Report from Focus

Helge Meinhard / CERN-EP

Atlas Software Workshop

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Focus

- Forum of Computing: Users and Services
- New chairman: Paul Jeffreys (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