

# **Collaborative tools at BNL in the ePIC context**

**Peter Steinberg, BNL, 21 June 2024, ePIC collaboration tools @ BNL**

# Context

- **Since the inception of the EIC experimental program, the photo-collaborations – and now ePIC – needed resources to foster efficient communications and work within the collaboration**
  - Personnel database (phonebook)
  - Email lists
    - *E-groups at CERN (now many moving to discourse)*
  - Authentication/authorization schemes
    - *Analog to e-groups at CERN*
  - Meetings & associated documents
    - *Indico is used widely at CERN, and many other institutions*
  - Document server
    - *CDS used by this at CERN - decades of public (and private) documents available*
  - Document review (including papers, notes, talks, plots...)
    - *CDS also used for this at CERN - now slated to be replaced by new-cds*
    - *In meantime, people planning to use overleaf+github issues (a la ECCE, but not ideal for slides & plots)*
  - Workflow management (definition of papers, reviewers, approvals, drafts, etc.)
    - *Handled in the Glance framework at CERN*
- **The big LHC experiments are fully reliant on all of these services working together**

# What do we have at BNL

- **Phonebook**
  - BNL directory and LDAP not flexible enough, so experiments at BNL utilize versions of Dmitry's phonebook (STAR, sPHENIX, EICUG, ePIC)
- **Email lists**
  - Mailman (since 2000) moving to sympa (more modern)
- **Authorization**
  - Comanage has been discussed for many years, but its used in this ecosystem is evolving
- **Indico**
  - ITD manages the site installation, but many missing features (calendars, videoconferencing, etc.)
  - Authorization the main missing piece (IMHO) to allow groups to define meeting access outside of indico
- **Document server & review**
  - Zenodo instance available for EIC for years - just database
  - InvenioRDM developed for sPHENIX (& ePIC) to add document review features. Used quite heavily by sPHENIX
  - Overleaf licenses available and GitHub widely used
- **Workflow management**
  - No solution, but some exploration and discussion of Glance, which does not seem to be a turnkey product at this point (e.g. CMS requiring large development team)
- **Development of some of these tools has been carried out under Eric Lancon's Program Development funding**
  - "Collaborative Scientific Computing for the Electron-Ion Collider"
  - Leadership of this is transferring to Peter Steinberg (EIC group) and Ofer Rind (SDCC)

# What is today about?

- **Today we have John Lajoie, ePIC spokesperson, to discuss with us his perspectives**
  - What ePIC needs, and associated timescales
  - Options followed so far
  - Opportunities for longer-term development, e.g. at BNL
- **At this meeting, we have invited**
  - Physics department
  - EIC research group
  - SDCC
  - NPSS
- **A great opportunity to get everyone on the same page as we prepare the next steps for the Program Development funded effort!**