

# CHEP 2024 Highlights NPSS/SDCC meeting

Carlos Fernando Gamboa

11/13/2024



@BrookhavenLab



# CHEP 2024 Highlights 2/2

The first series of highlighted talks covered last week in the NPSS meeting included a selection from BNL colleagues attending CHEP2024.

## CHEP24 - selected highlights by JE:

- Overall timetable: <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1338689/timetable/?view=standard>
- Good conference, good logistics, good coffee chats, great city, easy travel from CERN - definitely worth attending!
- Plenary talks Mon-Fri in the morning, 9 parallel tracks Mon-Thu afternoons
- 470 participants, 351 talks & 143 posters
- Plenaries (selected highlights, personal taste):
  - Julia in HEP, Graeme Stewart (CERN), [link](#)
  - Large Language Models in Physics, Sarah Heim (DESY), [link](#)
  - Panel Discussion: Quantum Computing and LLMs. Will they bring disruptive changes to HEP computing? - good discussion - no real disruption expected by panel experts since AI/ML is used in HEP since many years, quantum was hardly discussed
  - Total Cost of Ownership and Evaluation of Google Cloud Resources for the ATLAS Experiment at the LHC, David South (DESY), [link](#)
  - ROOT RNTuple and EOS: The Next Generation of Event Data I/O, Andreas Joachim Peters (CERN), Jakob Blomer (CERN), [link](#)
  - The WLCG Data Challenge, Katy Ellis (RAL, STFC), [link](#)
  - Hardware technology trends in HEP computing, Andrea Sciabà (CERN), [link](#)
    - Bernd Panzer who did these kind of talks for years is about to retire
- Disappointment of the week: 3 Quantum Computing plenary talks that were not particularly good
- Mainly went to parallel Track 1: Data and Metadata Organization, Management and Access
  - Sessions on data challenge topics ([link](#)), tape usage ([link](#)), dCache, Storm, FTS ([link](#)), data management in various experiments ([link](#)), RNTuple and other file storage topics ([link](#)), data caching ([link](#)), databases and filesystems ([link](#))
  - Scitags: A Standardized Framework for Traffic Identification and Network Visibility in Data-Intensive Research Infrastructures, presented by Andy Hanushevsky ([link](#))
  - Data Movement Model for the Vera C. Rubin Observatory, presented by Fabio Hernandez ([link](#))
- Parallel talks, Posters or session summaries by BNL speakers that I found in the agenda (did not attend them all): Scott ([link](#)), Kirby ([link](#)), Fang-Yin ([link](#)), Xin ([link](#)), Sakib ([link](#)), Johannes ([link](#)), Kirby ([link](#)), Marcin ([link](#)), Carlos ([link](#)), Haider ([link](#)), Jacob ([link](#)), David Park ([link](#)), Maxim ([link](#)), Ruslan ([link](#)) - sorry if I overlooked someone
- Reminder: ATLAS internal deadline for proceedings is 13 Dec
- Next CHEP will be 25-29 May 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand

