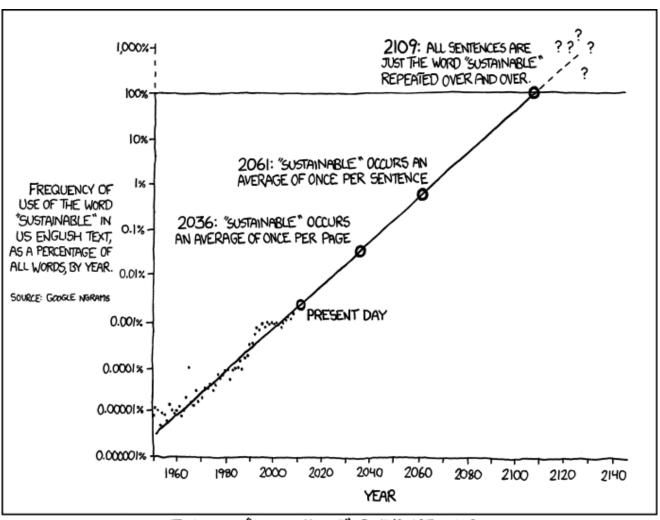


One-size-does-not-fit-all

- A first issue: with several tens of different scientific collaborations, we need to flexibly adapt to their needs
 - The "one middleware, one O/S for everybody" idea just doesn't cut it (anymore)
 - Hence, we have a somewhat detailed R&D program regarding (for example) efficient dynamic virtualization and service provisioning
- More in general, our current main customer (LHC) will stop taking data in a few years
 - This is not to say there won't be the need to continue working on LHC data, but... sustainability and protecting valuable INFN know-how are important issues.



(intermezzo)



THE WORD "SUSTAINABLE" IS UNSUSTAINABLE.

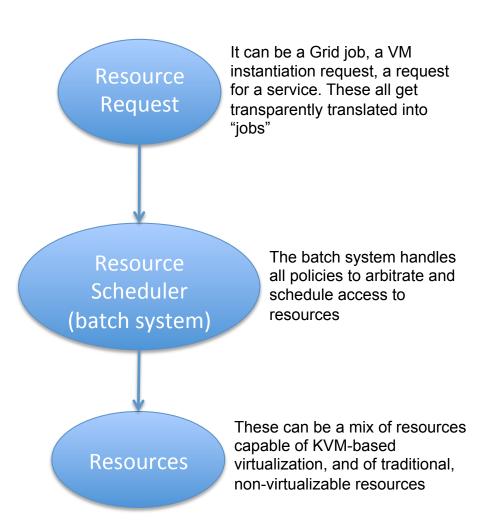


WNoDeS

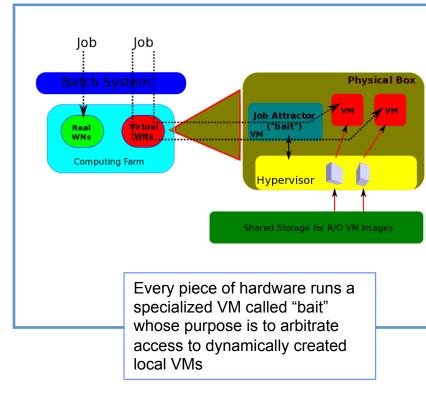
- A software framework created by INFN to integrate Grid and Cloud provisioning
 - Key feature: all resources (presented via Grid, Cloud, or else) are taken from a common pool to avoid static partitioning
- Scalable and reliable it is in production at several Italian centers, including the INFN Tier-1 since November 2009
 - Currently managing about 2,000 on-demand Virtual Machines (VMs) there
- Totally transparent for both users of Grid services and for users of traditional Computing Centers
- Supporting a native Cloud interface
 - OCCI (Open Cloud Computing Interface) compliant
 - A Cloud Web portal
- Integrating authentication, policy and accounting
- Leveraging proven open source software technologies like Linux KVM, Torque/Maui (Platform LSF also supported; SLURM support being considered), EMI gLite middleware
- Easily expandable in Python



WNoDeS, a synthetic architectural overview



General schema to handle a VM/service/job instantiation request





The need for a "bait"

- A bait in WNoDeS is an LSF client sitting inside a VM (one bait VM per physical hardware) used to attract jobs from the LRMS.
- There is no fundamental reason to have the bait process in a VM and not in the hypervisor, except for the following reasons:
 - With the bait, no jobs can ever run on the hypervisor. This may be regarded as (mild) additional security. The hypervisor can have private IP addresses and be inaccessible from the outside.
 - Since LSF uses licenses based on the number of detected cores in a client, if we ran the bait on the hypervisor we'd need N licenses for the hypervisor itself, plus other N licenses for the VM's → an N-core system would eat O(2N) LSF licenses.
- Beta versions of WNoDeS offer the option to run the bait either stand-alone or on the hypervisor (see later why).



Caveats

- Small/medium size VM deployments are not difficult. With O(10³) VM's in production, however, we observed a few possible issues.
 - Every VM (typically, one VM per physical core) becomes a GPFS client for data access. This leads to a very large GPFS cluster, needing special tuning.
 - GPFS is very sensitive to how a VM is shut down. No data is lost, but with very large numbers of VM's, taking down multiple VM's at a time abruptly may slow down the file system.
 - Similarly, every VM becomes an LRMS client. For example, beyond 4,000 LSF client, we had serious issues with job dispatching → solved with proper tuning.
- Solutions (beyond tuning GPFS and LRMS for large clusters):
 - With Cloud computing, there is no need (and actually no desire) to run an LRMS on a VM. WNoDeS only runs an LRMS client on a VM's when this VM has to handle traditional batch jobs. One can also reduce the size of an LRMS cluster e.g. with LSF MultiCluster.
 - WNoDeS VM's may be configured to avoid accessing a shared storage directly. For example, we have now GPFS on the hypervisors only (dramatically reducing the GPFS cluster size); the hypervisor then exports the GPFS file systems via NFS to its own VM's only and effectively is a GPFS/NFS gateway. VM's only need an NFS client. Performance figures are available.



