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Trigger at LHC

Requirements & Concepts

Muon and Calorimeter triggers (CMS and ATLAS)

Specific solutions (ALICE, LHCb)

Hardware implementation

#### Part2:

Data Flow, Event Building and higher trigger levels

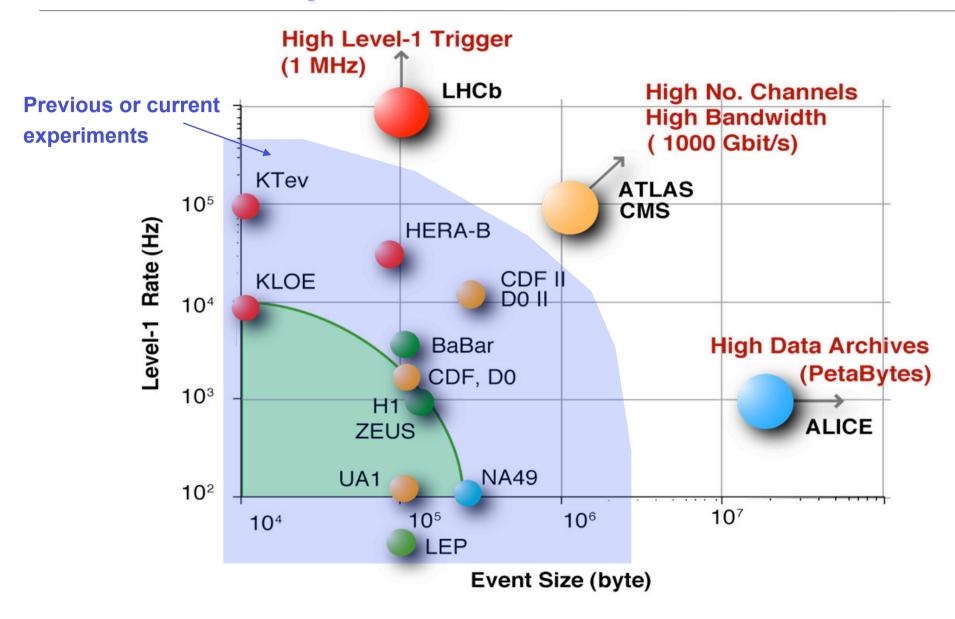
Data Flow of the 4 LHC experiments

Data Readout (Interface to central DAQ systems)

Event Building: CMS as an example

Software: some technologies

# LHC experiments: Lvl 1 rate vs size



# **Trigger/DAQ parameters**

	<b>No.Levels</b> Trigger	6	<b>LvI 0,1,2</b> Rate (Hz)	<b>Event</b> Size (Byte)	Evt Build. Bandw.(GB/s)	High Level Trigger <b>HLT Out</b> MB/s (Event/s)
	3		10 <sup>5</sup> 3x10 <sup>3</sup>	1.5 MB	4.5	<b>300</b> (200)
	2	LV-1	<b>10</b> <sup>5</sup>	1.0 MB	100	<b>300</b> (200) Pb-Pb 1500MB/s
	2	LV-0	10 <sup>6</sup>	30 kB	30	<b>60</b> (2 kHz)
PHOS TPC ABSCREER TM-10N CHAMBER MUCN FILTER			.500 10 <sup>3</sup>	50 MB 2 MB	25	<b>1250</b> (100) <b>200</b> (100)

## **Data Flow: Architecture**

# **Data Acquisition:** custom hardware PC network switch LvI1 trigger LvI-1 Provide higher level Lvl-2

main tasks

LvI1 pipelines

Data readout from Front End Electronics

Temporary buffering of event fragments in readout buffers

Provide higher leve trigger with partial event data

Assemble events in single location and provide to High Level Trigger (HLT)

Our "Standard Model" of Data Flow

Write selected events to permanent storage

HLT

# **Data Acquisition:**

main tasks

custom hardware

l PC

network switch

LvI1 trigger

LVI-1

LvI-2

LvI1 pipelines

Data readout from Front End Electronics

Temporary buffering of event fragments in readout buffers

Provide higher level trigger with partial event data

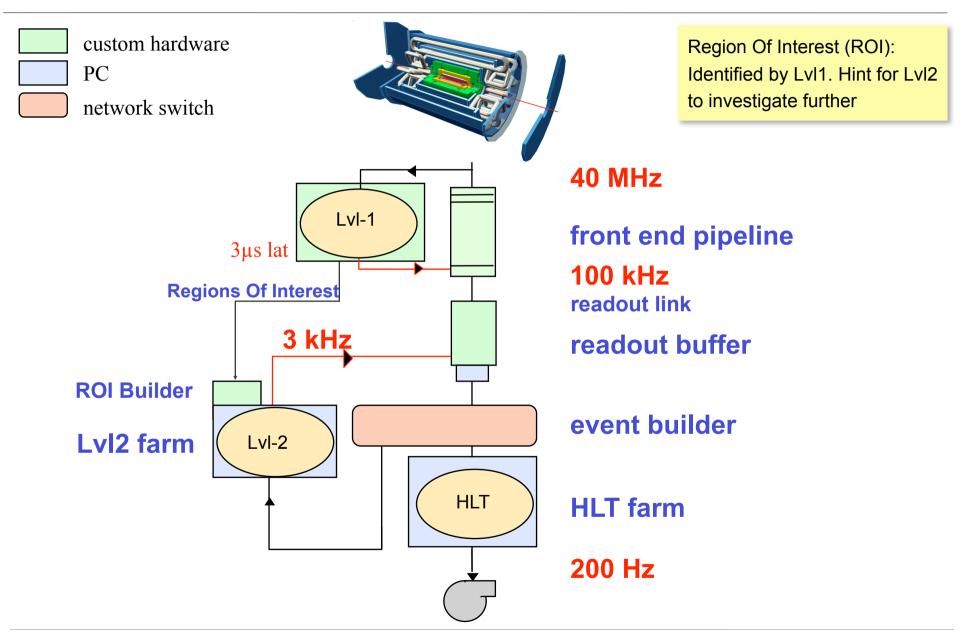
Assemble events in single location and provide to High Level Trigger (HLT)

Write selected events to permanent storage

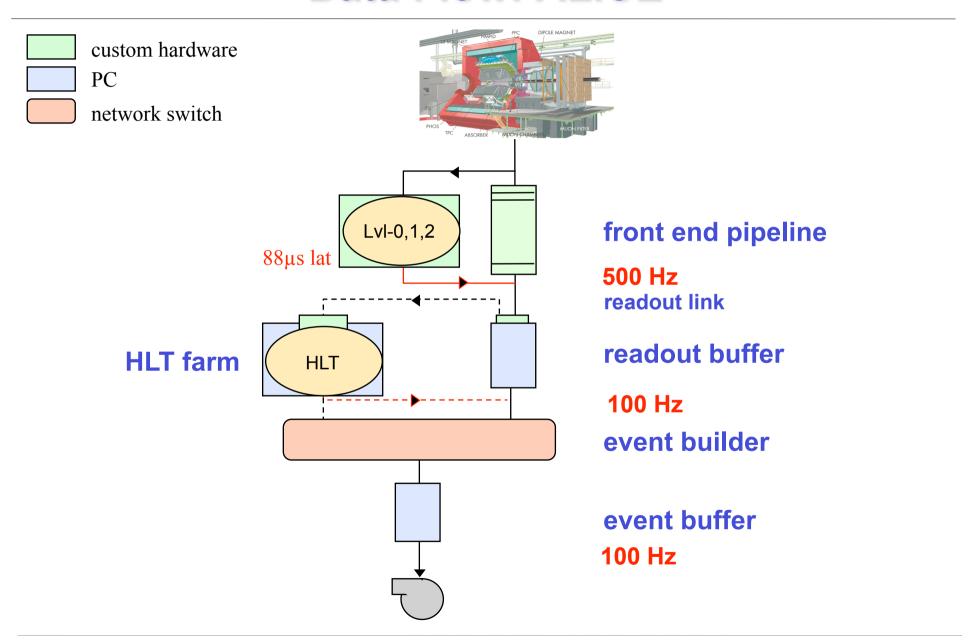
HLT

Our "Standard Model" of Data Flow

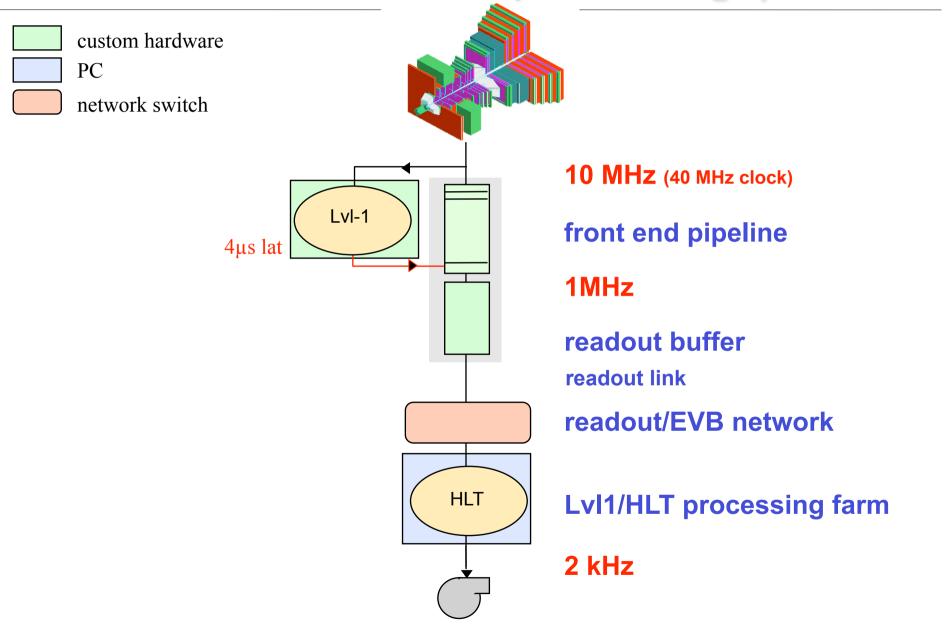
### **Data Flow: ATLAS**



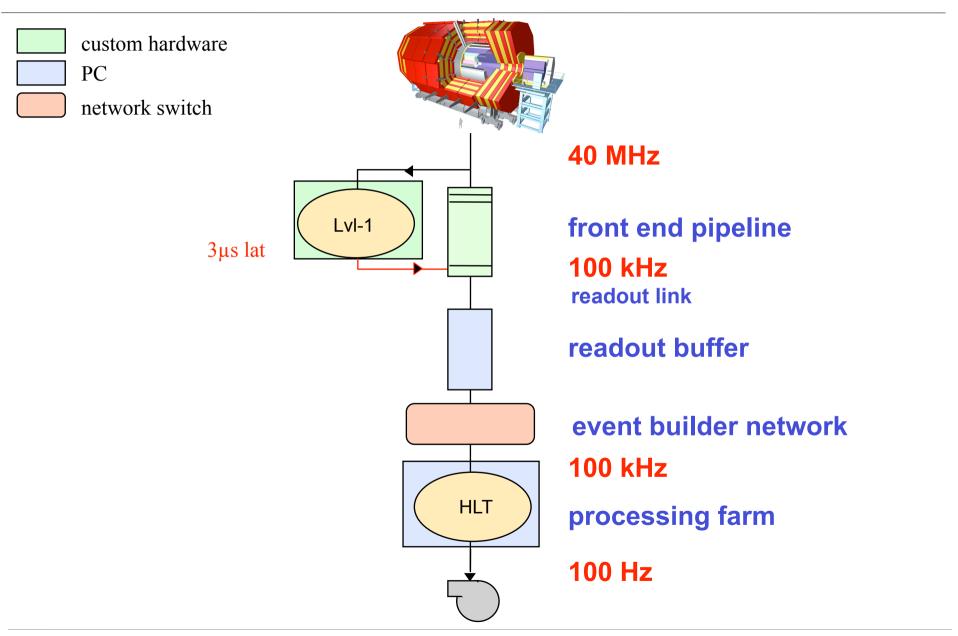
## **Data Flow: ALICE**



# Data Flow: LHCb (final design)

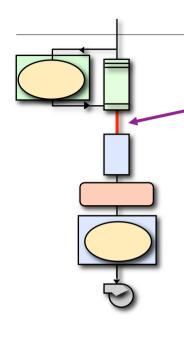


### **Data Flow: CMS**

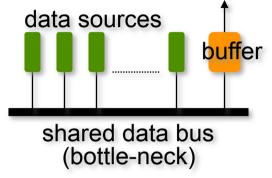


## **Data Flow: Readout Links**

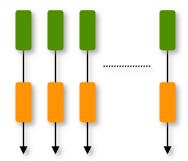
## **Data Flow: Data Readout**



- Former times: Use of bus-systems
  - VME or Fastbus
  - Parallel data transfer (typical: 32 bit) on shared bus
  - One source at a time can use the bus



- LHC: Point to point links
  - Optical or electrical
  - Data serialized
  - Custom or standard protocols
  - All sources can send data simultaneously



- Compare trends in industry market:
- 198x: ISA, SCSI(1979), IDE, parallel port, VME(1982)
- 199x: PCI( 1990, 66MHz 1995), USB(1996), FireWire(1995)
- 200x: USB2, FireWire 800, PClexpress, Infiniband, GbE, 10GbE

# **Readout Links of LHC Experiments**

			Flow Control
	SLINK	Optical: 160 MB/s ≈ 1600 Links Receiver card interfaces to PC.	Yes
	SLINK 64	LVDS: 400 MB/s (max. 15m) ≈ 500 links (FE on average: 200 MB/s to readout buffer) Receiver card interfaces to commercial NIC (Network Interface Card)	yes
PHOS TPC ABSORBER MUCH PAIRERS MUCH PRITER	DLL	Optical 200 MB/s ≈ 500 links Half duplex: Controls FE (commands, Pedestals, Calibration data) Receiver card interfaces to PC	yes
	TELL-1 & GbE Link	Copper quad GbE Link ≈ 400 links Protocol: IPv4 (direct connection to GbE switch) Forms "Multi Event Fragments" Implements readout buffer	no