## [Johannes E. document on CHEP 2024 for NPSS meeting 110624](#)

### Selected highlights by Carlos (also mostly attended track 1, my list could be trimmed as needed)

- Related to open data
  - Plenary: The First Release of ATLAS Open Data for Research, Marshall ([link](#))
  - Open Data at ATLAS: Bringing TeV collisions to the World, Guemter ([link](#))
  - Challenges in supporting the Open Data portal, Sak ([link](#))
  - Plenary: Developing a FAIR-Compliant Metadata Schema for Experimental Nuclear Physics, Kozaric ([link](#))
  - Designed for Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research in Europe
- Network
  - SCITAGS, A Standardized Framework for Traffic Identification and Network Visibility in Data-Intensive Research Infrastructures, Hanushevsky ([link](#))
  - Data Movement Manager (DMM) for the SENSE-Rucio Interoperation Prototype, Kozaric, SENSE-Rucio ([link](#))
  - Enhancing XRROOT Load Balancing for High-Throughput transfers, Byrne ([link](#))
- Tape
  - Evolution of the CERN Tape Archive scheduling system, Guenther ([link](#))
  - Challenges of repack in the era of the high-capacity tape cartridge ([link](#))
  - Archive Metadata for efficient data collocation on tape, Leder ([link](#))
- Caches
  - Challenges in supporting the Open Data portal, Sak ([link](#))
  - Data Placement Optimization for ATLAS in a Multi-Tiered Storage System within a Data Center, Ito ([link](#))
  - Poster I found in related topic CHEP24-dCache poster.pdf
  - Enhancing CMS XCache efficiency: A comparative study of Machine Learning techniques and LRU mechanisms, Pepe Flix ([link](#))
- Miscellaneous
  - Plenary: Large Language Models in Physics, Heim ([link](#))
  - Data Movement Model for the Vera C. Rubin Observatory, presented by Fabio Hernandez ([link](#))
  - Selected track summaries: Trac 1 Russian ([link](#)), Trac 8 Giovanni ([link](#))
  - Cache talks
    - dCache on k8s for CERN ([link](#))
    - Project status ([link](#))
    - Monitoring ([link](#))

### Selected highlights by Maxim

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- Julia - GPUs, unroot, qed
- CMS FastSim - ML simulation [Link](#)
- ATLAS Open Data [Link](#)

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- Wouterlipack - complex, comprehensive configuration management [Link](#)
- Australia and Canada cloud for ATLAS and Belle [Link](#)
- DPHEP (C. Diacoma) [Link](#)

10/23

- Metadata (custom) in nuclear physics; DOI
- SOFIE (Moneta), Code generation based on trained ONNX models + more, integration with RDataFrame
- RNTuple and EOS (NB: does GenAI need RNTuple in the analysis module?)

10/24

- Pygeosimply - from "Towards an experiment-independent toolkit for fast calorimeter simulation"; motivated by ATLAS but (asked a question) not ATLAS-specific [Link](#)
- Gaussian, AsymPT - EM particles on GPU (cf. Celestia)
- Efficient ML-Assisted Particle Track Reconstruction Designs (connected to Uraiz)
- EDM4hep [Link](#)

10/25 (Summaries)

- Mention of PanDA for Rubin
- Cold storage considered for Open Data (tape) - gets staged by request
- REANA-Zenodo-Rucio, Interesting
- Julia is trending

### Some other interesting talks (to me at least), in addition to the above lists (Xin)

- Improving CMS CPU Efficiency through Strategic Pilot Overloading ([link](#))
  - overloading pilots to increase CPU utilization efficiency of CMS jobs by 5-20%
  - enabled for CMS jobs on sites since Jan. 2024
- Integrating the Perimeter HPC system into the ALICE Grid ([link](#))
  - ALICE experience of integrating Perimeter HPC into their computing grid
  - Used the new NERSC Superfacility API (SFAP) to manage jobs (instead of direct slurm commands)

## RNTuple related stuff (Marcin)

ROOT plenary presentation (Wednesday)

- Reaching the transition point from Experimental to Adoption phase
  - Liberal - main forward C++ classes leaving the Experimental namespace
  - Soon - ROOT 6.34 release in November, RNTuple on-disk format 1.0
  - Release Candidate out now in SFT nightly (beta)
  - API stabilization in ROOT 6.30 or 2025
- Large scale testing (NUTS CMS data from Analysis Grand Challenge)
  - 39% file size reduction compared to TTree
  - 3 times faster reading (after benchmarks and actual improvements)
  - Scalability: 40 times faster reading using 70 nodes

- Direct I/O for RNTuple (Track 3 Mon)

- Writing directly to the block device (SSD)
  - Tested on Alma 9 (very dependent on kernel version)
  - Reaching up to 2.8 GB/s for uncompressed data and up to 5 GB/s with light compression
  - Reading not much faster

- RNTuple in UnROOT (Track 5 Mon)

- UnROOT: TTree reader in Julia not depending on any ROOT components
  - Not to be confused with UnROOT in Python
  - Tested with ATLAS PROSITTE RNTuple files
  - Can't read streamed objects (not good for CMS)