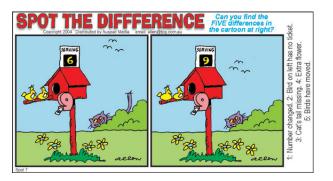
Extending WNoDeS to Grid computing

- The use case is to let Grid jobs request and use VM's and in WNoDeS it is a simple extension of normal VM provisioning. Two possibilities:
 - All jobs belonging to certain Virtual Organizations (VOs) can be directed to pre-packaged VMs. This is completely transparent for users.
 - Grid users can explicitly specify which VM they want their jobs to run on.
 - Using standard EMI (European Middleware Initiative) job management tools.



Introducing Clouds

- The essence of the [Grid definition] can be captured in a simple checklist, according to which a Grid is a system that:
 - coordinates resources that are not subject to centralized control...
 - ... using standard, open, general-purpose protocols and interfaces...
 - ... to deliver nontrivial qualities of service.
 - (I. Foster, What is the Grid? A Three Point Checklist, 2002)
- Cloud Computing is a model for enabling ubiquitous, convenient, on-demand network access to a shared pool of configurable computing resources (e.g., networks, servers, storage, applications, and services) that can be rapidly provisioned and released with minimal management effort or service provider interaction. (NIST Working Definition of Cloud Computing)





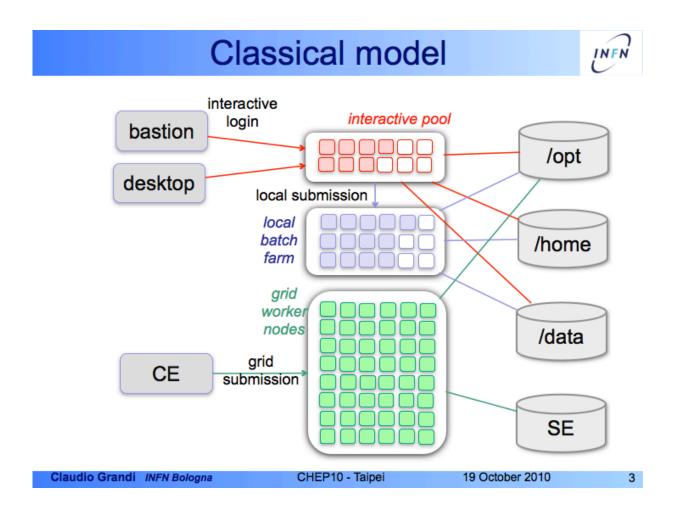
Virtual Interactive Pools (VIP)

- Self-allocation of systems by users of a traditional computing center
 - Systems are provisioned from a common pool of resources so that users can log on to them with their local account (no root access).
 - Users may specify characteristics such as VM image, number of CPUs, amount of RAM, local file systems to be mounted.
 - These systems can be employed by users for instance to create pools of machines for interactive analysis or to instantiate adhoc services.

This is a kind of cloud computing applied to a traditional computing center designed to efficiently offer new services, without incurring the overhead to dedicate resources for this purpose.

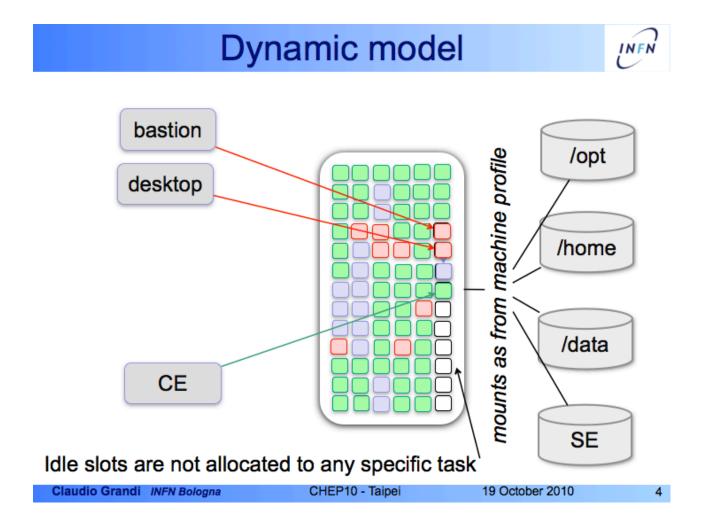


VIP in practice





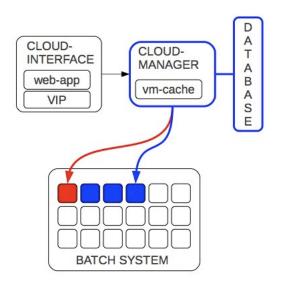
VIP in practice





The WNoDeS Cache Manager

- VIP instantiations are constrained by the scheduling process of the LRMS. While this is normally not an issue for batch jobs, it may well be for interactive requests.
- The WNoDeS Cache Manager pre-allocates a configurable number of VM's so that they can be run straight away.





WNoDeS Cloud support

- Cloud computing can be supported by WNoDeS via:
 - VIP (a "kind of" cloud computing)
 - A Web portal
 - Both VIP and the Web portal can use the cache manager
 - The OCCI (Open Cloud Computing Interface) API
- If desired, VM's can be put into different VLANs (more on this later)



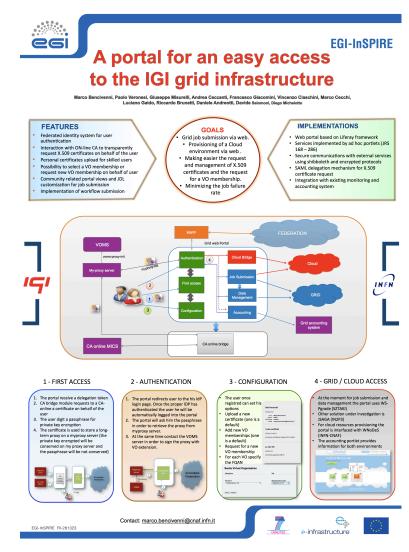
The WNoDeS Cloud Web Portal





Web App Integration

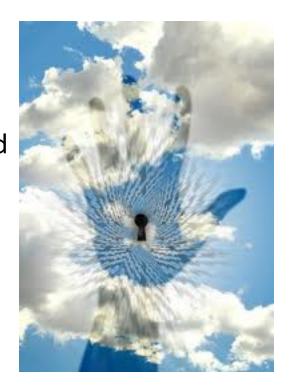
- The WNoDeS Web Portal will be integrated into a general scientific portal
- Work supported by the Italian Grid Initiative (IGI)
 - For which WNoDeS is the reference architecture for Grid/Cloud integration.





