DIRAC

(Distributed Infrastructure with Remote Agent Control)

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Overview

- ▶ DIRAC is a middleware/interface for the grid, which distributes jobs across all of the UK GridPP sites.
- ▶ Initially designed for LHCb, but now used much more widely
- ▶ In particular, it chooses where to submit based on what's free across the UK, rather than relying on the user to monitor resources.
- Gives access in one unified place to all available UK resources (even with a nice web interface!)
- Need to set up your jobs to run in a generic sandbox, without direct access to Durham filesystem [→ LFN storage, CVMFS, (GFAL)].

Site Listings

Lancs

Liverpool

Manchester

Sheffield

Durham

Glasgow

Birmingham

Cambridge

Oxford

Rutherford Labs

UCL

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Striaghtforward to exclude certain sites if they're having trouble or you're submitting directly at the same time

Total core count considerably larger than Durham alone!

Important Bits and Bobs

- Jobs have lower priority than direct ARC submission
- 2 day job time limit
- ► Single core jobs only (not particularly usable for Mathematica runs with huge memory needs etc.)
- As far as I'm aware, CPU only
- Certificates last for an entire year don't need to update daily
- You have to provide most libraries yourself (or ask for them to be put on CVMFS)
 - ▶ Python 2.4 is the newest version you can assume for the job sandboxes, so no python 3 :(
 - ► LHAPDF 6.1.6 works, LHAPDF 6.2.1 doesn't (path issues with PDF set storage)

Input/Output File Storage

- In my experience, the main issue in getting set up with DIRAC
- Jobs run in temporary sandboxes, without direct access to Durham filesystem
- Alternatives are needed to get software in, results out:
 - CVMFS for input executables/libraries that don't change often
 - ► LFN using Ifc*, lcg* commands for input and output [DEPRECATED, BUT WORKS EVERYWHERE]
 - ► GFAL using gfal* commands for input **and** output [ARC ONLY, DIRAC HAS PYTHON ISSUES CURRENTLY]
- ► LFN+CVMFS is what I use. Slow and lossy, but generally ok.
- ▶ In general, some degree of experimentation and patience is needed

Installation

Installing Dirac is quite easy!
This information comes directly from https://www.gridpp.ac.uk/wiki/Quick_Guide_to_Dirac

```
DIRAC_FOLDER="~/dirac_ui"
DIRAC_VERSION="-r v6r20p5 -i 27 -g v14r1"

mkdir $DIRAC_FOLDER
cd $DIRAC_FOLDER
wget -np - O dirac-install https://raw.githubusercontent.com/DIRACGrid/DIRAC/integration/Core/scripts/
dirac-install.py
chmod u+x dirac-install
./dirac-install $DIRAC_VERSION
source $DIRAC_FOLDER/bashrc
dirac-configure -F -S GridPP -C dips://dirac01.grid.hep.ph.ic.ac.uk:9135/Configuration/Server -I
dirac-proxy-init -g pheno_user -M
```

JDL Syntax

Syntax is much like for ARC submission

- Getting Started Guide https://dirac.readthedocs.io/...
- ► Full Manual https://media.readthedocs.org/pdf/dirac/latest/dirac.pdf

JDL Syntax

Nice features:

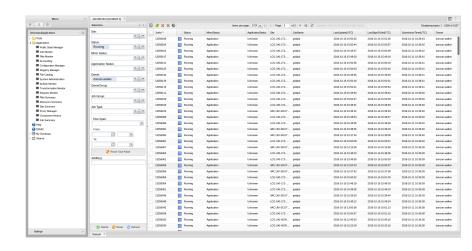
- Parametric job submission
 - Allows submission of up to 1k jobs with a varying parameter (e.g. MC integration seed, parameter for scanning etc.) in one go, rather than as 1k separate jobs → Much faster than ARC!
- All source is python based (can go and tinker if you don't like something...)
 - ▶ 180+ scripts for monitoring, submission etc. included in installation already.
 - Set up as modules if you want to have direct access to API through python imports

JDL Syntax

Example .jdl file:

dirac-wms-job-submit <filename>.jdl

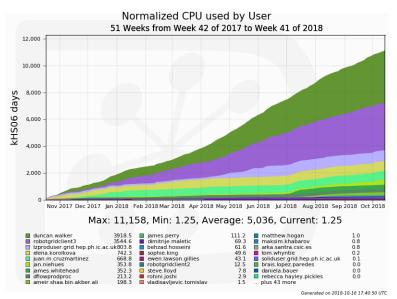
Web Interface



Web Interface

- Can monitor all of your jobs in one place
 - ▶ Group by site, status, name etc.
- Provides a quick preview of stdout if you want to check your submission(s)
- Able to directly download output files as tar.gz if you need to debug rare failures
- Can produce output stats to monitor your usage and/or environmental impact

Web Interface - Stats



pyHepGrid

- Unified set of grid scripts with easy access to submission backends, programs and file storage systems with a local SQL database of jobs.
- Source: https://github.com/scarlehoff/pyHepGrid
- In collaboration with J.C. Martinez. Looking for alpha testers!