RNTuple in the experiments - (Track 1 Wed-Thu)

- RNTuple and Athena
  - All file formats supported: ROOT-DAQD (RNTuple can handle the EDM)
  - Full and transparent integration, output streams can use TTree or RNTuple
  - Everything in the production version of Athena
  - Missing Fast (in-memory) Merge for RNTuple (default mode for multi-process DAQD production)
  - Still under development
    - Will do our data challenge too, maybe when Fast Merge is ready
- ATLAS RNTuple Status (Reece)
  - 100% events
  - ~30% file size reduction for PHYS - 40% for PHYSLITE (1% varies by the year of data)
  - Detailed studies showed some branches/files actually went up in size
    - Caused by the new data compression in RNTuple - may need a per-file switch for selective disabling
- RNTuple in CMS

- EDM requirements similar to ATLAS
  - But with 44 cases of polymorphism that turned out hard to eliminate
- Solution from ROOT: unroot (streamed) fields, user-selectable settings
  - Only 6% file size reduction
  - Runtime memory increase 18% (after tweaking in-memory buffer size settings)
  - Write speed ~2.3x faster at 8 threads (TTree falls out at 4 threads)

## Selected Highlights - Sakib

Pre-CHEP Workshop On Training (19-20 October, 2024)  
My talk on [training of the L3](#)

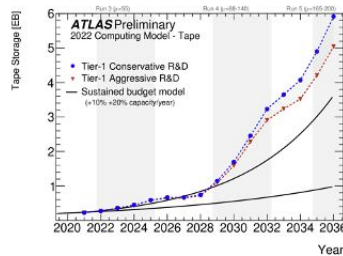
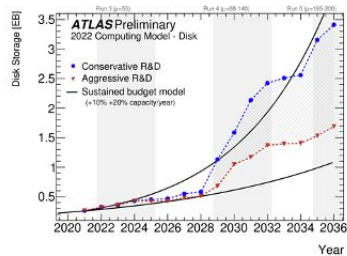
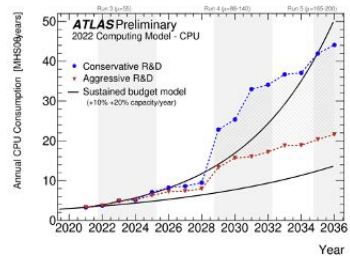
- Introduction to HEP Software Foundation Training
  - Scalable, unified and sustainable framework for training personnel in HEP ([https://trainsat.hsfoundation.org/en/learn/learning.html](#))
  - Software is critical
    - Keep pace with industry
    - Post-graduate training for scientists
- CUHK Data Hub: Advancing Digital Transformation in Germany by Training CUHK Scientists
  - Broader target audience than just NP and HEP
    - Schools
    - Deep Learning Schools: Basic & Advanced Concepts
    - Fast & Efficient Python Programming
  - Train-the-Trainer Workshops
    - Deep Learning Train-the-Trainer Workshop

- Focus beyond just basic training: Software Packaging: How to program in a memory-optimized friendly way, Sustainable Programming, Collaborative software development, Project management (how to structure coding projects)
- Featured events in 2025
  - Publish your own python package workshop
- CEPES: European Virtual Institute for Research Software Excellence
  - Ensure research software curation, quality, preservation and adoption of best practices

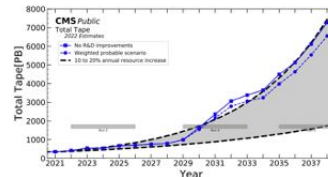
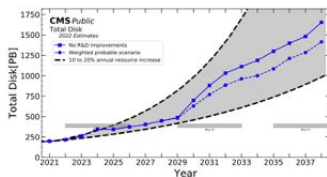
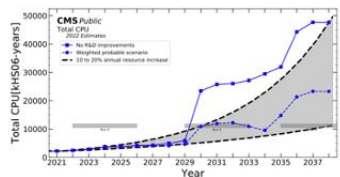
*A selection of highlights will be covered in this short talk*