Testing Cloud access

- Through the European Grid Infrastructure (EGI) Federated Cloud Working Group
- This is a task force established by EGI (Sep 2011-Mar 2013). Main goal is to write a blueprint document for EGI resource providers that wish to securely federate and share their virtualized environments.
- As part of that goal, the WG deploys a test bed to evaluate the integration of virtualized resources across multiple EGI providers.
- WNoDeS participates to the TF as a Technology Provider, with a test-bed set up at CNAF running on top of PBS





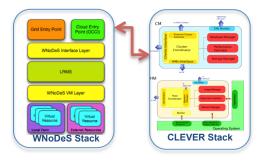
Needs for Cloud computing in WLCG experiments

- See some of the preliminary results of the WLCG Workload Management Technical Evolution Group (WM TEG) at https://twiki.cern.ch/twiki/bin/view/LCG/ WorkloadManagementTechnicalEvolution
- Transparent exploitation of public laaS (Infrastructure as a Service),
 e.g. Amazon EC2 in addition to "private" resources
 - E.g. ATLAS integrated its PanDA framwork into EC2-provisioned appliances.
- Interest in adding an EC2 or OCCI "cloud entry point" to traditional resource centers
 - With "standard" node types across multiple providers
- Authentication, authorization and billing need to be clearly defined
 - E.g. fairsharing should take care of both local, Grid and Cloud instantiations.



Hybrid Clouds

- This is in general the interconnection of Cloud Computing resource centers
 - It seems sensible for us to capitalize on the multi-year experience in interconnecting resources centers via Grid infrastructures.
 - Plan: WNoDeS integration with Virtual Infrastructure Management services and with Cloud Manager services provided by the **CLEVER** research project.
- CLEVER (a project from University of Messina) defines an inter-cloud communication protocol over XMPP (IETF's Extensible Messaging and Presence Protocol) – peer-to-peer, in-band registration, open source.
- The CLEVER-WNoDeS collaboration foresees an integrated architecture and VM scheduling through a scalable resource brokering mechanism derived from EMI's WMS.





The WNoDeS mixed mode

- *In the real world,* resource providers would like to:
 - Support virtualization so that new use cases can be satisfied; but also
 - Run some payloads on physical nodes because virtualization penalties are sometimes not acceptable, or because certain environments are not amenable to be easily virtualized (e.g., GPU's); but also
 - Avoid static partitioning of resources.
- This is (to be) addressed by WNoDeS mixed mode:
 - Let jobs run on an hypervisor, and allow also the creation of VM's on the same hypervisor for other jobs (or for cloud services). Here, the "bait" is actually on the hypervisor.
 - This allows resource providers to start introducing new services without the need to statically set resources aside.

```
[root@wn-205-06-26-01-b ~]#
[root@wn-205-06-26-01-b ~]# wnodes_manager -s "*"
               : wn-205-06-26-01-b;
Bait status
               : ['CLOSED_FULL', "Resource ['CPU'] is less than the MIN value", 1329382706.092396, 0, 0, {'MEM': 2381, 'BANDWIDTH': 600, 'STORAGE': 171, 'CPU': 0}]
      JobStatus JobType
                              vmID VM
                                                                          vmResources
                                                                                                                         TimeSpentToReachLastStatus
3258959 RUN
                   BATCH REAL NoId wn-205-06-26-01-b aleita NoImg
                                                                          [cpu:2480 mem:1 disk:30]
                                                                                                             16/02-09:51 0(sec)
3259217 RUN
                   BATCH_REAL NoId wn-205-06-26-01-b aleita NoImg
                                                                           [cpu:2410 mem:1 disk:30]
                                                                                                             16/02-09:58 0(sec)
                   BATCH_REAL NoId wn-205-06-26-01-b aleita NoImg
                                                                          [cpu:2480 mem:1 disk:30]
                                                                                                             16/02-09:58
3259212 RUN
                   BATCH_REAL NoId wn-205-06-26-01-b aleita NoImg
                                                                          [cpu:2440 mem:1 disk:30]
                                                                                                             16/02-09:58
                                                                                                                         0(sec)
                                                     aleita vwn_sl5_emi [cpu:2440 mem:1 disk:30] NEW
3258960 RUN
                   BATCH
                              2 vwn-02223
                                                                                                             16/02-09:59 520(sec)
3259218 RIIN
                   BATCH
                                                      aleita vwn_sl5_emi [cpu:2450 mem:1 disk:30] NEW
                                    vwn-02225
                                                                                                             16/02-10:03 319(sec)
3259215 RUN
                   BATCH
                                    vwn-02226
                                                      aleita vwn_sl5_emi [cpu:2460 mem:1 disk:30] NEW
                                                                                                             16/02-10:03 323(sec)
3259213 RUN
                                    vwn-02229
                                                      aleita vwn sl5 emi [cpu:2480 mem:1 disk:30] NEW
                                                                                                             16/02-10:04 356(sec)
               : wn-205-06-26-02-b;
               : ['CLOSED_FULL', "Resource ['CPU'] is less than the MIN value", 1329382706.1024261, 0, 0, {'MEM': 2381, 'BANDWIDTH': 600, 'STORAGE': 81, 'CPU': 0}]
Bait status
        JobStatus JobType
                             vmID VM
                                                      Owner vmImage
                                                                          vmResources
                                                                                                                           TimeSpentToReachLastStatus
3258929 RUN
                   BATCH_REAL NoId wn-205-06-26-02-b aleita NoImg
                                                                          [cpu:2450 mem:1 disk:30]
                                                                                                               16/02-09:45 0(sec)
                                                                                                               16/02-09:54 517(sec)
                              33 vwn-00099
                                                      aleita vwn_sl5_emi [cpu:2470 mem:1 disk:30] NEW
3259206 RUN
                   BATCH_REAL NoId wn-205-06-26-02-b aleita NoImg
                                                                           [cnu:2480 mem:1 disk:30]
                                                                                                               16/02-09:58 0(sec)
3259210 RUN
                   BATCH_REAL NoId wn-205-06-26-02-b aleita NoImg
                                                                           [cpu:2410 mem:1 disk:30]
                                                                                                               16/02-09:58 0(sec)
                                                                          [cpu:2440 mem:1 disk:30]
                                                                                                               16/02-09:58 0(sec)
                   BATCH_REAL NoId wn-205-06-26-02-b aleita NoImg
                                                      aleita vwn_sl5_emi [cpu:2470 mem:1 disk:30] REGENERATE 16/02-10:03 312(sec)
                              35 vwn-02224
3259207 RUN
                   BATCH
                                    vwn-02227
                                                      aleita vwn_sl5_emi [cpu:2460 mem:1 disk:30] NEW
                                                                                                               16/02-10:03 332(sec)
                                                      aleita vwn_sl5_emi [cpu:2460 mem:1 disk:30] NEW
                                                                                                              16/02-10:04 350(sec)
```