## Readout Links: Interface to PC

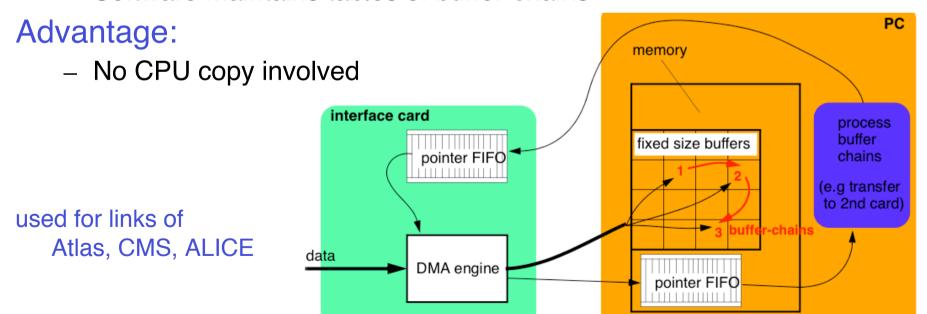
#### Problem:

Read data in PC with high bandwidth and low CPU load

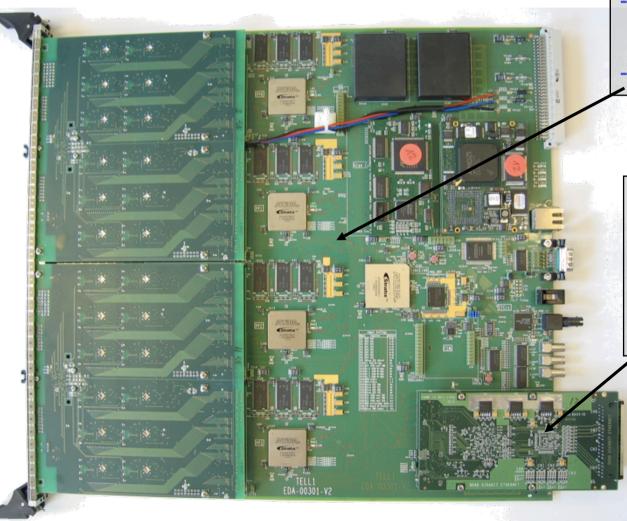
Note: copying data costs a lot of CPU time!

### **Solution: Buffer-Loaning**

- Hardware shuffles data via DMA (Direct Memory Access) engines
- Software maintains tables of buffer-chains



## **Example readout board: LHCb**



#### **Main board:**

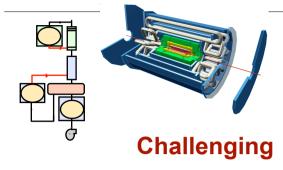
- data reception from "Front End" via optical or copper links.
- detector specific processing

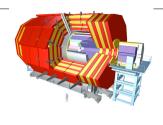
#### **Readout Link**

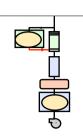
- "highway to DAQ"
- simple interface to main board
- Implemented as "plug on"

# **Event Building: example CMS**

## **Event Building: Atlas vs CMS**







**Readout Buffer** 

"Commodity"

Concept of "Region Of Interest" (ROI) Increased complexity

- ROI generation (at LvI1)
- ROI Builder (custom module)
- selective readout from buffers

Implemented with commercial PCs

"Commodity"

**Event Builder** 

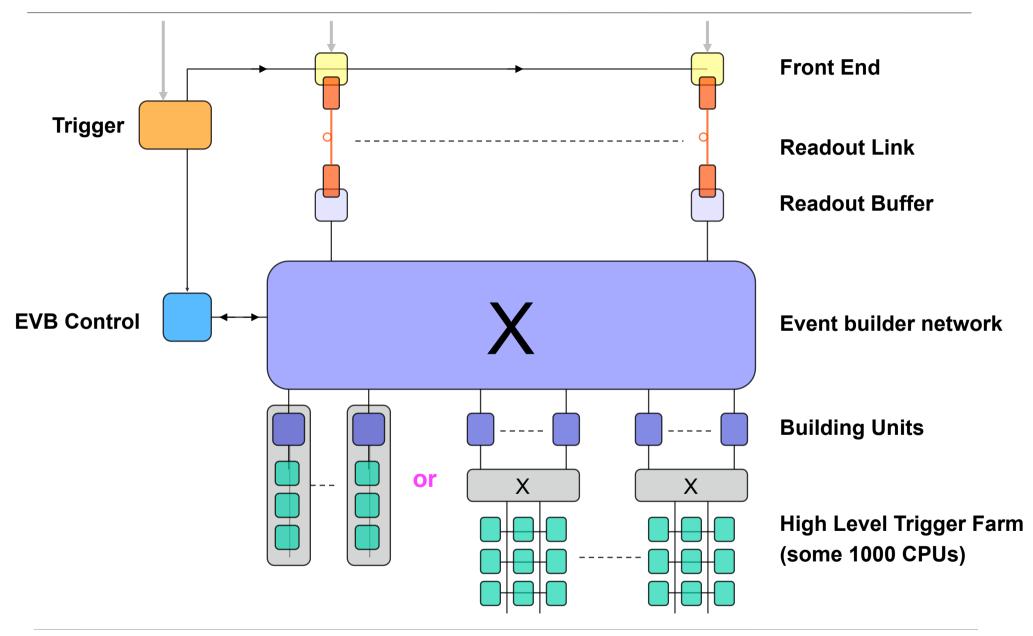
**Challenging** 

1kHz @ 1 MB = O(1) GB/s

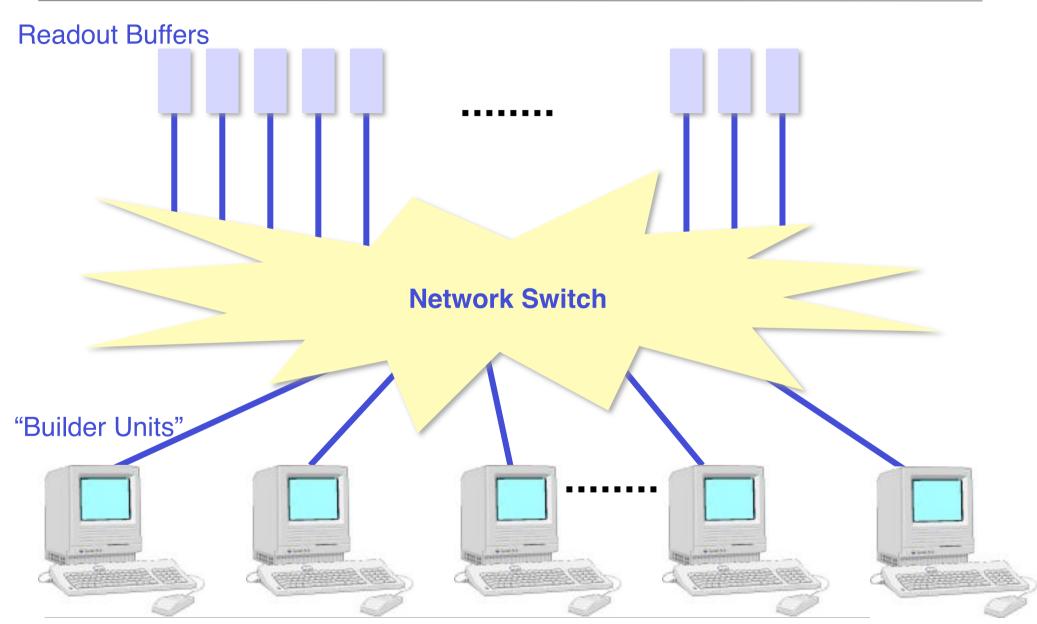
100kHz @ 1 MB = 100 GB/s Increased complexity:

- traffic shaping
- specialized (commercial) hardware

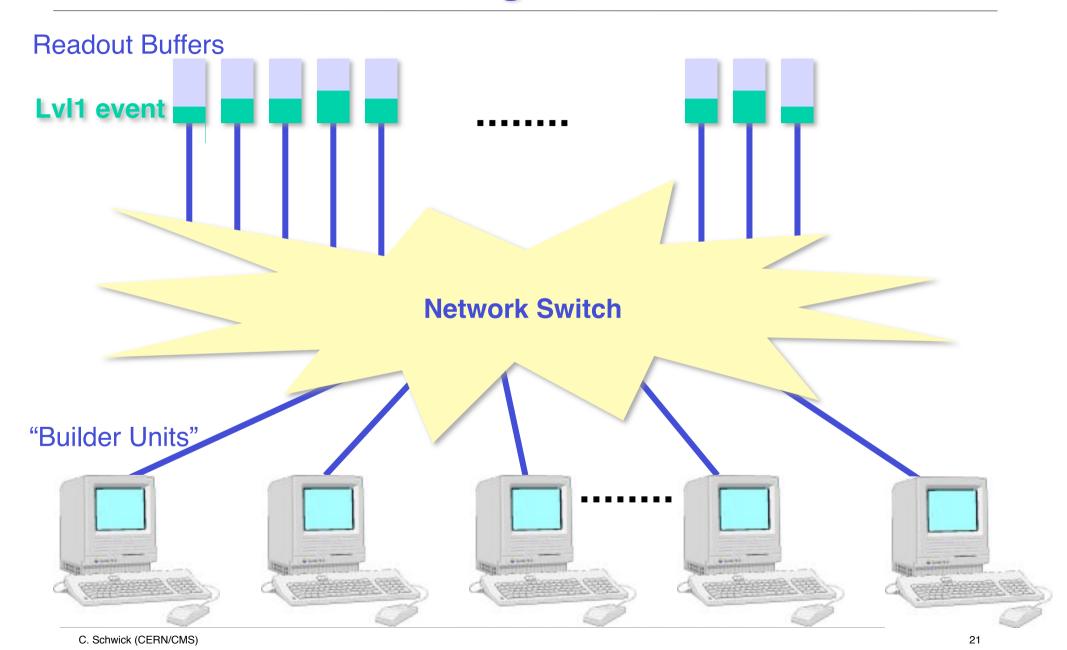
## "Modern" EVB architecture



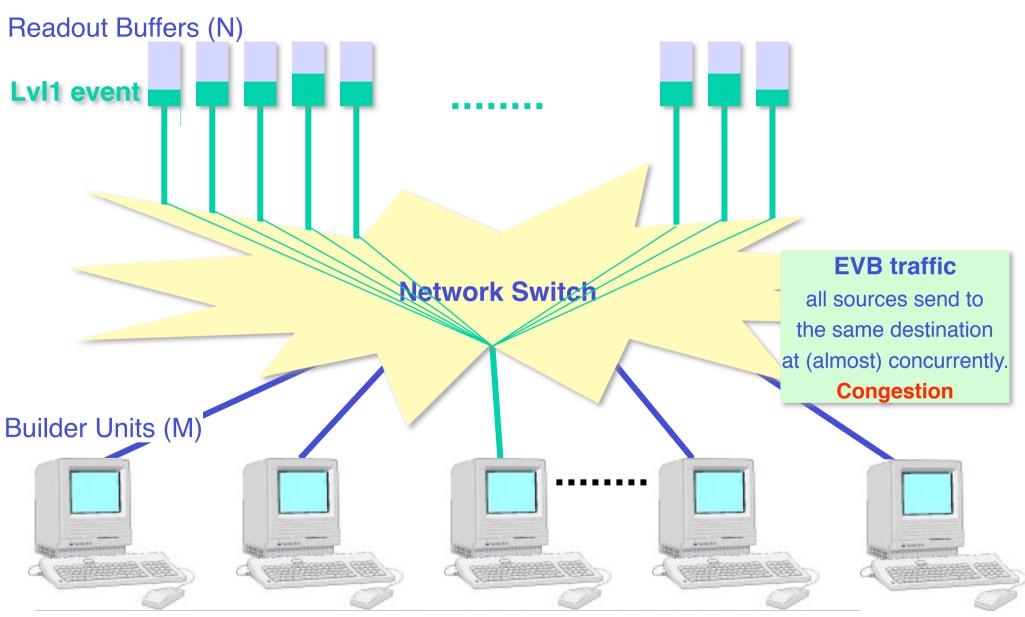
# **Networking: EVB traffic**



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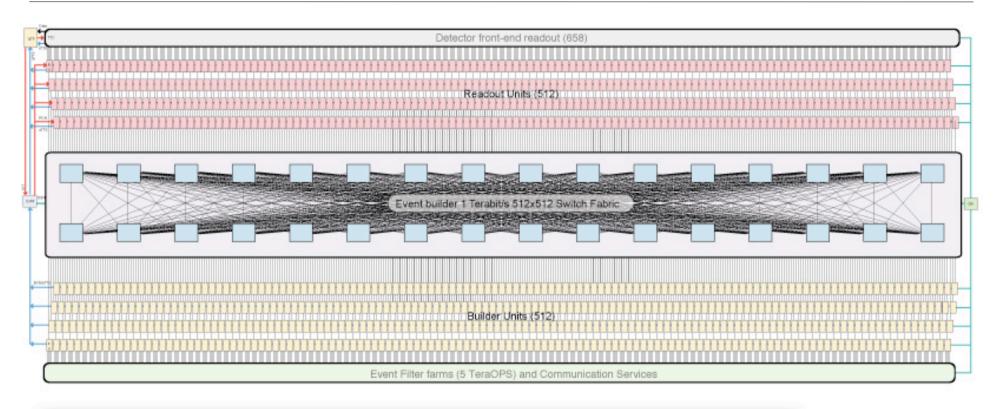
# **Event Building dilemma**

To be avoided:



In spite of the Event builder traffic pattern congestion should be avoided.