# Hardware trends: disk, network, compute

## ATLAS and CMS resource needs up to HL-LHC



Sources: [ATLAS](#) and [CMS](#)



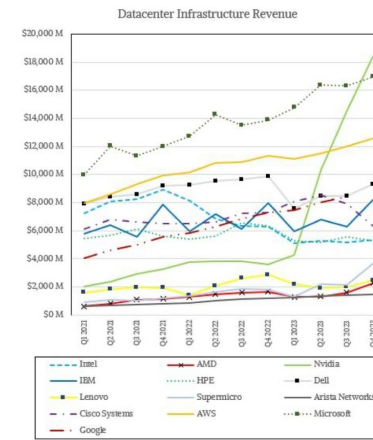
Hardware Technology Trends in HEP Computing - Andrea Sciabà - CHEP 2024

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## 1. [Hardware technology trends in HEP computing, Andrea Sciabà \(CERN\)](#)

### Comparing major players at scale

- Revenues steadily increasing in the last few years, with a few exceptions
  - Intel dropped quite a bit and lost most of its value, future uncertain
  - Nvidia skyrocketed in 2023
- AI is the main driver and Nvidia has a practical monopoly
  - AMD might increase their share, as demand is very high and have competitive products



Source: [The Next Platform](#)

Hardware Technology Trends in HEP Computing - Andrea Sciabà - CHEP 2024

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### Conclusions

- Technology tracking essential to make cost-efficient choices for HEP computing**
  - Done in different contexts in our community
- Many server hardware components are rising in price due to the AI boom**
  - Memory, GPUs, flash, HDD are all affected
- AMD, Arm and Intel show healthy competition**
  - A lot of attention to performance/Watt for many reasons
- Evolution of GPUs is not going in a direction very useful for us**
  - FP32/64 performance not increasing in the short/medium term, to maximize AI performance
- Shipped storage capacity increasingly driven by the global trend**
  - SSDs, HDDs and tape all still relevant and making technological progress
- Network bandwidth correspondingly increasing on LAN and WAN**
  - To cope with increase in cores and storage/server
  - For LHC, driven by HL-LHC data rates
- Sustainability is more important than ever**
  - CO2 emissions, liquid cooling, electricity costs and distribution


Hardware Technology Trends in HEP Computing - Andrea Sciabà - CHEP 2024

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AI driving market and technological trends towards AI like workloads

# What about AI/ML

## Large Language Models in Physics by Sara Heim



### Chatbot-style applications - example chATLAS

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C. Randazzo, LIPS

Goal: a reliable AI assistant across all ATLAS content (including code assistance)

Not started yet

Data gathering

- large volumes, heterogeneous
- using variety of tools, eg. BeautifulSoup, Nougat, Marker

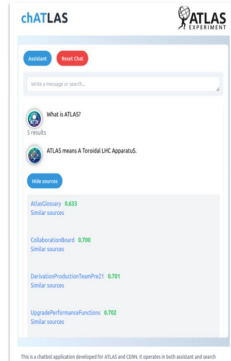
Data processing

- chunking for long text sections
- retrieval through Chroma database, LLM model: GPT 3.5 (Llama 7 in the future on CERN GPUs?), LangChain for RAG

Status and challenges

- beta version available in ATLAS Collaboration
- hallucinations real, fine-tuning is expert-time intensive task

Twiki ATLAS Software Docs E-group Archive Indico Meetings PDF Plots Mattermost Jira ATLAS Codebases Group level Docs CDS Papers & Notes