Job packing

- One of the experiments we support (Auger, a 3000 km² cosmic ray observatory located in Argentina) wants a special configuration, where compute nodes need read-only access to a mysql-based condition database to perform detector simulation from hundreds of compute nodes concurrently.
- Auger run their jobs in WNoDeS-managed VM's, which include the mysql db.
- However, it is more efficient if the db is installed on the hypervisors, rather than on the VM's. A VM would then access the db on its hypervisor.
- But then you would like to minimize the number of physical nodes with Auger VM's.
 - WNoDeS job packing (work just started) allows one to pack jobs (or cloud requests) onto a minimal set of physical resources.
- Can also be used to implement selective power down of idle nodes to save energy (and costs).



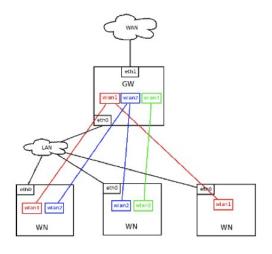
Dynamic Virtual Networks

- When allocating VM's to users for cloud services, one would normally like to do this so that:
 - There is traffic isolation between customers (or groups of them)
 - The system can scale to several thousands of customers
- The WNoDeS DVN (Dynamic Virtual Networks) is a R&D project with the goal to define how to dynamically add, delete and monitor logical networks to VM's with minimal or no reconfiguration of the underlying physical network layer.
 - At CNAF, we have a L2 network topology with about 200 switches, from several vendors. It is totally impractical (and dangerous) to reconfigure the network by hand every time we need to add a Cloud customer.
 - We also do not like having automated reconfiguration procedures (even if it were theoretically possible) of the L2 network.



Setting up DVNs

- A couple of theoretical possibilities: IEEE 802.1ad (802.1 QinQ) and RFC 3069 (private VLANs)
 - Adoption / constraints in the real world?
- We are currently testing a hub-and-spoke overlay topology for DVNs based on the GRE protocol
- DVNs are defined through a Policy Enforcement Service, used to collect/distribute the traffic policies
 - A meta-language that eventually translates into e.g. iptables commands or router ACLs
- The first tests, done with a simple, single Linuxbased central GW show good scaling properties for what regards CPU usage, network throughput
 - Consolidated results will be shown at CHEP (NY, May 2012)





WNoDeS Status

- WNoDeS is licensed under the European Union Public License (EUPL), the first EU Free/Open Source license.
- WNoDeS 1 is in production at several Italian sites. See http://web.infn.it/wnodes or send email to wnodes@lists.infn.it for details.
- WNoDeS 2 (introducing some of the features described here and support for PBS/Torque) will be released as part of the European Middleware Initiative (EMI) EMI-2 release at the end of April 2012.



Future work

- Many thinks related to WNoDeS are still in the works. These include:
 - Service provisioning (rather than simple laaS). At the INFN Tier-1, we have recently been working on cooperation between research and industry for the provisioning of dynamic compute services (with us as resource/technology providers, a relatively new path for INFN)
 - Long-term data access/preservation
 - Certified, site-independent VM images
 - Support of other LRMS or virtualization technologies
 - Cloud storage