## **EVB** example: CMS



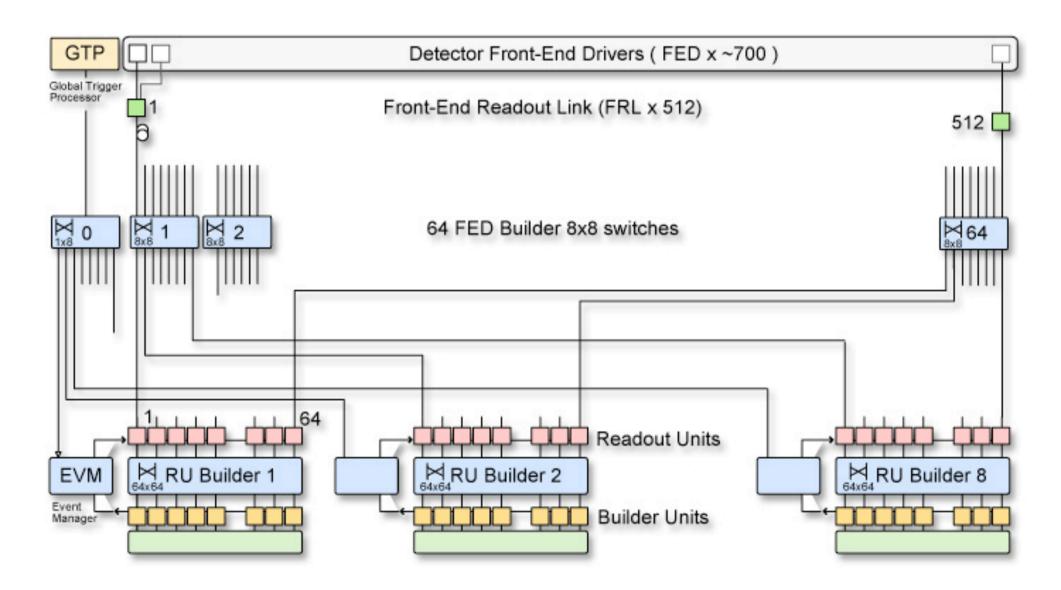
Level-1 maximum trigger rate 100 kHz Average event size 1 Mbyte 1 Terabit/s **Builder network** Event filter computing power 5 10<sup>6</sup> MIPS ≈ 10<sup>6</sup> Mssg/s Event flow control

≈512 No. Readout systems No. Filter Subfarms ≈512 x n No. (C&D) network ports ≈10000 No. programmable units ≈10000 System dead time ≈ %

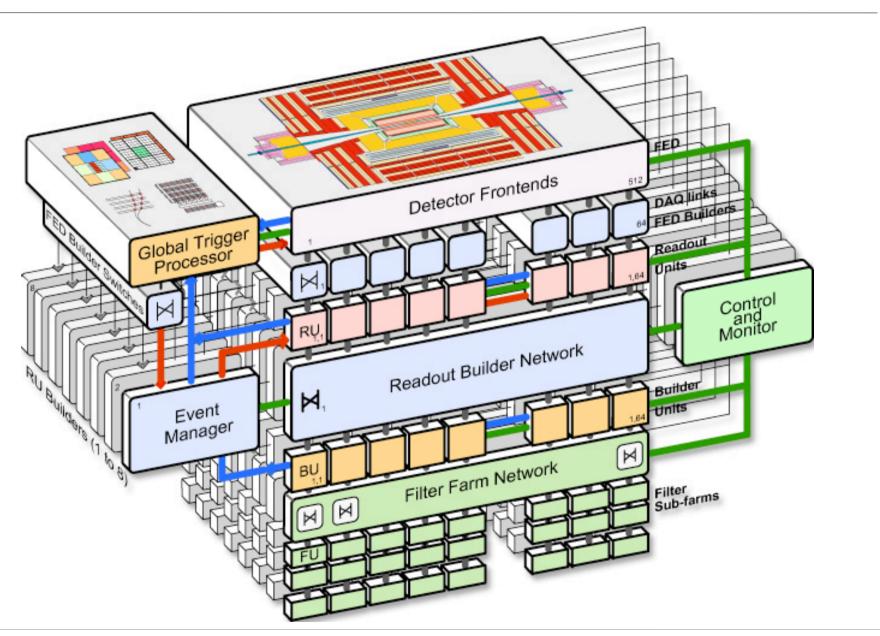
FrontEnd System FrontEnd Driver FrontEnd Cosmoller Data to Surface Frontend Readout Link Preventional Literal Builder Unit Filter Subtamn Event Manager Facebook Wanager Builder Wanager Event Builder Event Interest Network Bullow Control Network Computing Service Minusels Detector Control network DAO Service Notacek Detector Control System

Plan Costnoi System

## **EVB CMS: 2 stages**



## CMS: 3D - EVB



## Advantages of 2 stage EVB

- Scalability
- Relaxed requirements for 2<sup>nd</sup> stage:
  - Every RU-Builder works at 12.5 kHz (instead of 100kHz)
- Staging in time: building the system step by step
  - To start up the experiment not the entire hardware needs to be present. Example:
    - If an Event Builder operating at 50 kHz is sufficient for the first beam, only 4 RU-builders need to be bought and set up.
- Technology independence:
  - The RU-Builder can be implemented with a different technology than the FED-Builder
  - Even different RU-Builders can be implemented with different technologies.

## The first stage of the Event-Builder

"FEDBuilder"

FED = Front End Driver

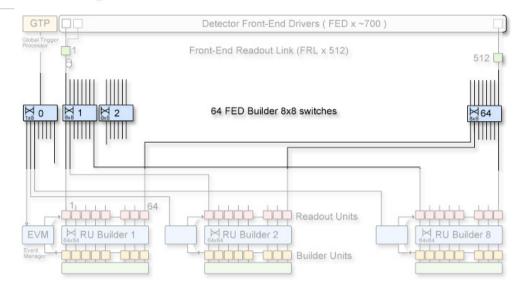
# Stage1: FED-Builder implementation

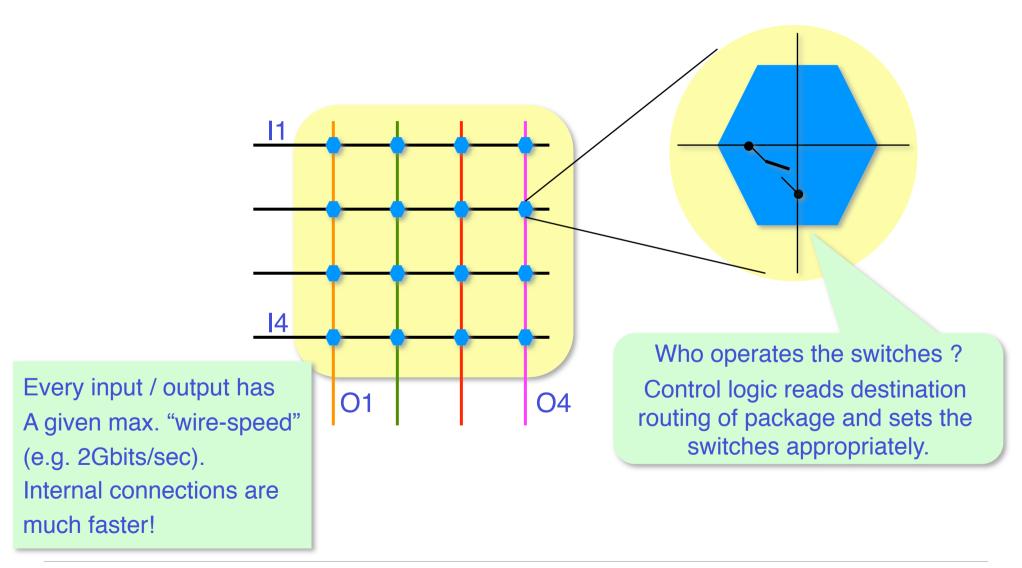
### FED Builder functionality

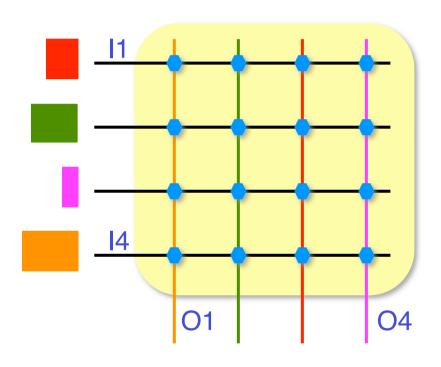
- Receives event fragments from 8 to 16 Readout Links (FRLs).
- FRL fragments are merged into "super-fragments" at the destination (Readout Unit).

### FED Builder implementation

- Requirements:
  - Sustained throughput of 200MB/s for every data source (500 in total).
  - Input interfaces to FPGA (in FRL) -> protocol must be simple.
- Chosen network technology: Myrinet
  - NICs (Network Interface Cards) with 2x2.5 Gb/s optical links (≈ 2x250 MB/s)
  - Full duplex with flow control (no packet loss).
  - NIC cards contain RISC processor. Development system available.
     Can be easily interfaced to FPGAs (custom electronics: receiving part of readout links)
  - Switches based on cross bars (predictable, understandable behaviour).
  - Low cost!

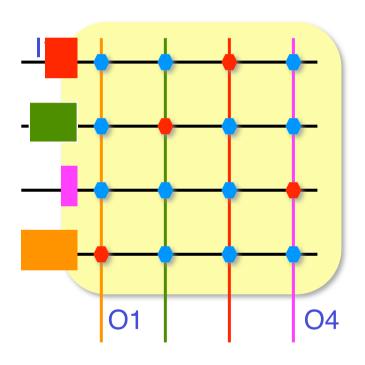






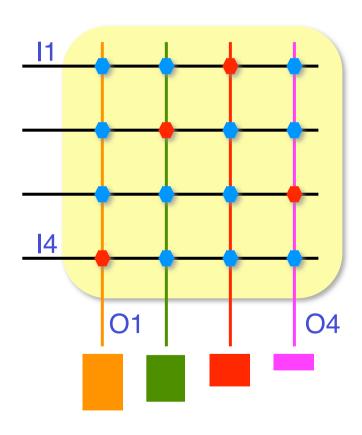
Paradise scenario:

All inputs want to send data to different destinations



#### Paradise scenario:

No congestion, since every data package finds a free path through the switch.

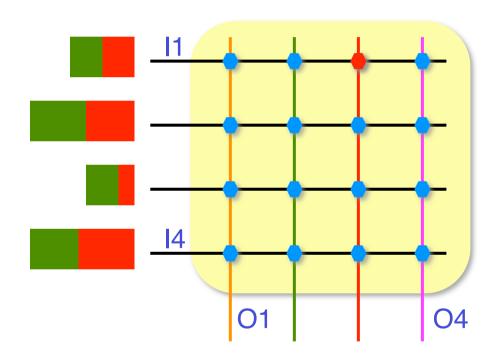


Paradise scenario:

Data traffic performs with "wire speed" of switch

# **Switch implementation**

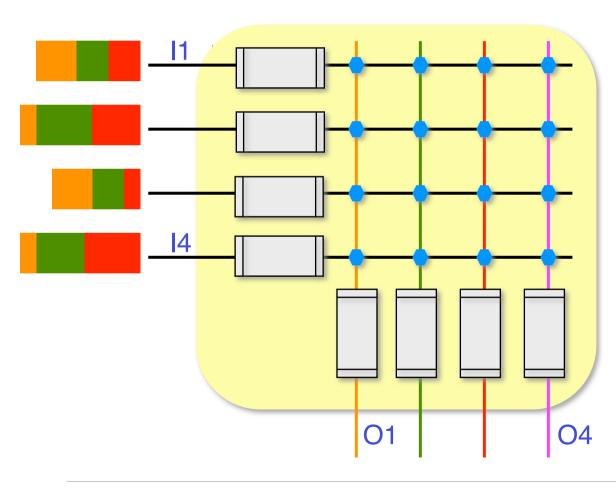
### Crossbar switch: Congestion in EVB traffic



Only one packet at a time can be routed to the destination. "Head of line" blocking

# **Switch implementation**

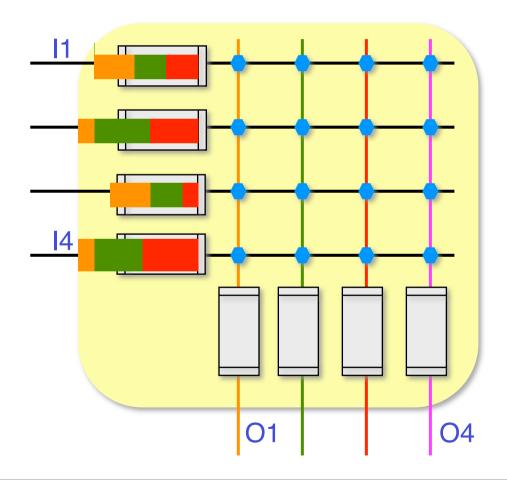
### Crossbar switch: Improvement : additional input FIFOs



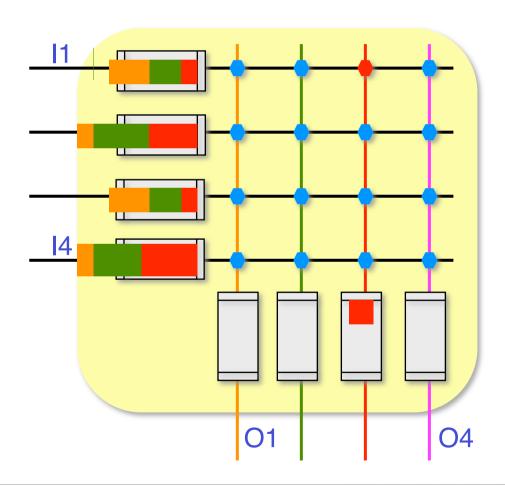
Fifos can "absorb" congestion ...until they are full.