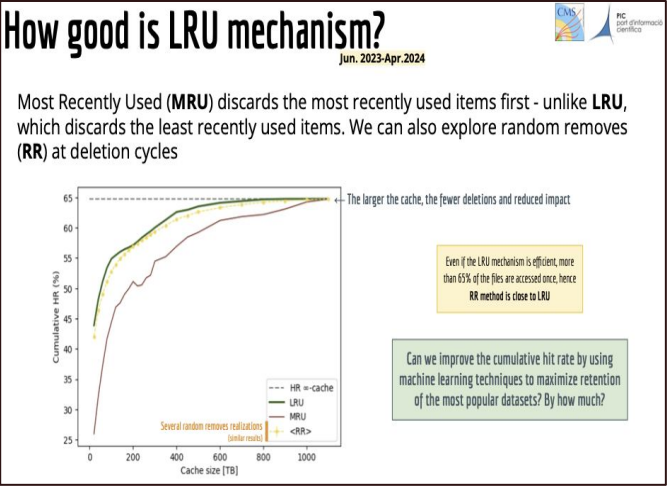


Usage within facilities seems to be in an R&D stage, despite its application in high-energy physics (HEP).

# AI + CACHE studies

Enhancing CMS XCache efficiency: A comparative study of Machine Learning techniques and LRU mechanisms. Pepe Flix SPAIN, CMS

Leverage the use of data caches as part Content Delivery Network



### Applying ML to cache eviction policies

Neural network model (single hidden layer of 8 neurons, ReLU is used as the activation function for the hidden layer, and Sigmoid is used for the output layer), predicting if a file in a given period will be read in the next n-days [Classification model]

Training periods can be decoupled from deletion cycles, but should be long enough to capture relevant data access patterns

Once a period is selected, features from the cached files can be computed (normalized):

filesize	d_label size (files)	d_label size (volume)	Total Accesses	5th last read access	4th last read access	3rd last read access	2nd last read access	last read access	delta1_1 last	recency_1st	d_label_encoded	future_acc
1316048	0.223090	0.751239	0.434330	1	-1.00000	-1.00000	0.209650	0.050880	0.010448	0.198203	0.209650	0.400000
1237877	0.207711	0.751239	0.434330	1	-1.00000	-1.00000	-1.00000	-1.00000	0.102803	-1.00000	0.102803	0.400000
81459	0.116694	0.897340	0.346505	1	-1.00000	-1.00000	-1.00000	-1.00000	0.651558	-1.00000	0.651558	0.366667
1167185	0.011649	0.228332	0.007606	1	-1.00000	-1.00000	-1.00000	-1.00000	0.225011	-1.00000	0.225011	0.200000
1281625	0.223903	0.751239	0.434330	2	-1.00000	-1.00000	-1.00000	0.058849	0.055189	0.003660	0.058849	0.400000

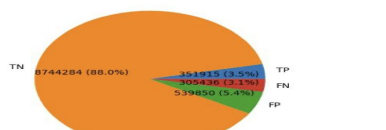
## Data Placement Optimization for ATLAS in a Multi-Tiered Storage System within a Data Center. Q. Huang BNL, US, ATLAS

### Prediction Model and Results(2)

- The optimal accuracy of prediction is up to **92%** and the best F1-Score is **0.47**
- Performance improves with increasing amounts of training data
- The model slightly outperforms the LRU(Least Recently Used) policy
- In ATLAS data management strategies, data transfer often occurs at the dataset level.
  - The model provides Hot and Cold data predictions in **dataset level**

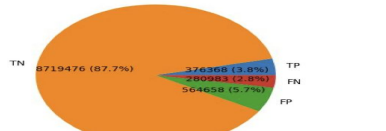
#### Prediction results

	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
Accuracy	0.59	0.78	0.90	0.92
Precision	0.13	0.18	0.36	0.41
Recall	0.94	0.67	0.72	0.54
F1-Score	0.23	0.29	0.48	0.47



8/17-8/23, LRU

Precision: 0.39  
Recall: 0.54  
Specificity: 0.94  
Accuracy: 0.91  
F1-Score: 0.45



8/17-8/23, XGB Model, 1 year training/1 year predictions, DSN

Precision: 0.4  
Recall: 0.57  
Specificity: 0.94  
Accuracy: 0.98  
F1-Score: 0.47



# TAPE

CERN reported on improvements to their TAPE backed

- CTA Scheduler DB implementation, based on relational database technology. [Guenther](#)
- CTA Challenges of tape repack [Afonso](#)