Agenda

Introduction:
 The Context

The INFN Tier-1:
 The Status

(More) Cloud.
 The Challenges

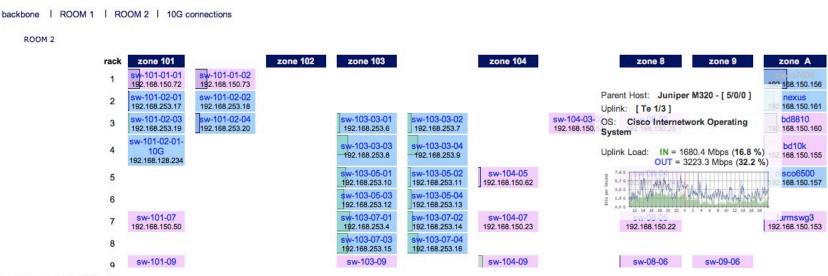




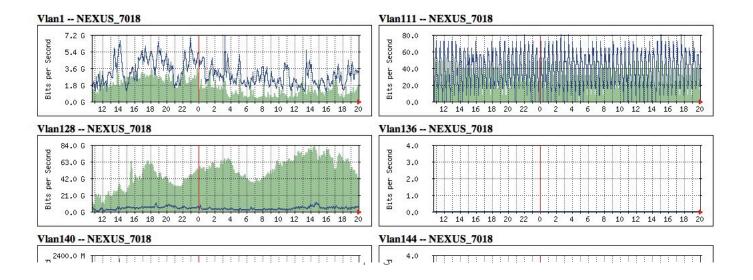
Back-up Slides



Network Monitoring



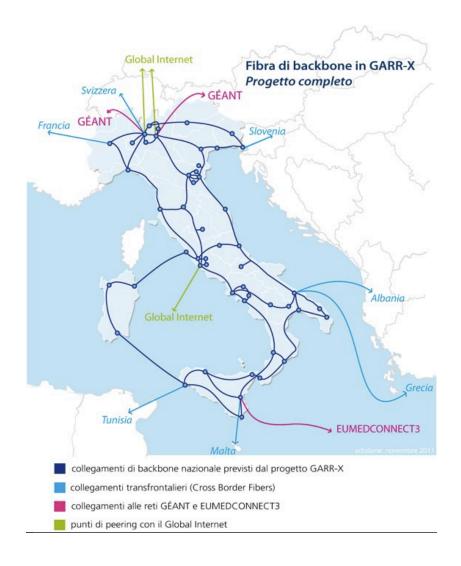
NEXUS 7018





The GARR Network

- GARR-X, the new DWDM-based network fully dedicated to Italian Universities and Research Institutions
 - Entirely managed by the GARR Consortium
 - Backbone being activated in 2012





Some details about storage at CNAF

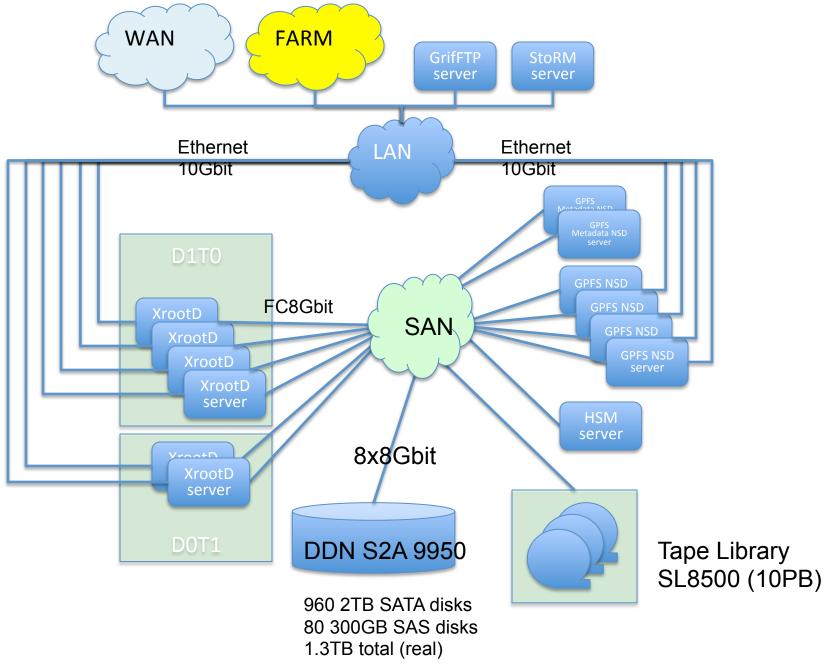
- Mostly using DDN S2A9950 and EMC CX-390, CX-480 (approaching end of life), with Fujitsu equipment to be delivered (2011 tender)
- SATA disks, connected to servers via FC
- GPFS metadata disks on separate SAS disks
- Tape library: Oracle/Sun StorageTek SL8500 with 20 x T10KB drives (1TB tapes), 10 x T10KC to be delivered (5TB tapes)
 - Replace current 1TB with 5TB tapes → from 10 to 50 PB
- For VO's requesting xrootd, n x xrootd servers (e.g. 4 for ALICE) connected at 10 Gbit/s accessing the GPFS file systems.



Alice cluster

- 4 XrootD servers for D1T0, 2 XrootD servers for D0T1
 - 8 core 2.2GHZ
 - 10Gbit ethernet
 - 2x8Gbit FC
 - 24GB RAM
 - All connected to the same (shared) file system (GPFS)
- 4 NSD servers (same as above)
 - Two of them to be converted to XrootD servers
- Storage
 - DDN S2A 9950,
 - 1.3TB net space
 - Two GPFS filesystems
 - 960TB disk-only (D1T0)
 - 385TB cache for tape (D0T1)
- Tape
 - Custom plug-in to interface XrootD with GEMSS (CNAF's MSS) (modified method XrdxFtsOfsFile::open in XrootD library)

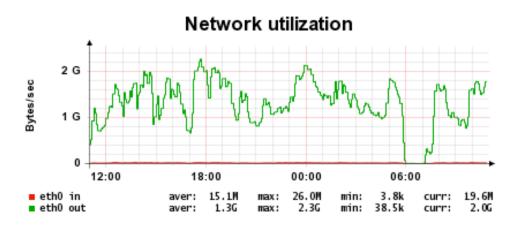


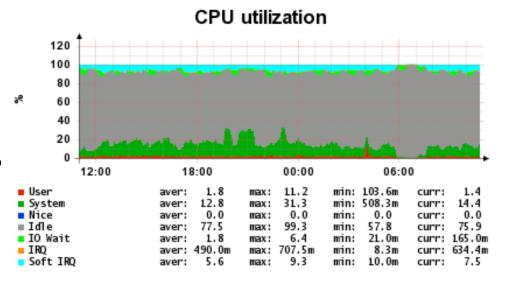




Performance and Some observations

- With 4 XrootD servers we are limited by CPU power (or OS limitations ???)
- Huge number of open files/sockets (2-3K)
- Small blocks I/O while file system's BS=1MB
 - Overhead in network
 (no saturation on 10Gbit while with the same servers we are easily saturating 10Gbit on GPFS NSD)



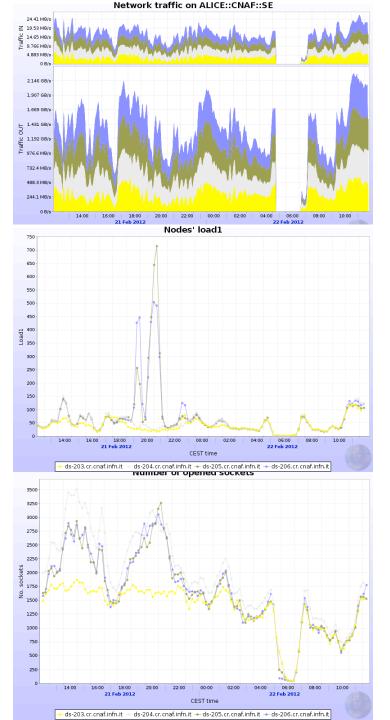


From ALICE monitoring:

Network traffic

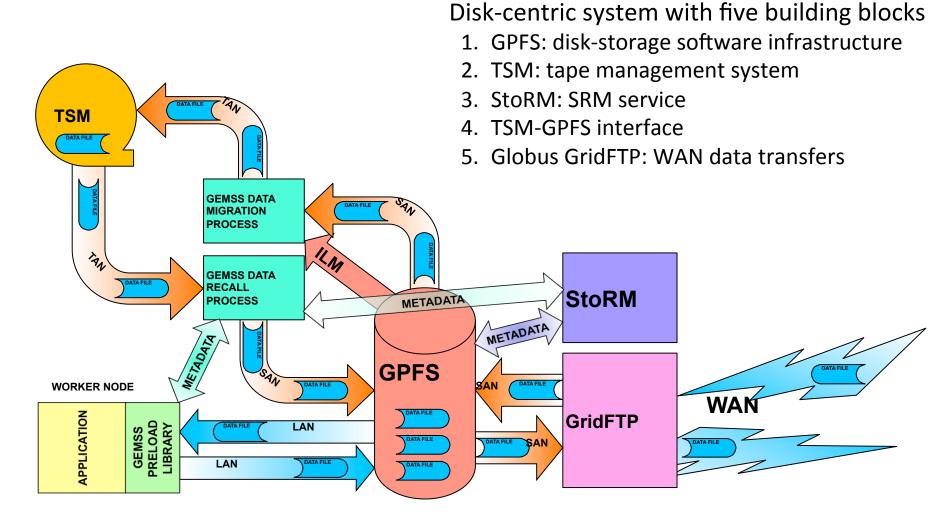
CPU load

Open sockets



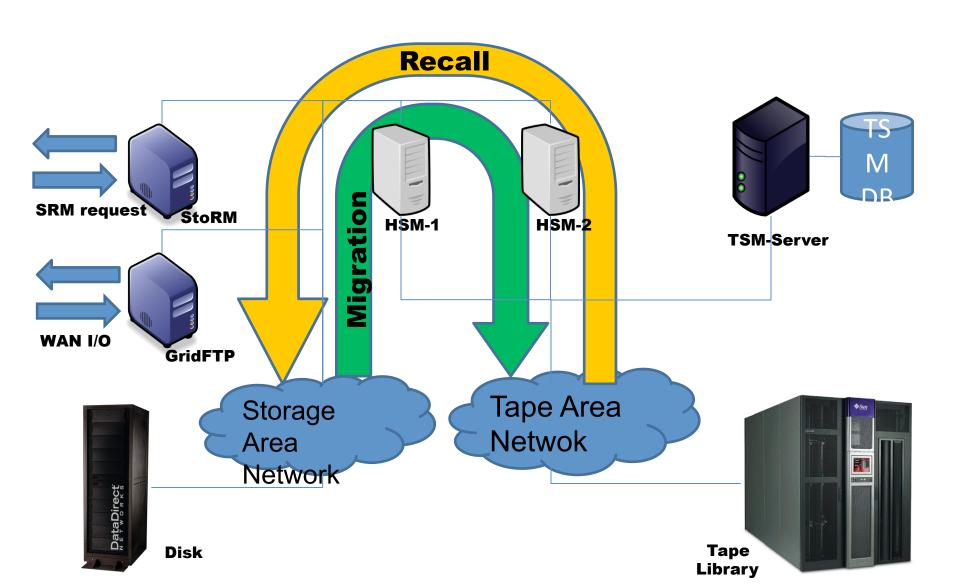


Building blocks of GEMSS system



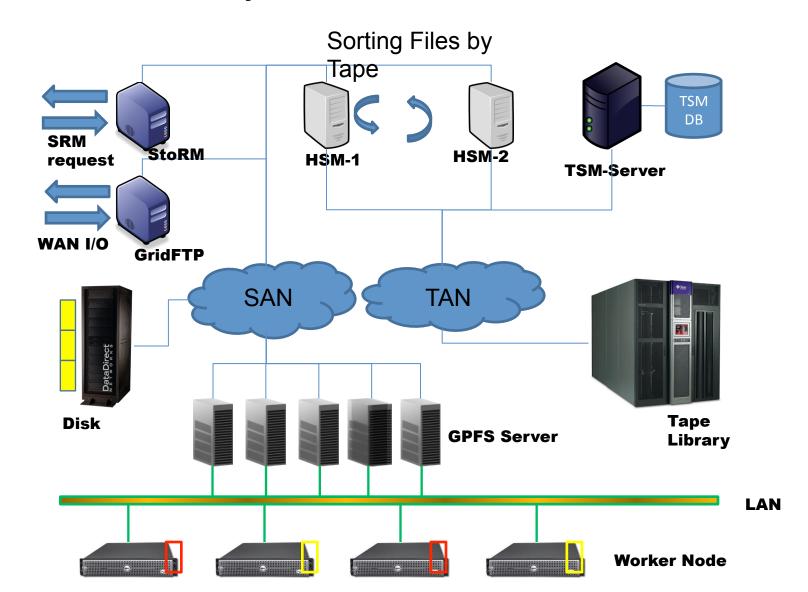


GEMSS layout @INFN-CNAF 1/2





GEMSS layout @INFN-CNAF 2/2



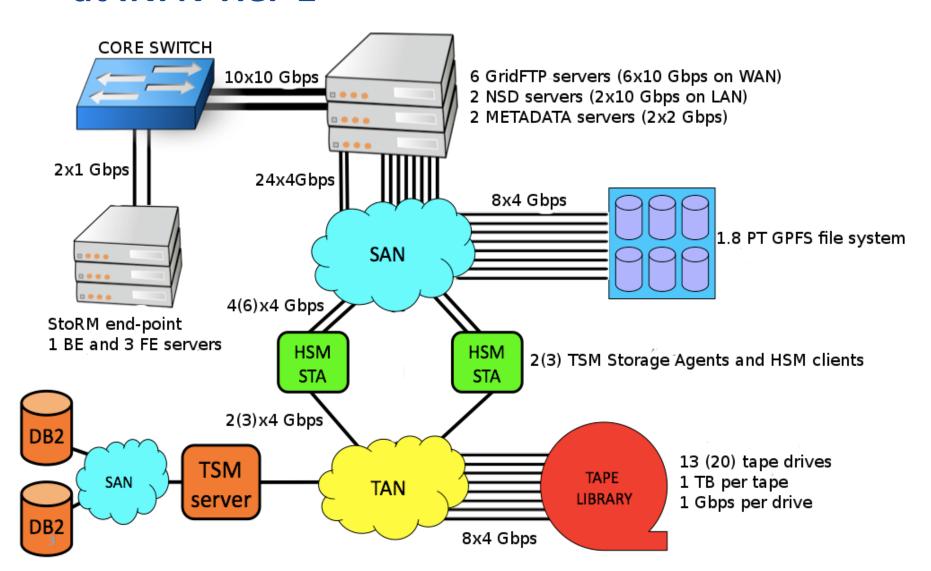


GEMSS HA

- TSM DB is stored in a CX on the SAN
- TSM DB is backed up every 2 hours on a different CX disk and every 12 hours on tape with a persistency of 6 days
- TSM-SERVER have a secondary server in stand-by
 - It's possible to move the DB on the CX directly to the secondary server
 - With a floating IP all client are redirect to the new server
- We have 2 or 3 TSM-HSM clients for VO for failover
- GPFS servers, StoRM FEs and GridFTP servers are in cluster
 - StoRM BE is, by design, a single point of failure (cold spare ready)



GEMSS layout for a typical LHC Experiments at INFN Tier-1

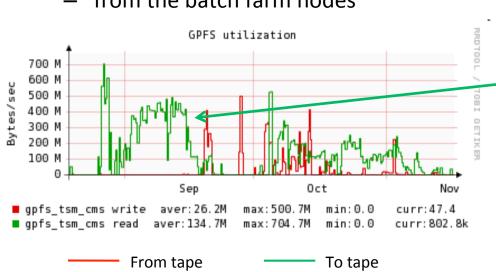


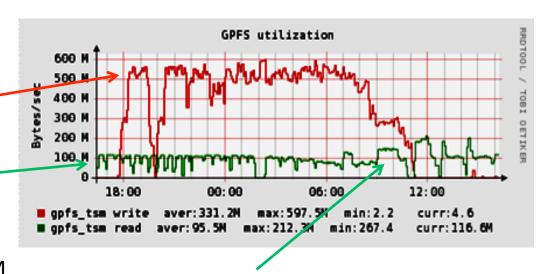


CMS tests for local access to TSM

Summer 2009 tests

- Manual recall from tape
 - 550 MB/s
- Migration to tape