# **Switch implementation**

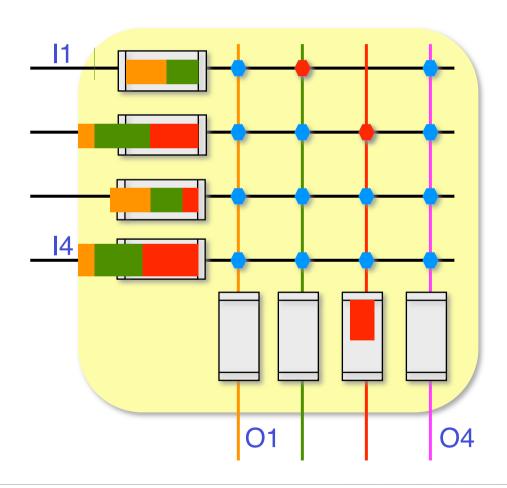
Crossbar switch: Improvement : additional input FIFOs



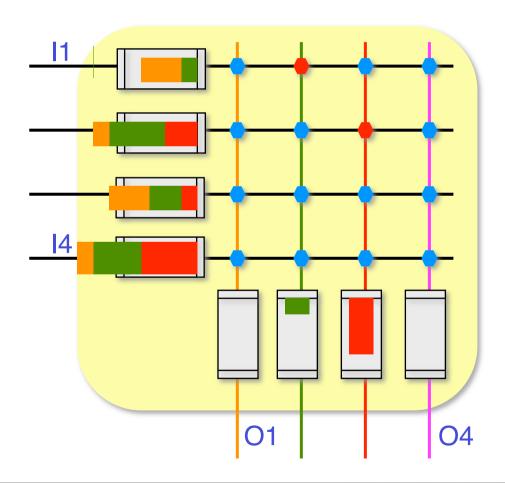
Crossbar switch: Improvement : additional input FIFOs



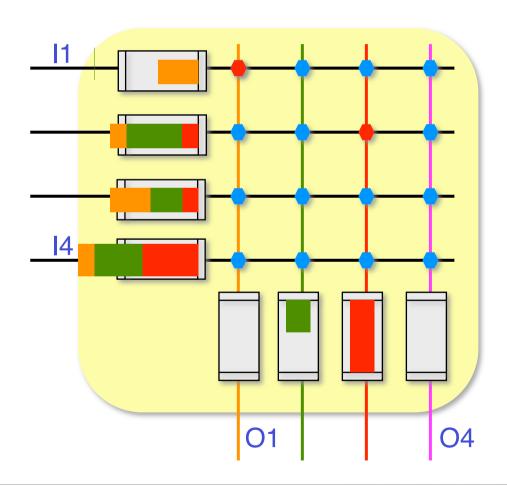
Crossbar switch: Improvement : additional input FIFOs



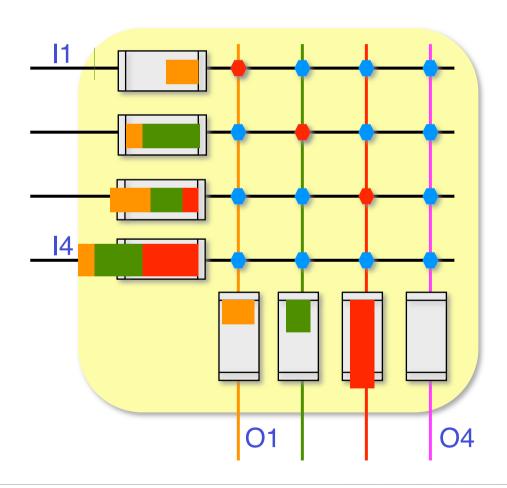
Crossbar switch: Improvement : additional input FIFOs



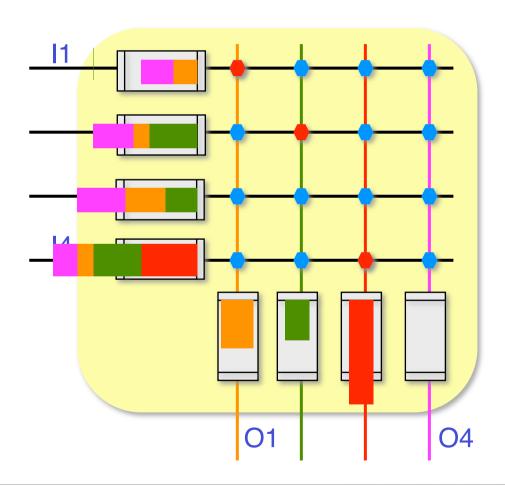
Crossbar switch: Improvement : additional input FIFOs



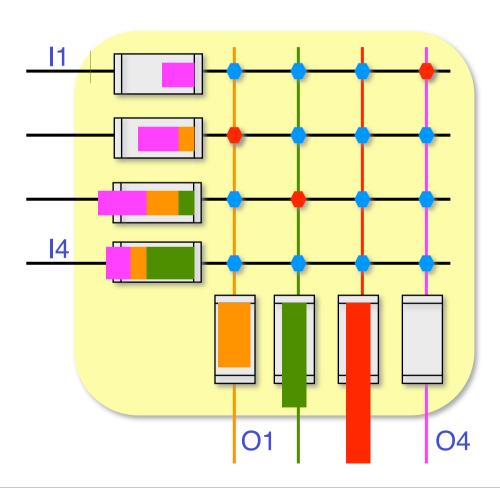
#### Crossbar switch: Improvement : additional input FIFOs



Crossbar switch: Improvement : additional input FIFOs



#### Crossbar switch: Improvement : additional input FIFOs



#### Still problematic:

Input Fifios can absorb data fluctuations until they are full. How good it works depends on:

Fifos capacity

event size distribution

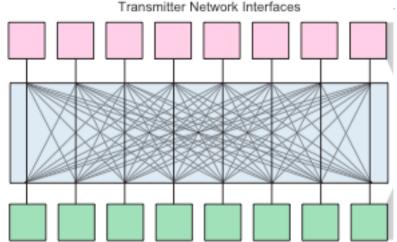
Internal speed of the switch

EVB traffic: blocking problem remains to some extend

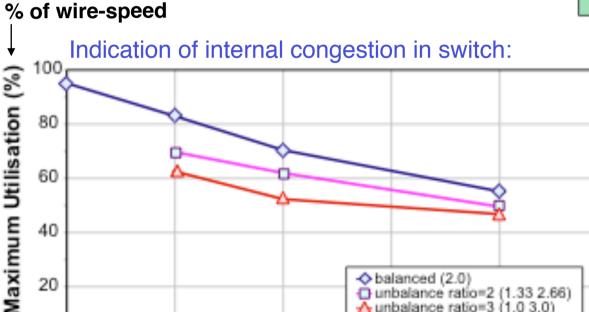
#### Performance of "1 rail" FEDBuilder

Measurement configuration:

8 sources to 8 destinations



Receiver Network Interfaces



0.5 0.75 rms/average of fragments

balanced (2.0)

 unbalance ratio=2 (1.33 2.66) ↑ unbalance ratio=3 (1.0 3.0)

1.25

Measured switch utilization:

Blue: all inputs 2 kB avg

Magenta: 4 x 1.33 kB

4 x 2.66 kB

Red 4 x 1 kB

4 x 3 kB

≈ **50** %

0.25

40

20

0

#### **Conclusion: EVB traffic and switches**

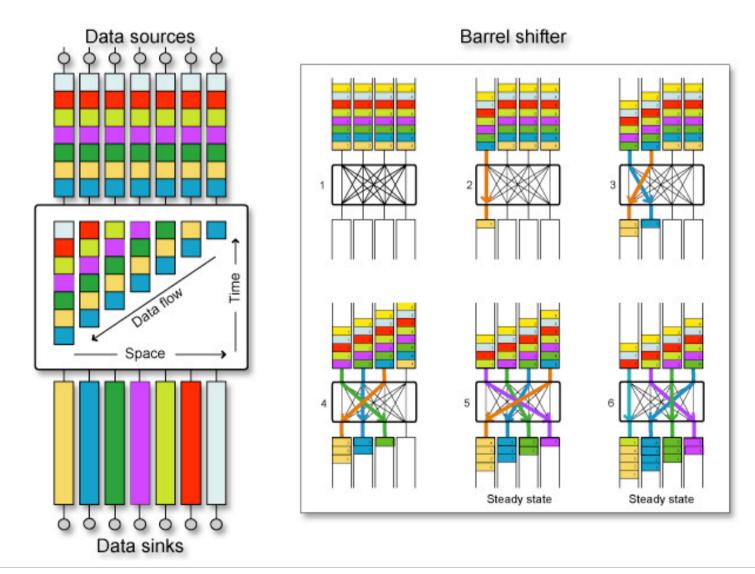
- EVB network traffic is particularly hard for switches
  - The traffic pattern is such that it leads to congestion in the switch.
  - The switch either "blocks" (= packets at input have to "wait") or throws away data packets (Ethernet switches)

How to deal with this ???

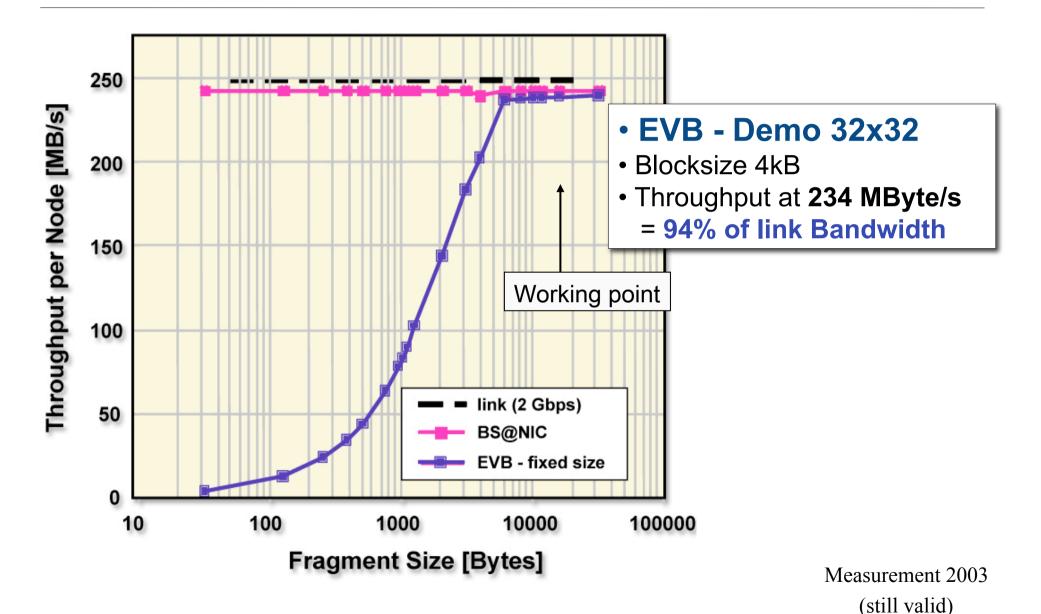
→ 2 possible solutions

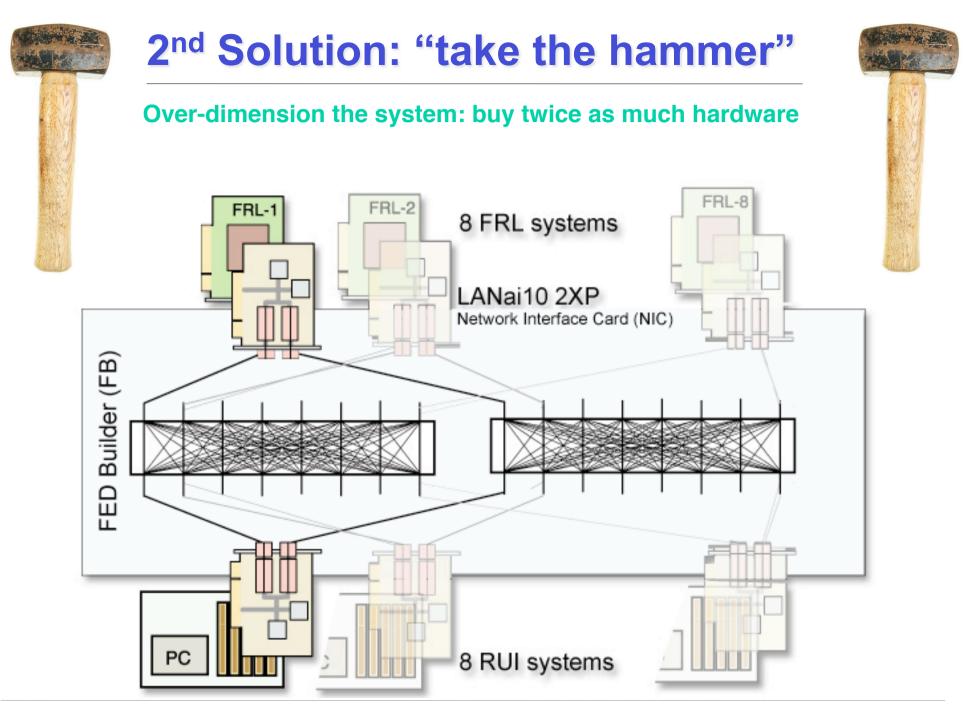
# 1st: the clever solution: traffic shaping

#### **Example: Barrel Shifter**



#### **Barrel Shifter: Measured Performance**



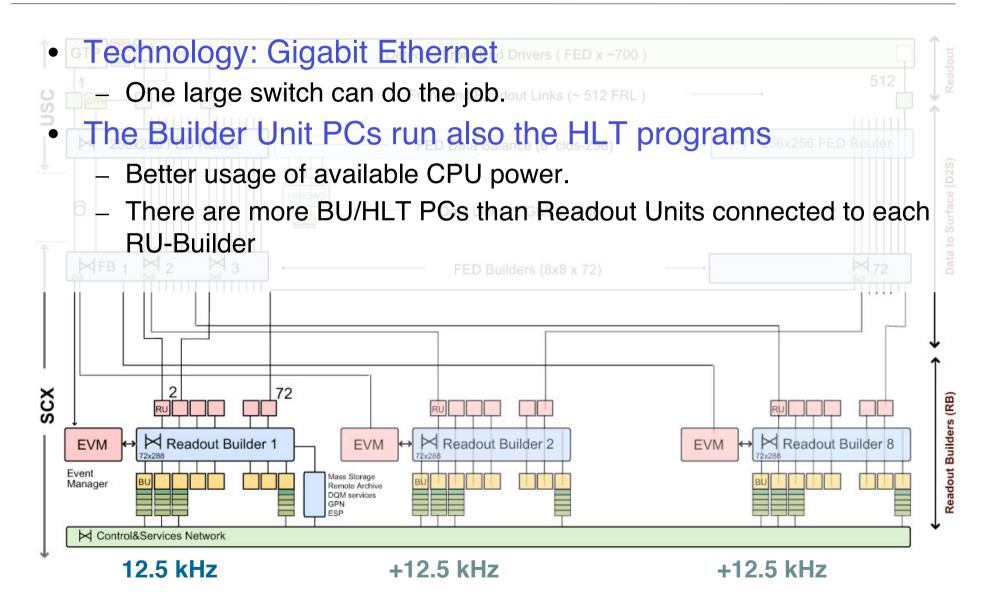


#### What did CMS do???

© Of course: we took the hammer ©

- Advantages:
  - Much less development work
  - No dependence on internal working of the switch
  - Much less maintenance work
  - Most important: redundancy
    - If one rail fails: continue to run with one leg ( → less performance but still taking data !!!!)

