

Report from Focus

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Atlas Software Workshop

18 May 1999

Focus

- Forum of Computing: Users and Services
- New chairman: Paul Jeffrey (RAL)
new secretary: Marco Cattaneo (CERN)
- Mandate: recommendations for computing at CERN in the near future (~ 2 years)

PCs for physics data processing

- Intel based PCs: best price/performance
- Linux developing fast, very popular Unix flavour, support for commercial packages growing rapidly
- Productivity tools best supported under Windows (95, 98, NT, 2000)

Policy proposal

- 'Beef-up' support for Linux and Windows
- Risc hardware purchases discouraged, permitted only if clear case
- Commercial Unixes to be frozen, end date to be determined for support

Storage management

- Today: 15 TB/week disk <-> tape (25% tape writing), 25 MB/s peak
- Future: 100 MB/s peak
- 3 storage levels: user home directories, N-tuple like user and group data, bulk physics data
- Proposal:
 - AFS for user home directories
 - HSM for N-tuple like data
 - Shift software for bulk physics data

Storage management (cont'd)

- Actions:
 - Continue to exploit HPSS for running experiments (but no major new activity for now)
 - Follow development on the market (eg. Enstore, Eurostore), consider collaboration with FNAL and DESY
 - Improve shift software

Miscellaneous items

- Y2K
 - Responsibilities defined
 - Central collection of information (Web pages)
 - Test facilities
- New printing service
 - Cleaner, simpler, more reliable, more scalable
 - Implementation: cluster of Linux backends, talking to clients via lpd, to printers via lpd or AppleTalk
 - New printer wizard for Windows independent of Nice

Miscellaneous items (cont'd)

- LHC++, G4 distribution
 - LHC++: one compiler/OS per platform
 - Taking source code changes for unsupported combinations back into cvs
 - Taking contributed binaries into standard tree
 - CLHEP releases: 2 weeks...1 month, full LHC++ less often
 - Discussion about licensing and access restrictions
 - G4 so far distributed as source tar files, will distribute optimised libraries from May 99 on

Miscellaneous items (cont'd)

- IT structure
 - David Foster to become DPO 1/07/99
 - License office to become responsibility of DPO
 - New IA group (John Gamble), focussing on mail, Web services, collaborative tools
 - More changes going on (Nice support, AFS support, ...), will be announced in due time