 - 100 MB/s
- Local access to data on TSM
- from the batch farm nodes





higher throughput due to jobs output

Migration of data from Castor to TSM

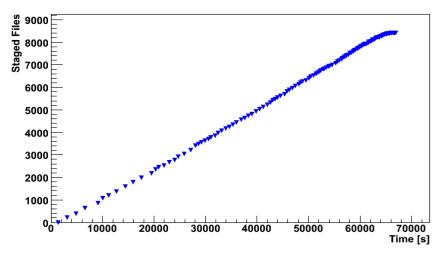
- → ~ 1 PB
- ◆In parallel to production activities



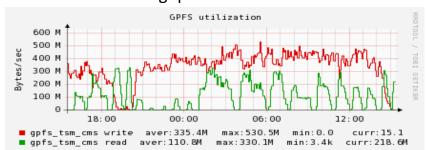
CMS tests of manual recall from tape

- 24 TB (8000 files) randomly spread over 100 tapes recalled in 19 hours
 - Peak measurements done with no overlap with other recalls
 - Quite some other activities running at the same time though (see plot below)
- 400 MB/s average throughput
- Peak at 530 MB/s
 - (using resources as from previous slides)
 - 85% of nominal tape drive throughput

Number of staged files as function of time



Net GPFS disk throughput on the GEMSS data movers

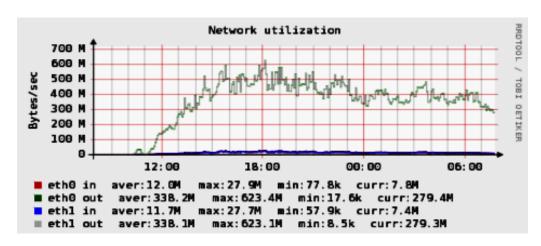




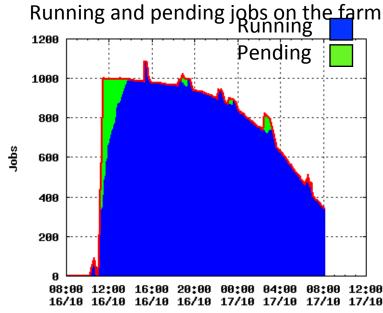
CMS tests on processing from the farm nodes

Using the file protocol Up to 1000 concurrent jobs recalling from tape 1930 files

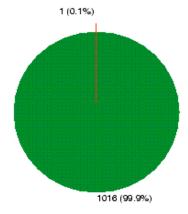
- 100% job success rate
- Up to 1.2 GB/s from the disk pools to the farm nodes