## Tape: Metadata

Leverage the use of metadata to optimize tape access, reads and writes

- Optimize writes to tape by colocating files using dCache extended attributes [DORIN](#), dCache+HPSS
- Archive Metadata for efficient data collocation on tape, [Leduc](#)
  - EOS+CTA

**Cold storage use case**

**Work in progress**

**opendata CERN**

**EOS**

**FTS**

**CERN Tape Archive**

**Experiment Framework**

**Dataset characteristics**

**75482193 events. 28954 files. 151.0 TiB in total.**  
50 files currently available. Request access to the rest

**Options**

1. Download files locally
2. Download file index
3. Request staging

**Dataset characteristics**

HIABPhysics primary dataset in RECO format from the 2.76 TeV Pb-Pb run of 2010 (HIABPhysics/HIRun2010-ZS-v2/RECO)

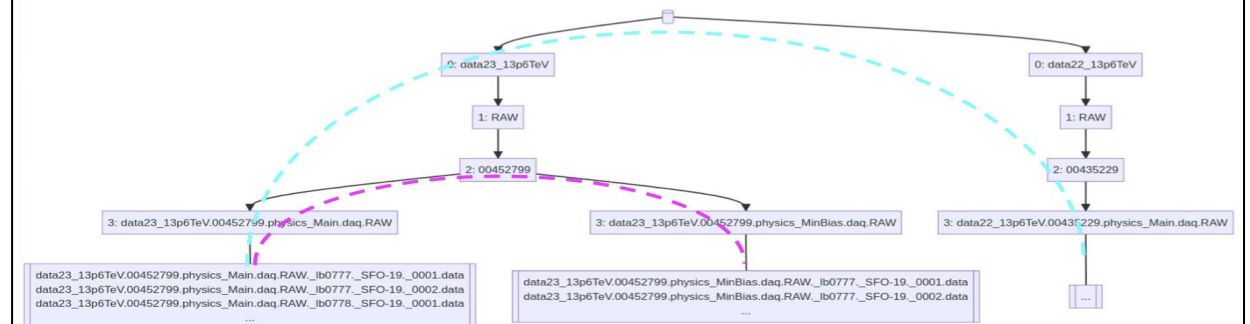
Dataset characteristics

75482193 events. 28954 files. 151.0 TiB in total.

50 files currently available. Request access to the rest

Challenges in supporting the Open Data portal, Saiz [\(link\)](#)

## Archive Metadata defines a mathematical distance



# Storage

We are here

## Labeling

- Add custom labels to existing file
- Labels dynamically create file collections
- Collections exposed as virtual-directories
- Files can be accessed by regular path
- Files can be accessed by collections



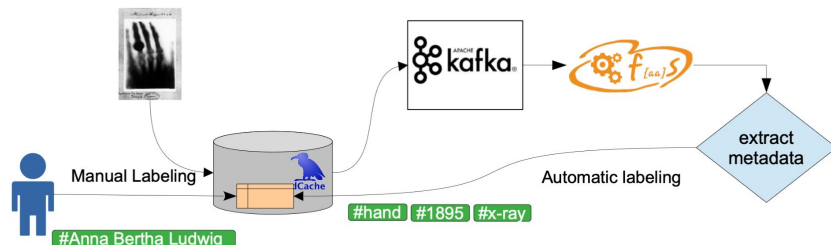
#Anna Bertha Ludwig  
#hand #1895 #x-ray

2024-10-22

dCache project update

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## Metadata Population



For details, visit our Poster: label-based virtual directories in dCache, Oct 24

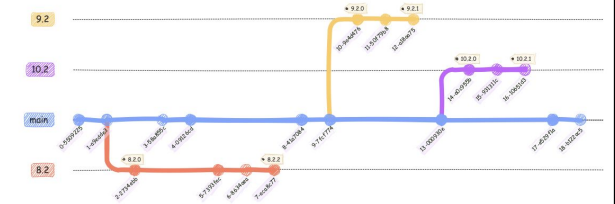
2024-10-22

dCache project update

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## dCache versions

- 8.2 out of support
  - Security fixes only.
- 9.2 Current
  - Support till fall 2025.
- 10.2 the next **Golden Release** (LTS)
  - Release last week.
  - Support till fall 2026.