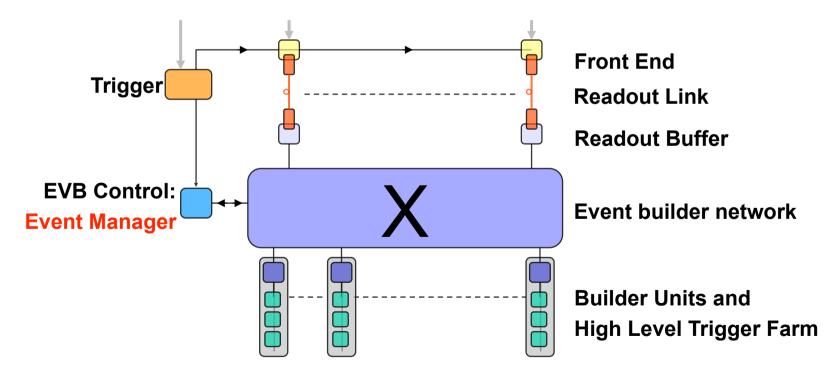
# 2<sup>nd</sup> stage Event Builder: "bread and butter"

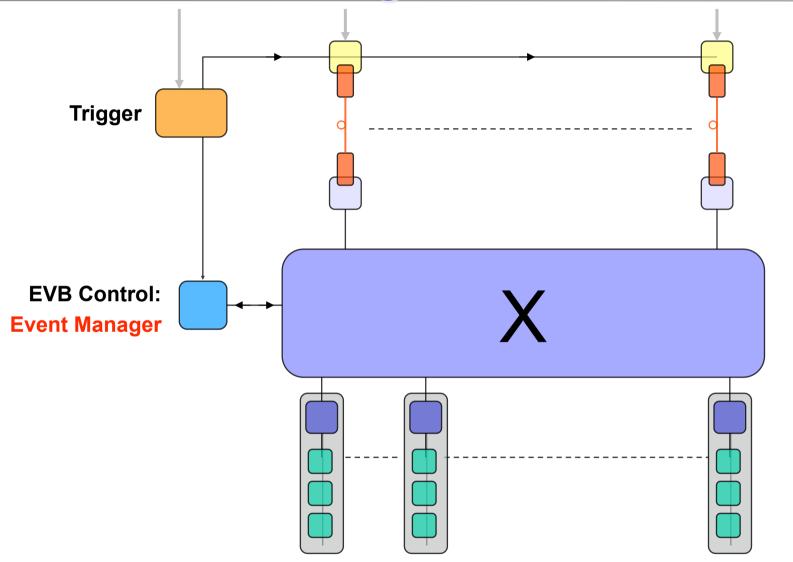


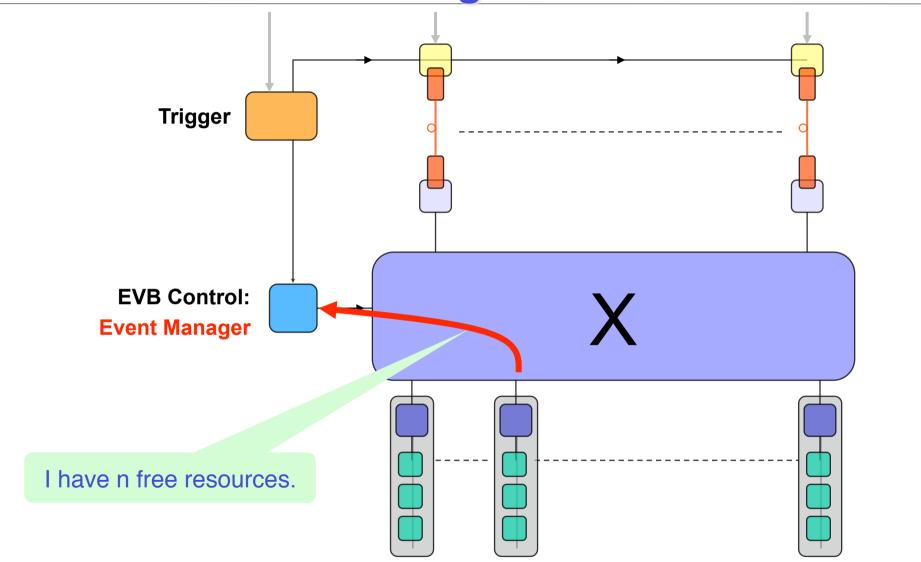
### **Link Aggregation**

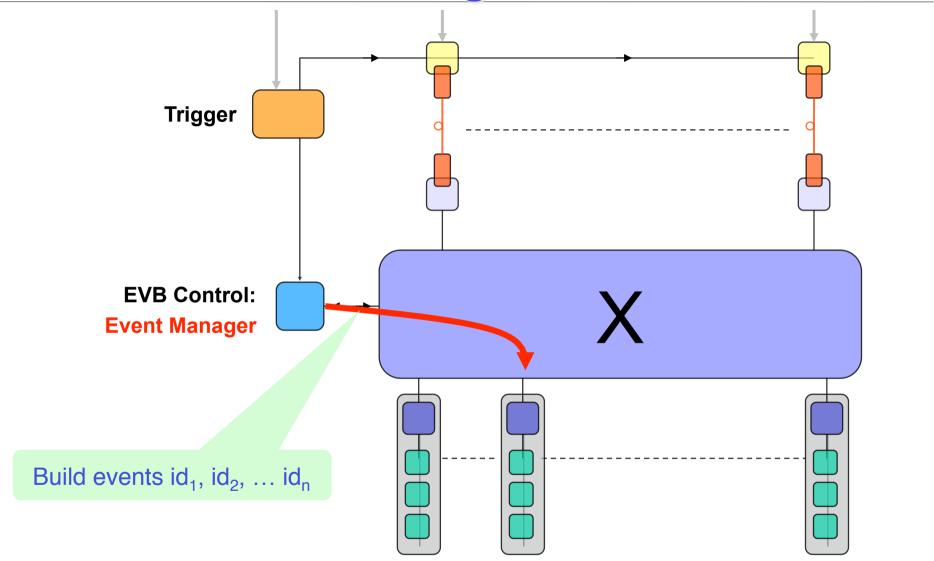
- We want at least 200 MB/s traffic from RU to BU
  - One Gigabit Ethernet line can transfer "only" 120MB/s
  - Need multiple Network Interfaces in RU and BU
    - Divide network between RUs and BUs into virtual LANs.
      - Connect every RU to BUs in different VLANs
      - Connect every BU to RUs in different VLANs
      - Every RU can send data simultaneously on different VLANs
      - Every BU can receive data simultaneously on different VLANs
    - Alternative solution
      - Use Link Aggregation (IEEE standard exists)

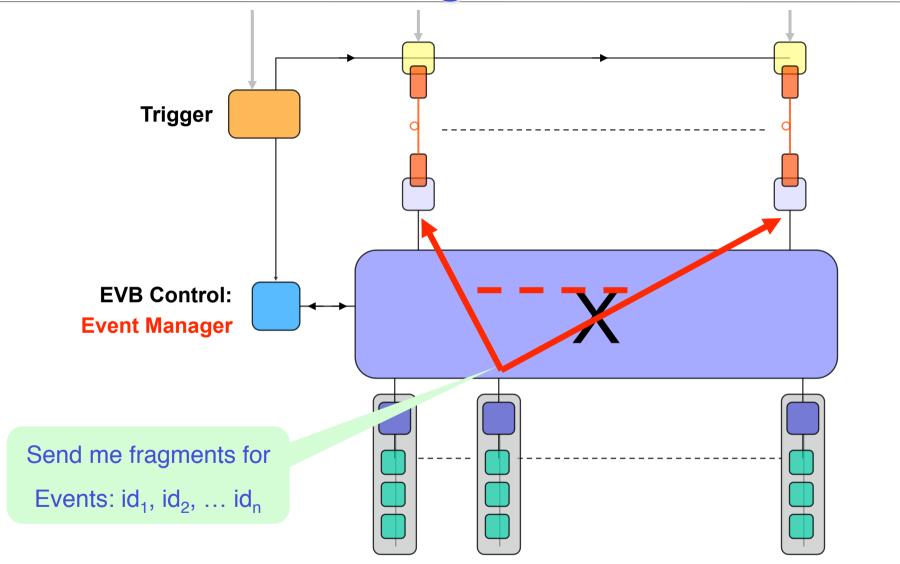
- Aim: Event Builder should perform load balancing
  - If for some reason some destinations are slower then others this should not slow down the entire DAQ system.
  - Another form of traffic shaping











#### **Event Builder Components**



#### Half of the CMS FED Builder

One half of the FEDBuilder is installed close to the experiment in the underground.

The other half is on the surface close to the RU-Builder and the Filter Farm implementing the HLT.

The FEDBuilder is used to transport the data to the surface.

# **Event Builder Components**



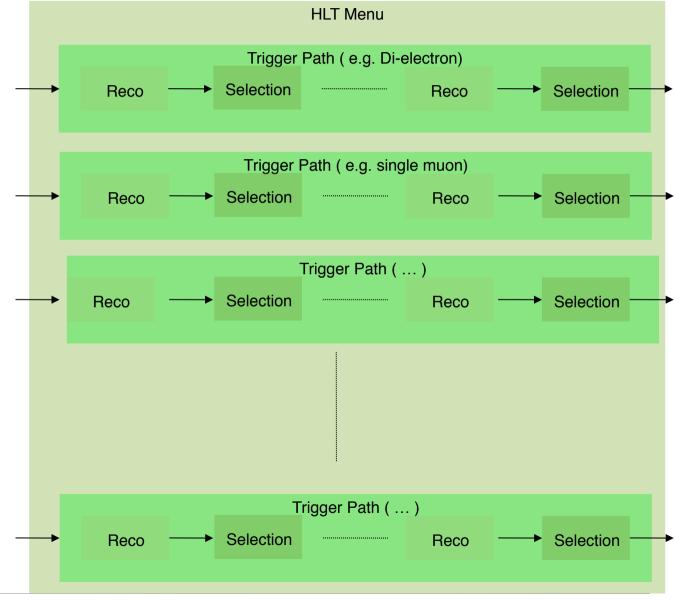
The RU-Builder Switch

# **HLT** trigger implementation

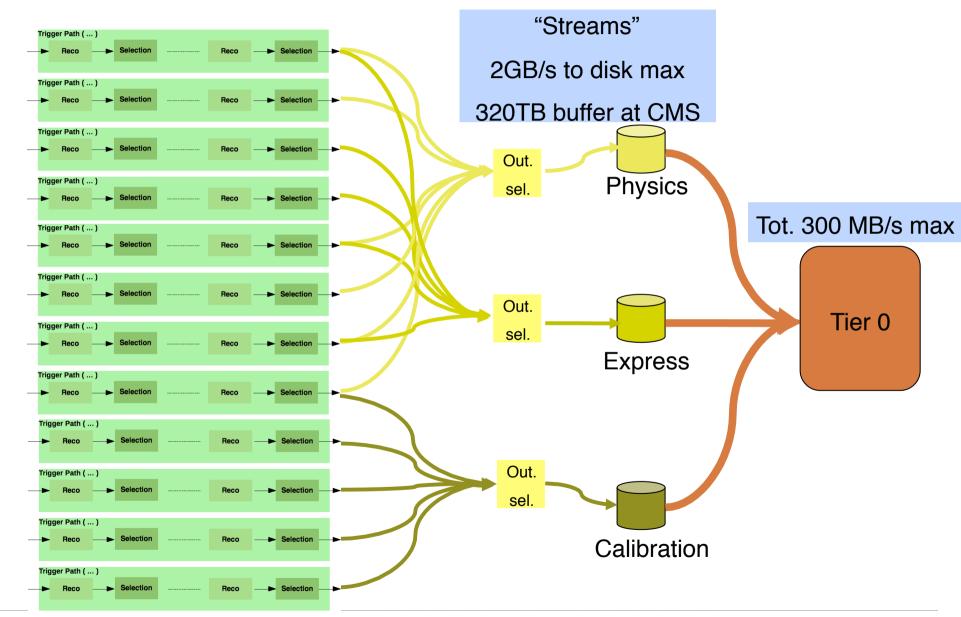
### **CMS High Level Trigger or Filter**

#### Filter processes

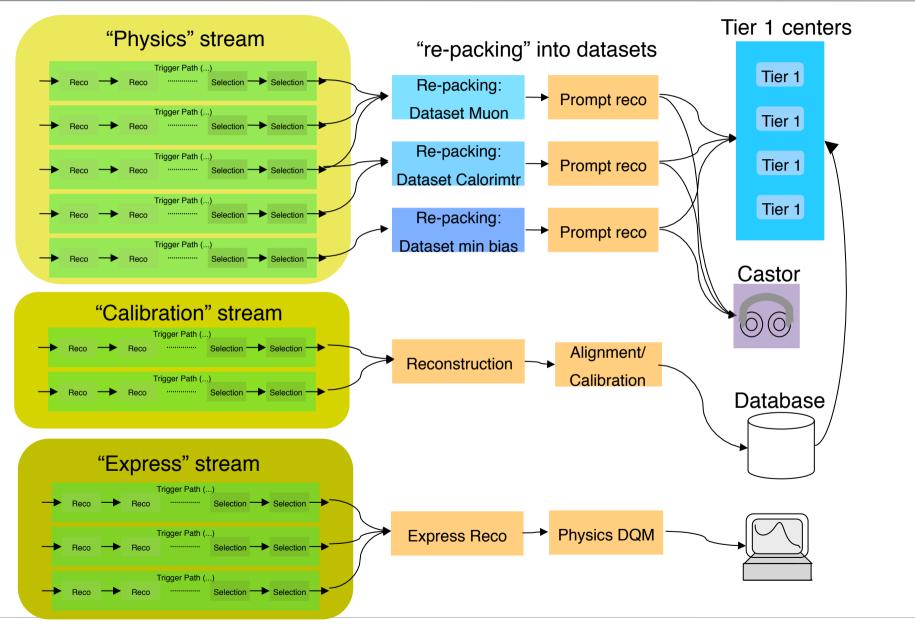
- Run the same code as offline analysis jobs
- Trigger decision based on "trigger paths"



# **Output Streams**



### Tier0 processing



# Online software: Some aspects of software design

### **History: Procedural programming**

- Up to the 90's: procedural programming
  - Use of libraries for algorithms
  - Use of large data structures
    - Data structures passed to library functions
    - Results in form of data structures
- Typical languages used in Experiments:
  - Fortran for data analysis
  - C for online software

### **Today: Object Oriented Programming**

- Fundamental idea of OO:
  - Data is like money: completely useless...if you don't do anything with it...
  - Objects (instances of classes) contain the data and the functionality:
    - Nobody wants the data itself: you always want to do something with the data (you want a "service": find jets, find heavy particles, ...)
    - Data is hidden from the user of the object
    - Only the interface (= methods =functions) is exposed to the user.
  - Aim of this game:
    - Programmer should not care about data representation but about functionality
    - Achieve better robustness of software by encapsulating the data representation in classes which also contain the methods:
      - The class-designer is responsible for the data representation.
      - He can change it as long as the interface(= exposed functionality) stays the same.
  - Used since the 90s in Physics experiments
- Experience so far:
  - It is true that for large software projects a good OO design is more robust and easier to maintain.
  - Good design of a class library is difficult and time consuming and needs experienced programmers.

