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Big Data at CERN

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The LHC experiments continue to produce a wealth of valuable High Energy Physics data, which offer numerous possibilities for new discoveries. The IT Department at CERN provides Hadoop and Spark services and works closely with the scientific communities in their quest to analyze and understand these vast amounts of physics and infrastructure data. The number of CERN teams using these services for their systems has grown significantly over the past years, since Big Data technologies -such as Apache Spark- show great potential in speeding up their existing workloads. The most significant systems include the CMS Data Reduction Facility which aims to reduce 1 PB of data produced by the CMS Experiment to 1 TB of reusable data for physics analysis through Spark, the Next CERN Accelerator Logging Service (NXCAL) which will perform online and offline analysis over the data acquired from each of the 20,000 devices that monitor the CERN accelerator complex, as well as the monitoring system for the CERN Data Center and the Worldwide LHC Computing Grid (WLCG) which consists of more than 170 different computing centers in 42 countries. This talk will provide an overview of the current infrastructure based on Spark and other key components of the Hadoop ecosystem, the active use cases on big data analytics from various CERN communities, as well as the challenges in the available data sources and their architecture.

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