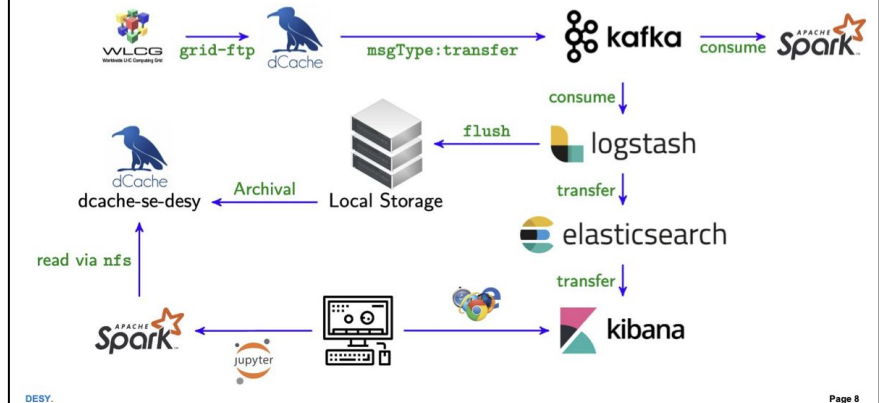
2024-10-22

dCache project update

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## Step 1: Kafka Billing Stream Workflow

Native Kafka Event Stream Provided by dCache



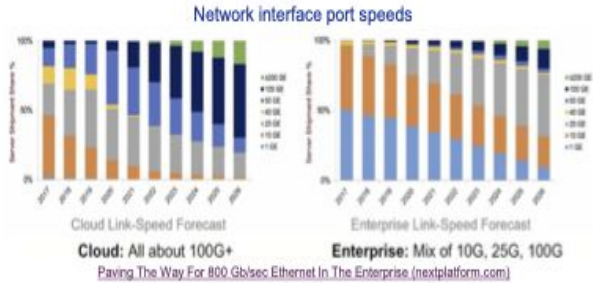
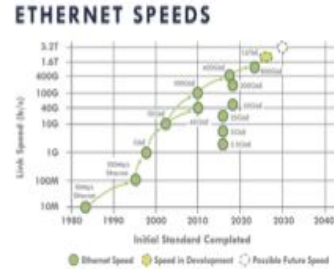
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## dCache talks:

- dCache on k8s for CI/CD ([link](#))
- Project status ([link](#))
- Monitoring ([link](#))

## LAN and interconnect technologies

- **InfiniBand provides high throughput/low latency networking**
  - Useful for AI and HPC simulations
  - Can provide Remote Direct Memory Access (RDMA)
  - Now controlled by Nvidia, cost may amount to up to 20% of an HPC cluster
  - RoCE (RDMA over Converged Ethernet) is a much cheaper alternative that works over Ethernet
- **Ultra Ethernet consortium aims at producing an alternative to InfiniBand**
  - Open standard supported by AMD, Broadcom, Cisco, HPE, Meta, Microsoft, Oracle, Linux Foundation, and many others (> 60 companies so far, even Nvidia!)
  - Improves the Ethernet protocol to allow for high bandwidth/low latency, would replace RoCE
- **Omni-Path is a competing standard originally from Intel**
  - It will be made compatible with Ultra Ethernet to stay relevant



- The 200 Gbps SerDes allows to send 200 Gbps on a single wavelength, reducing power and cost
- Co-packaged optics embed the lasers in the motherboard, potentially reducing costs



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## Trends on WAN connectivity

- **LHC network traffic exponentially increasing, will need Tb/s links on major routes by 2029**
  - Aggregate network traffic from ATLAS + CMS will be O(10 Tb/s)
- **R&D effort focusing on**
  - Better estimates of the required scale
  - Better models and well-defined metrics for success
  - ML for system optimization
  - Better automation (monitoring, intelligence, network OSES and tools, controllability)