#### Frameworks vs Libraries

#### What is a software framework?

- Frameworks are programming environments which offer enhanced functionality to the programmer.
- Working with a framework usually implies programming according to some rules which the framework dictates. This is the difference wrt use of libraries.

#### Some Examples:

- Many frameworks for programming GUIs "own" the main program. The programmer's code is only executed via callbacks if some events are happening (e.g. mouse click, value entered, ...)
- An Physics Analysis framework usually contains the main loop over the events to be analyzed.
- An online software framework contains the functionality to receive commands from a Run-Control program and executes specific call-backs on the programmer's code.
  - It contains functionality to send "messages" to applications in other computers hiding the complexity of network programming from the application.

#### **Distributed computing**

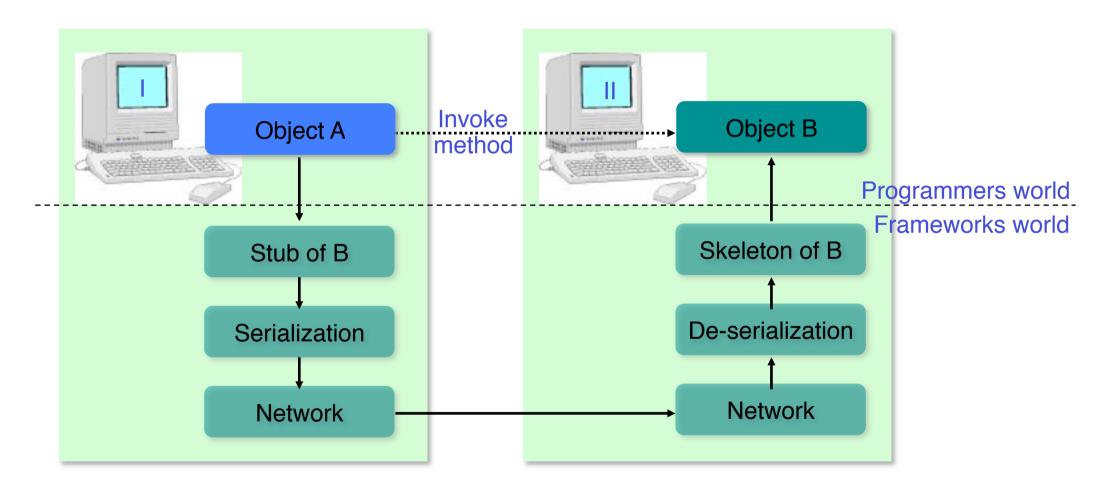
- A way of doing network programming:
  - "Normal Program": runs on a single computer. Objects "live" in the program.
  - Distributed Computing: An application is distributed over many computers connected via a network.
    - An object in computer A can call a method (service) of an object in computer B.
    - Distributed computing is normally provided by a framework.
    - The complexity of network programming is hidden from the programmer.

#### Examples:

- CORBA (Common Object Request Broker Architecture)
  - Used by Atlas
  - Works platform independent and programming language independent
- SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol)
  - Used by CMS
  - Designed for Web Applications
  - Based on xml and therefore also independent of platform or language

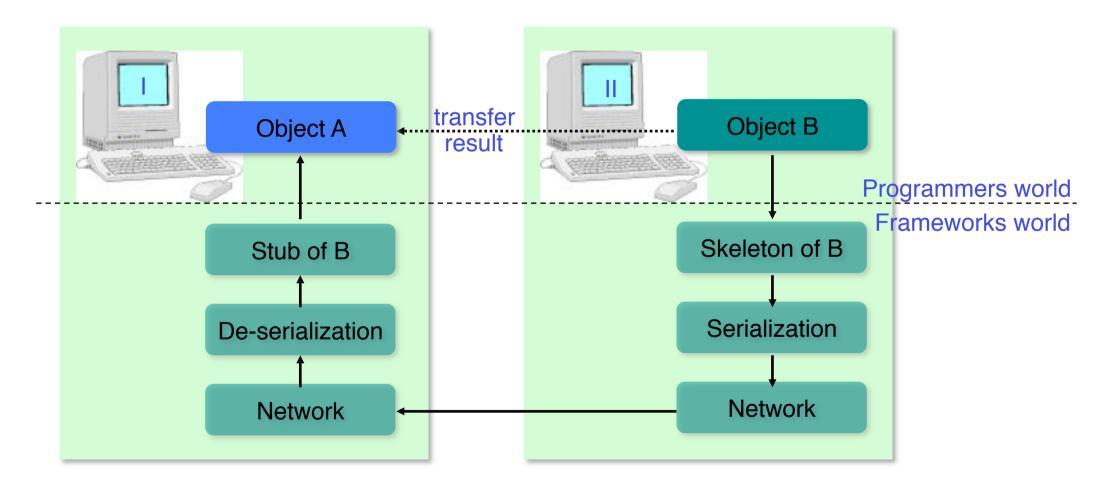
#### **Distributed computing**

A method on a remote object is called:

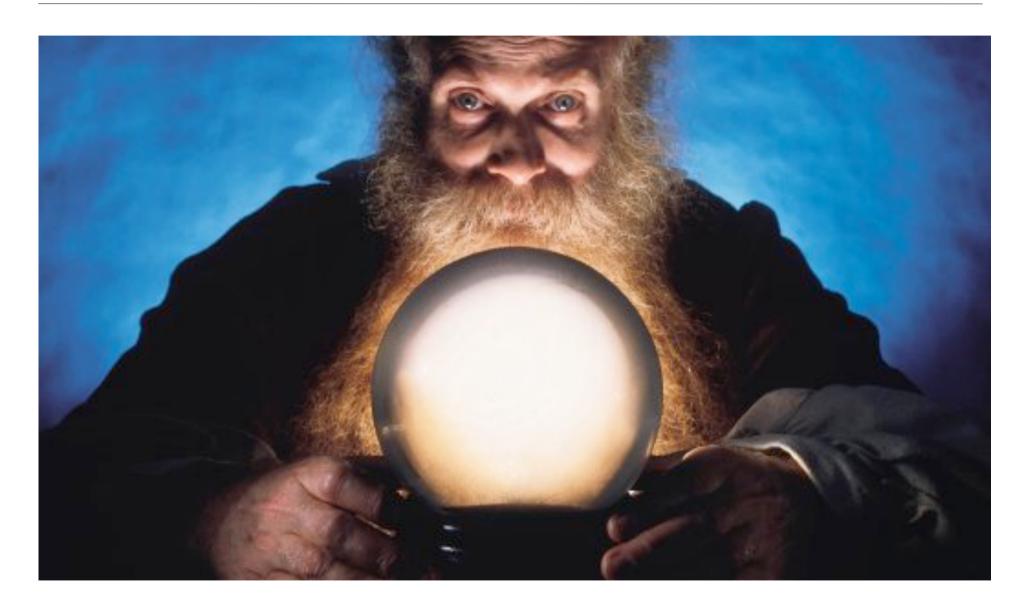


# **Distributed computing**

#### The result is coming back:



# ??? What does the future bring us ???



#### Possible scenarios at LHC

#### Everything here is speculation, but anyway...

- The way LHC reaches the "design luminosity":
  - Due to technical issues with the LHC it might be possible that design luminosity (10<sup>34</sup>) will be reached with bunch spacing of 50ns instead of 25ns originally foreseen.
    - Difficult issue for experiments because:

$$T_{InterBunch} x 2 \rightarrow N_{bunches} x 0.5 \rightarrow L_{per bunch} x 2 \rightarrow$$

Twice the number of underlying interactions (min.bias) per event !!!

46 instead of 23

#### A consequence

- Larger occupancies in the detector
- Trigger algorithms become perform worse
  - Isolation cuts need to be modified
  - Purity becomes worse (rate goes up) or efficiency drops
  - Thresholds need to be raised
- Events become larger
  - Expect a factor of 2 since average event size dominated by min. bias
  - Need to shuffle twice as much data with DAQ system
- HLT needs to work harder
  - E.g. to do tracking at higher occupancies, algorithms need more time

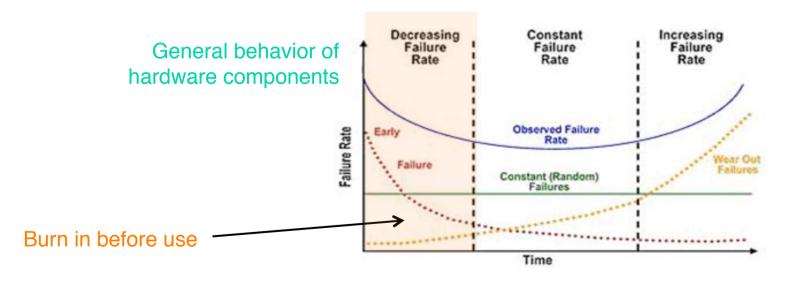
To keep the performance of the Detector a lot of components need to be upgraded in Trigger and DAQ

# In the far future... (year 20xy)

- Luminosity of LHC might reach multiple of design lumi
  - Today people talk about 5 x 10<sup>34</sup> which is 5 x design lumi
  - Trigger and DAQ need to be heavily upgraded for this scenario.
  - Probably Tracker information need to be added to the trigger
  - Calorimeter triggers need to work with finer granularities in order to be able to do effective isolation cuts.
  - Event size will grow due to detector upgrades (more channels) and more underlying min. bias events
    - DAQ needs substantially higher data throughput

#### Real life...

- A lot of hardware components become old ...
  - System reliability decreases
    - It makes sense to replace PCs every 4 years
    - It make sense to replace network equipment every 7 years
    - Custom hardware is usually kept longer... but of course it also starts breaking...



## Trigger upgrade projects

- Upgrade technology for very high lumi
  - Larger state of the art FPGA devices
    - Larger granularity needed
    - The trigger needs to cope with more channels
  - Modern link technology to interconnect processing boards
    - Multi Gigabit serial links
    - Telecommunication technology (uTCA crates with customized backplanes)

## **DAQ** upgrade projects

- Increase bandwidth of EventBuilder
  - New Readout links
    - Possibly with standard protocols
    - Connect directly to industrial network technology (TCP/IP?)
  - Event builder switch network
    - Move to 10Gb/Ethernet
  - HI T farm
    - Multi-core machines
- Specific DAQ problem: backwards compatibility
  - Not all sub-systems do the upgrade at the same time
  - Old and new readout systems need to co-exist
    - This prevents the possibility of radical changes (and unfortunately radical improvements are not feasable even though technical possible)

### Interesting for you...

- ...in case you want to participate
  - "Playing" with high tech technology guaranteed
- ...but... the golden time of electronics are over...:

One upon a time (in the 90s) a physicist could stick some FPGAs together, write some VHDL code and then claim: I have done an electronics board...