Traffic on one of the two network cards of the GPFS server





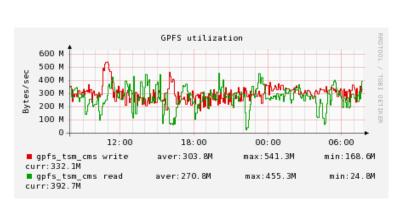




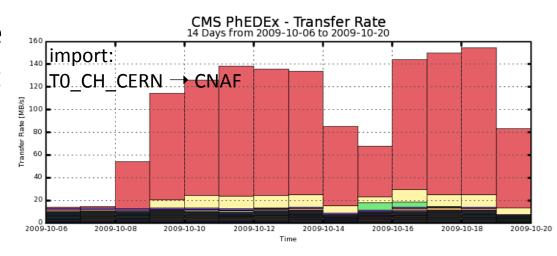
WAN transfer tests

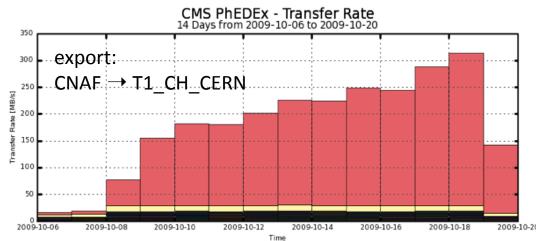
Using the PhEDEx 'LoadTest' infrastructure

- Up to ~160 MB/s import
- Up to ~300 MB/s export
- 80 MB/s background
- during other tests



Traffic on the gridFTP servers







GEMSS in production for CMS

GEMSS went in production for CMS in October 2009

- ♦w/o major changes to the layout
 - only StoRM upgrade, with checksum and authz support being deployed soon

Good-performance achieved in transfer throughput

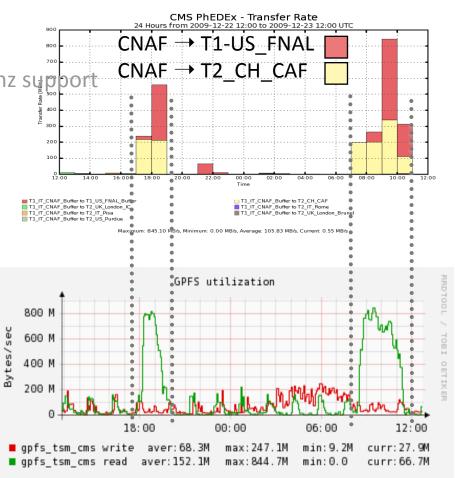
- High use of the available bandwidth
- (up to 8 Gbps)

Verification with Job Robot jobs in different periods shows that CMS workflows efficiency was not impacted by the change of storage system

- "Castor + SL4" vs "TSM + SL4" vs "TSM + SL5"

As from the current experience, CMS gives a very positive feedback on the new system

Very good stability observed so far





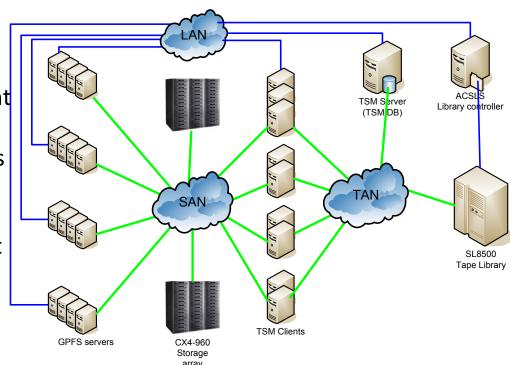
TSM building blocks:

 The Server - provides backup, archive, and space management services to the clients. It uses a database to track information about server storage, clients, client data, policy, schedules

TSM

- The Client Storage Agent enables
 LAN-free FC data movement for client operations
- Hierarchical Storage Management (HSM) - provides space mgt services for workstations.
- TSM for Space Management automatically migrates files that are less frequently used to server storage, freeing space on disk.

In production at CNAF since CCRC'08 for LHCb (D1T1)







GPFS + TSM

GPFS performs file system metadata scans according to ILM policies specified by the administrators

- The metadata scan is very fast (it is not a find) and is used by GPFS to identify the files which need to be migrated to tape
 - Possible to use Extended Attributes

The list of files obtained is passed to an external process which is run on the HSM nodes and it actually performs the migration to TSM

This part in particular is the one implemented at CNAF

Recalls can be done passing a list of files to TSM

This list will be tape-ordered by TSM itself

GPFS and the HSM nodes completely decoupled

possible to shutdown the HSM nodes without interrupting the file system availability

All components of the system have intrinsic redundancy (GPFS failover mechanisms)

- No need to put in place any kind of HA features apart from the unique TSM server with the internal db
 - Backup and failover of TSM db tested



Recent press release with Intel

CASE STUDY

Intel® Xeon® processor 5600 series

Enterprise Server Virtualization



Putting Italy on the cutting edge of scientific computing

Virtualization-based solution developed by INFN-CNAF brings the Grid and Cloud models closer

The Italian National Institute for Nuclear Physics (INFN) operates an organization in Bologna known as CNAF – the National Center for Research and Development in Information and Data-Transmission Technologies. CNAF is responsible for the management and development of the most important information and data transmission services to support INFN's high-energy physics research at a national level. Its research activities are divided into five scientific categories: accelerator physics, astroparticle physics, nuclear physics, theoretical physics and technological development.



CHALLENGES

- Enhance infrastructure: Provide the INFN community with a scalable and flexible solution for high-performance scientific computing
- Guarantee continuity: Deliver operating system support and scientific data availability for long-term data access at sustainable total cost of ownership (TCO)
- Expand the customer base: Offer new and enhanced services

SOLUTIONS

- Integrated framework: Implemented on-demand grid/cloud framework for scientific computing, based on open-standard technologies
- Performance penalties minimized: Physical and virtual environments have fine-tuned hardware and software solutions and efficient access to large-scale storage systems



- World-first: One of the first proven, OS-based implementations to achieve excellent scalability and flexibility in providing shared access to resources and integration between Grids and Clouds – without the need to partition resource pools
- National use: The INFN Worker Nodes on Demands Service* (WNoDeS*) framework is the production solution being offered for Grid and Cloud integration by the Italian Grid Initiative (IGI)

http://www.intel.com/ content/dam/doc/casestudy/virtualizationxeon-5600-infn-cnafstudy.pdf