# DATA+Network

The WLCG Data Challenge, Katy Ellis (RAL, STFC), [link](#)

SCITAGS, A Standardized Framework for Traffic Identification and Network Visibility in Data-Intensive Research Infrastructures, Hanushevsky ([link](#))

Data Movement Manager (DMM) for the SENSE-Rucio Interoperation Prototype Arorooa, SENS-Rucio ([link](#))

Enhancing XRootD Load Balancing for High-Throughput transfers, Byrne. ([link](#))

# Other interesting talks

Selected track summaries: Trac 1 Ruslan ([link](#)), Trac 8 Giovanni ([link](#))

ROOT RNTuple and EOS: The Next Generation of Event Data I/O, Andreas Joachim Peters (CERN), Jakob Blomer (CERN), ([link](#))

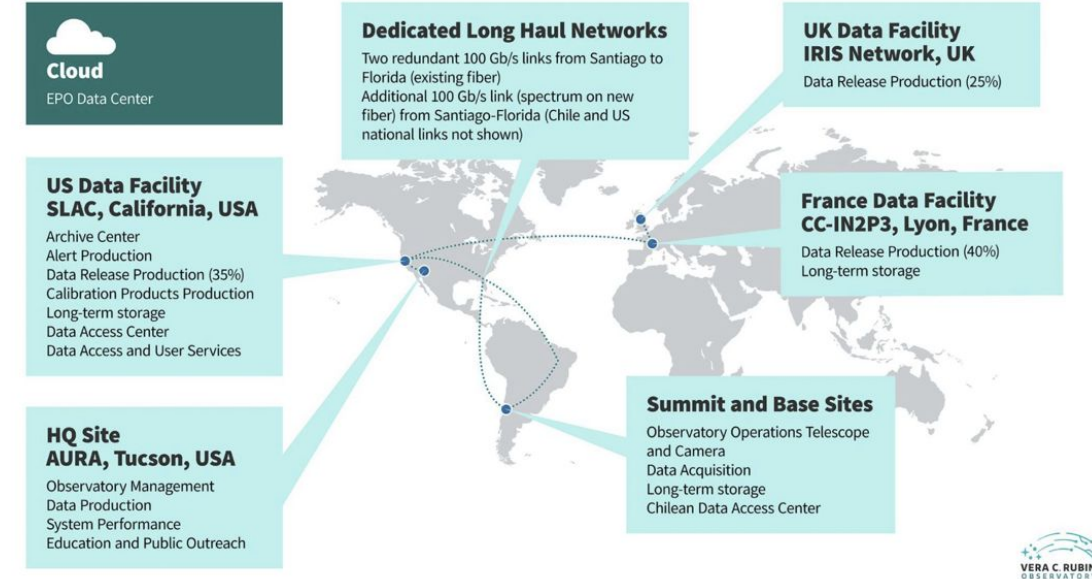
Research  
See [Zach's talk](#)

ATLAS Open data for

Education

We talk about this!

Plenary, The First Release of ATLAS Open Data for Research, Marshal ([link](#)).  
Open Data at ATLAS: Bringing TeV collisions to the World, Guerrieri ([link](#)),



Data Movement Model for the Vera C. Rubin Observatory, presented by Fabio Hernandez ([link](#))

CHEP 2024  
Conference on Computing in High Energy and Nuclear Physics

FAIR GSI

Developing a FAIR-Compliant Metadata Schema for Experimental Nuclear Physics

Plenary, Developing a FAIR-Compliant Metadata Schema for Experimental Nuclear Physics, Knezevic ([link](#))

- Designed for Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research in Europe



# Summary of CHEP 2024 Highlights:

- Key insights from CHEP 2024 were shared across multiple formats and meetings.
- BNL colleagues actively participated.
- An ATLAS-wide overview was presented, with special thanks to Tatiana.
- A curated selection of talks was covered, encouraging further discussion.