- Digital electronics has become challenging since analogue aspects play a major role in the meantime
  - This is due to the high clock frequencies
  - A connection becomes a transmission line were waves propagate
  - System issues like power distribution, PCB layout become major challenges
    - A PCB board is a complicated passive electronic device
- But this is also a major fun in electronics design
   (see: Highspeed Digital Design: A Handbook of Black Magic)

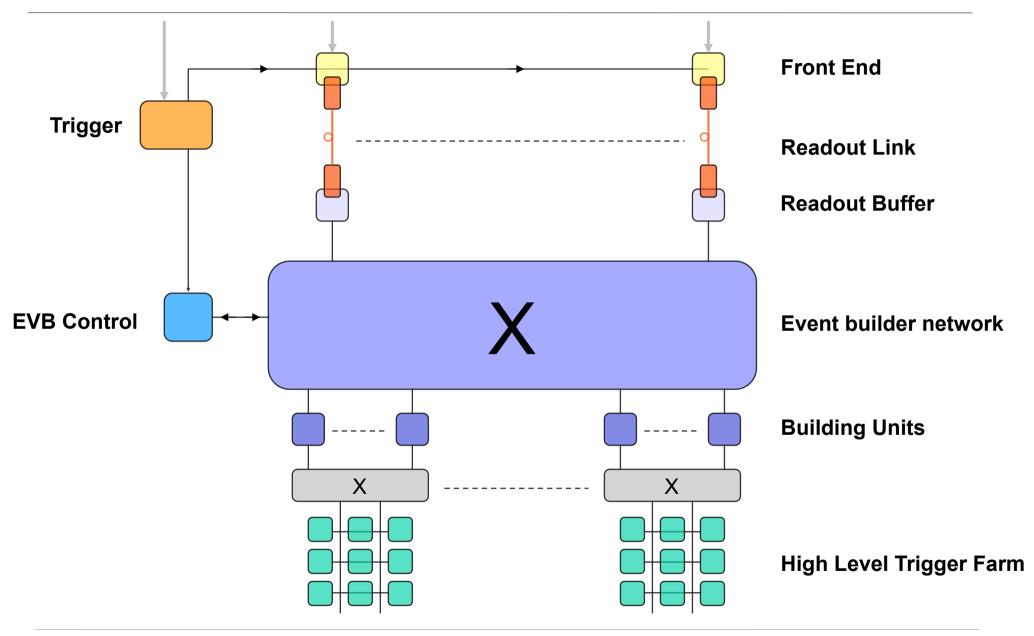
#### The END

Thank you

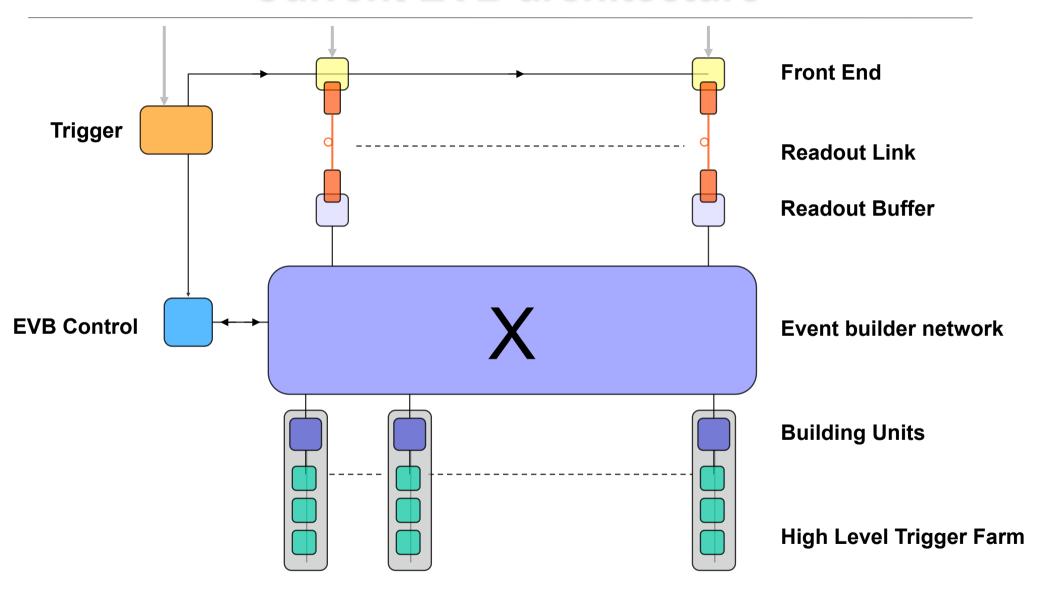
and

Have a lot of fun in future projects !!!

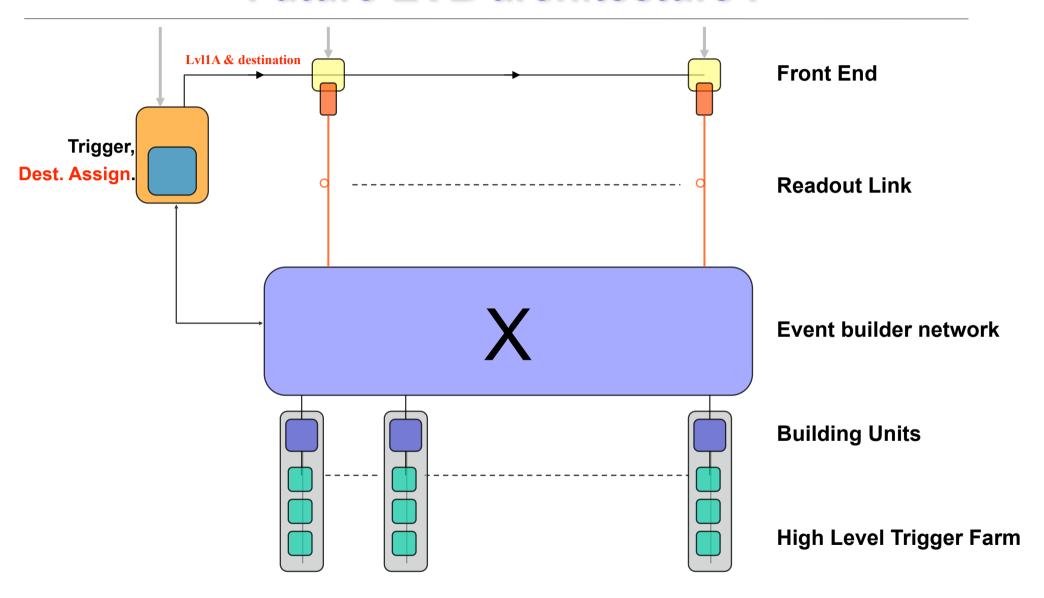
#### **Current EVB architecture**



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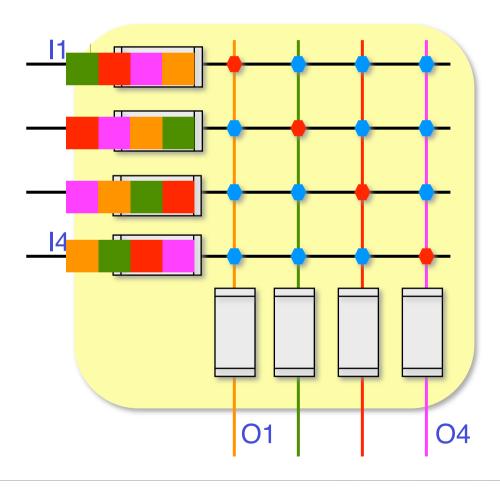
#### Future EVB architecture I



#### **EXTRA SLIDES**

# **Switch implementation**

Crossbar switch: perfect scenario



Full wirespeed can be reached (sustained)!

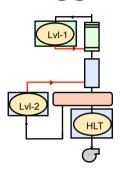
# **Technology: FPGAs**

Performance and features of todays "Top Of The Line"

- XILINX:
  - High Performance Serial Connectivity (3.125Gb/s transceivers):
    - 10GbE Cores, Infiniband, Fibre Channel, ...
  - PCI-express Core (1x and 4x => 10GbE ready)
  - Embedded Processor:
    - 1 or 2 400MHz Power PC 405 cores on chip
- ALTERA:
  - 3.125 Gb/s transceivers
    - 10GbE Cores, Infiniband, Fibre Channel, ...
  - PCI-express Core
  - Embedded Processors:
    - ARM processor (200MHz)
    - NIOS "soft" RISC: configurable

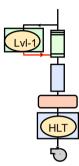
#### **Conclusions**

Trigger / DAQ at LHC experiments



Many Trigger levels:

- partial event readout
- complex readout buffer
- "straight forward" EVB

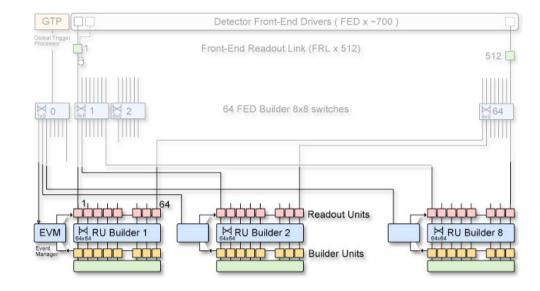


One Trigger level (CMS):

- "simple" readout buffer
- high throughput EVB
- complex EVB implementation (custom protocols, firmware)
- Detector Readout: Custom Point to Point Links
- Event-Building
  - Implemented with commercial Network technologies
  - Event building is done via "Network-switches" in large distributed systems.
  - Event Building traffic leads to network congestion
     Traffic shaping copes with these problems

# Stage2: RU-Builder (original plan: 2004)

- Implementation: Myrinet
  - Connect 64 Readout-Units to
     64 Builder-Units with switch
  - Wire-speed in Myrinet:250MB/s



- Avoid blocking of switch: Traffic shaping with Barrel Shifter
  - Chop event data into fixed size blocks (re-assembly done at receiver)
  - Barrel shifter (next slides)

## Further trigger levels

First level trigger rate still too high for permanent storage Example CMS, Atlas:

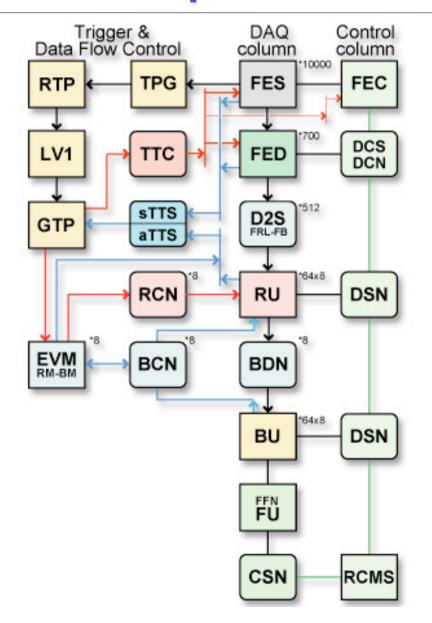
```
Typical event size: 1MB (ATLAS, CMS) 1 MB @ 100 kHz = 100 GB/s
```

"Reasonable" data rate to permanent Storage:

100 MB/s (pp physics) ... 1 GB/s (Heavy Ion physics)

More trigger levels are needed to further reduce the fraction of less interesting events in the selected sample.

# **Example CMS: data flow**



Acronyms				
BCN	Builder Control Network			
BDN	Builder Data Network			
BM	Builder Manager			
BU	Builder Unit			
CSN	Computing Service Network			
DCS	Detector Control System			
DCN	Detector Control Network			
DSN	DAQ Service Network			
D2S	Data to Surface			
EVM	Event Manager			
FB	FED Builder			
FEC	Front-End Controller			
FED	Front-End Driver			
FES	Front-End System			
FFN	Filter Farm Network			
FRL	Front-End Readout Link			
FS	Filter Subfarm			
GTP	Global Trigger Processor			
LV1	Level-1 Trigger Processor			
RTP	Regional Trigger Processor			
RM	Readout Manager			
RCN	Readout Control Network			
RCMS	Run Control and Monitor System			
RU	Readout Unit			
TPG	Trigger Primitive Generator			
TTC	Timing, Trigger and Control			
sTTS	synchronous Trigger Throttle System			
aTTS	asynchronous Trigger Throttle System			

# High Level Trigger: CPU usage

- Based on full simulation, full analysis and "offline" HLT Code
- All numbers for a 1 GHz, Intel Pentium-III CPU
- Total: 4092s for 15.1 kHz -> 271 ms/event
- Expect improvements, additions.
- A 100kHz system requires 1.2x10<sup>6</sup> SI95
- Corresponds to 2000 dual CPU boxes in 2007 (assuming Moores's law)

Trigger	-CPU (ms)	Rate (kHz)	₋Total (s)
_1e/γ, 2e/γ	_160	_4.3	-688
_1μ, 2μ	_710	-3.6	2556
_1τ, 2τ	_130	-3.0	_390
-Jets, Jet * Miss-E <sub>T</sub>	<sub>-</sub> 50	_3.4	<b>-170</b>
-e * jet	_165	-0.8	<sub>-</sub> 132
_B-jets	-300	-0.5	<sub>-</sub> 150

#### CMS an Pb collision

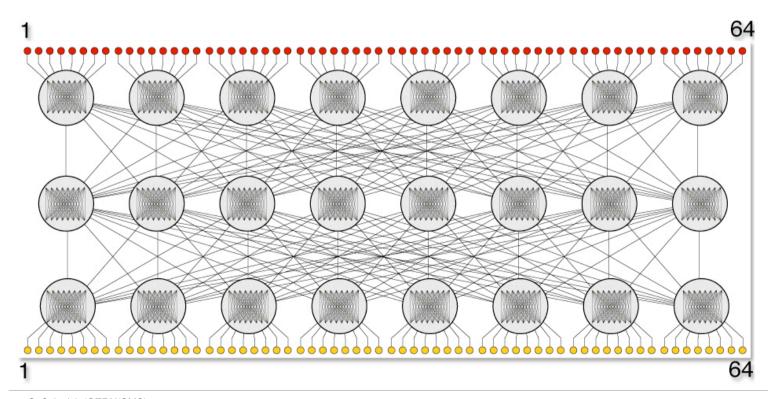
- Luminosity 10^27
  - 8kHz expected event rate
  - 330 kB to 8.5 MB event size (depending on impact parameter)

==> transfer all collisions to HLT farm (no rejection in Lvl 1)

On average 4s per collision with 1500 nodes in filter farm

# Myrinet (old switch)

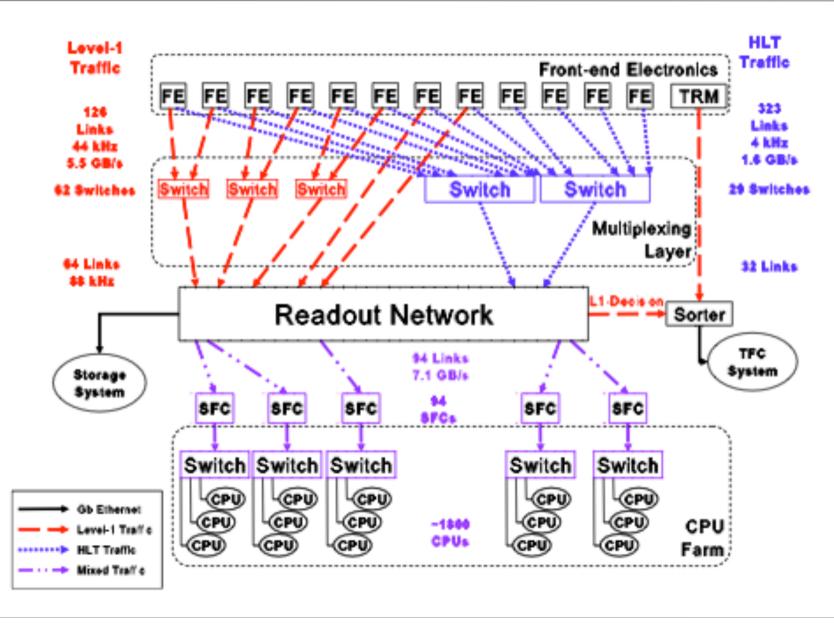
- network built out of crossbars (Xbar16)
- wormhole routing, built-in back pressure (no packet loss)
- switch: 128-Clos switch crate
  - 64x64 x 2.0 Gbit/s port (bisection bandwidth 128 Gbit/s)
- NIC: M3S-PCI64B-2 (LANai9 with RISC), custom Firmware



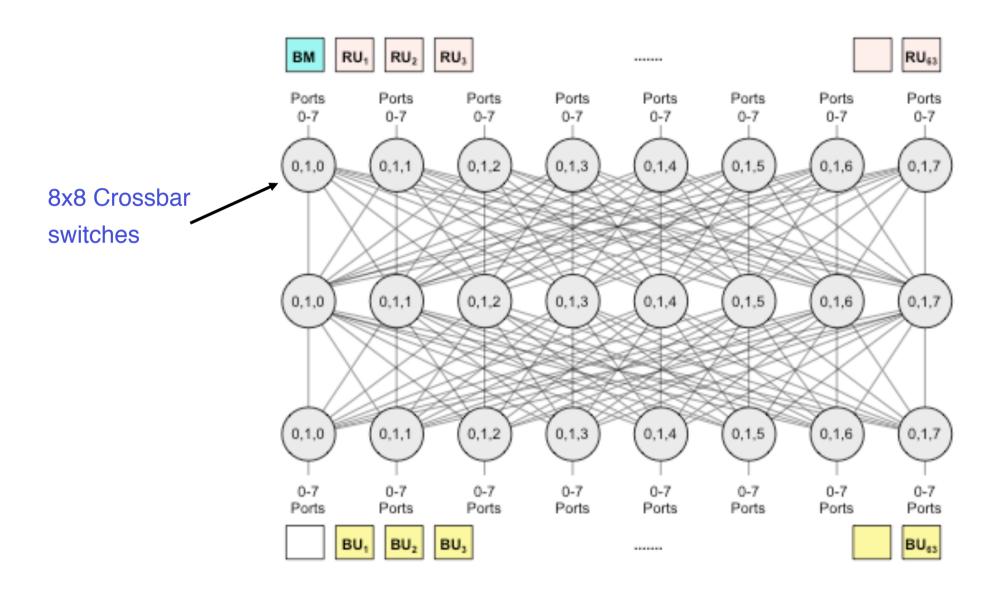
#### **LHCb**

- Operate at  $L = 2 \times 10^{32} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ : 10 MHz event rate
- LvI0: 2-4 us latency, 1MHz output
  - Pile-up veto, calorimeter, muon
- Lvl1: 52.4ms latency, 40 kHz output
  - Impact parameter measurements
  - Runs on same farm as HLT, EVB
- Pile up veto
  - Can only tolerate one interaction per bunch crossing since otherwise always a displaced vertex would be found by trigger

#### LHCb L1-HLT-Readout network



#### Clos-switch 128 from 8x8 Crossbars



## Intermezzo: Networking

#### TCP/IP on Ethernet networks

All data packets are surrounded by headers and a trailer

Ethernet

IP

**TCP** 

A HTTP request from a browser

Trailer

#### Ethernet:

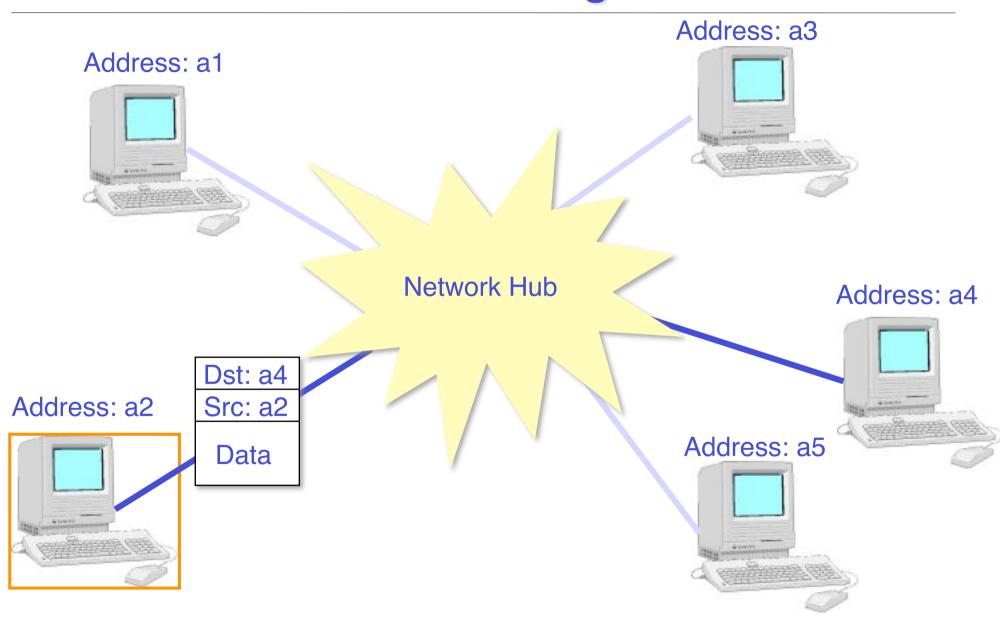
- Addresses understood by hardware (NIC and switch)

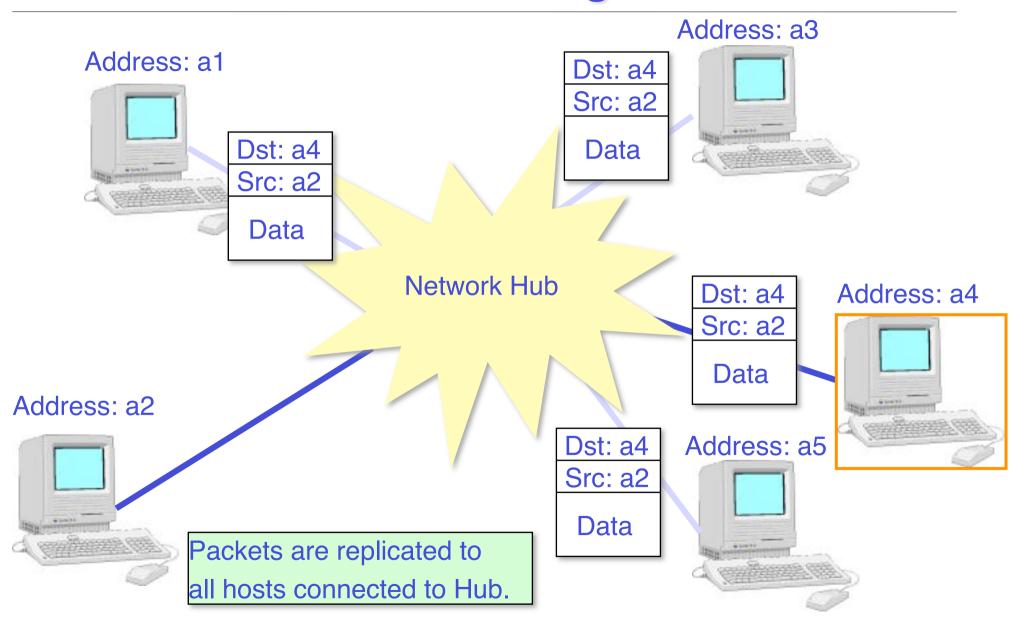
#### IP:

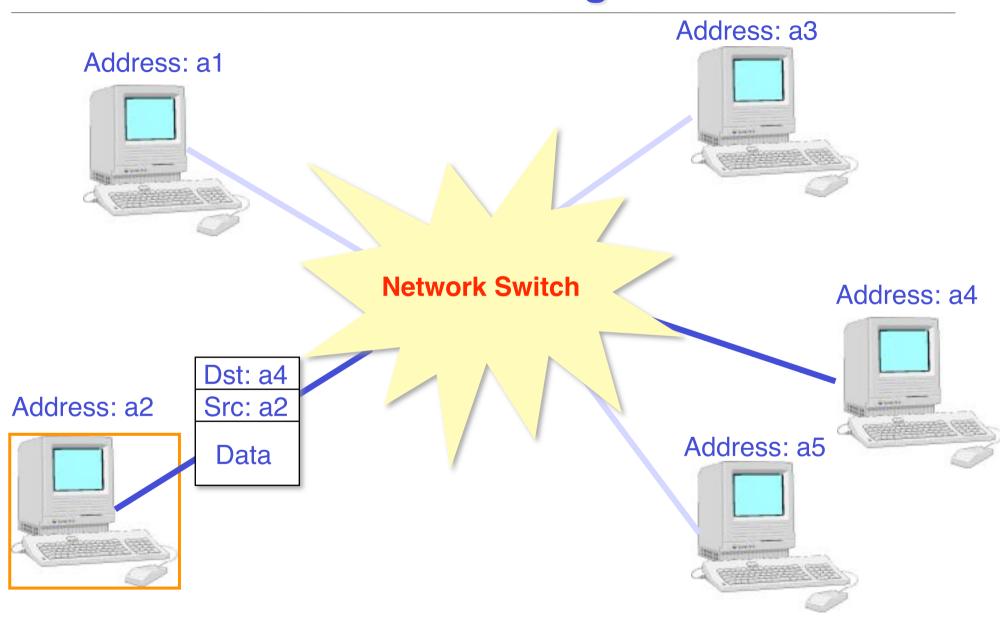
- unique addresses (world wide) known by DNS (you can search for <a href="https://www.google.com">www.google.com</a>)

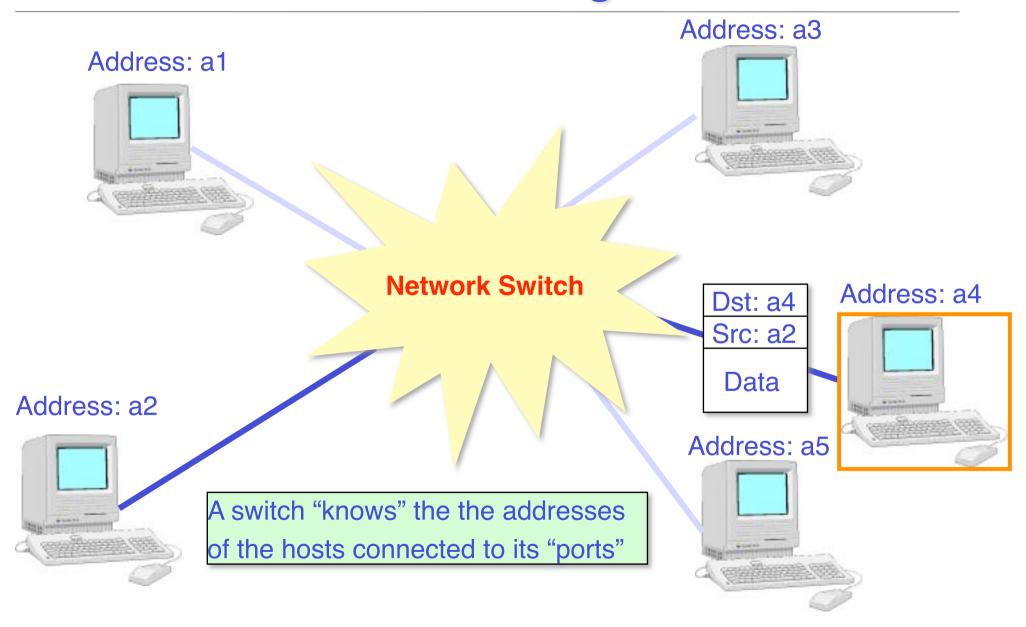
#### TCP:

- Provides programmer with an API.
- Establishes "connections" = logical communication channels ("socket programming)
- Makes sure that your packet arrives: requires an acknowledge for every packet sent (retries after timeout)

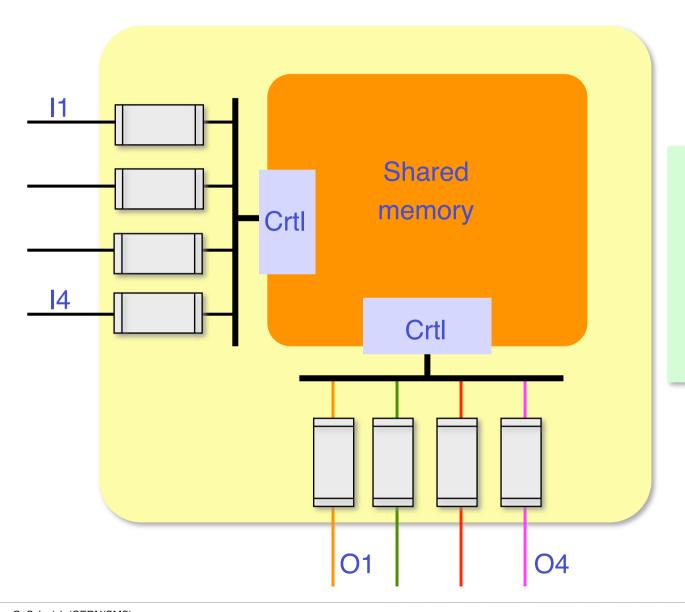








## **Alternative switch implementation**



#### Similar issue:

The behavior of the switch (blocking or non-blocking) depends largely on the amount of internal memory (FIFOs and shared memory)

#### Implementation of EVBs and HLTs today



Higher level triggers are implemented in software. Farms of PCs investigate event data in parallel.

Eventbuilder and HLT Farm resemble an entire "computer center"

