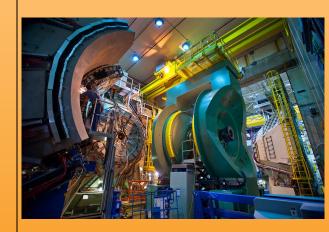
Data & Analysis Preservation

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What is DAP?

- The goal of the **Data and Analysis Preservation** (DAP) is to maintain the capability of experiments to reliably perform analyses over a long period of time, thus protecting and leveraging the significant investment of the funding agencies and the science community.
- Retaining data (i.e. so-called "bit preservation") only makes sense if the analysis
 expertise and necessary software and infrastructure elements are equally well preserved.
- Being able to access and process data previously collected opens up opportunities to apply novel analyses techniques, test new models and make corrections if necessary.
- DAP also has important outreach and educational aspects.
 - o cf. the "Open Data" policies of major LHC experiments
- PHENIX is engaged in the international DAP community and aims to utilize best in class, well supported platforms for this task.



Challenges according to experts (applicable to PHENIX)

If there is one lesson in this story it is the need to take a "holistic approach" – data without the software is often useless, as is software without build and verification systems and/or necessary additional data (alignment, calibration, magnetic field maps etc.) These are typically stored separately and involve distinct services that evolve on independent timescales and with lifetimes typically much shorter than the period for which the corresponding "data" needs to be preserved.

https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.2653526 "Software Preservation and Legacy issues at LEP" (J.Shiers)

No matter what preservation tools are developed that might enable reuse of software, analysis techniques, and data, if they are not conceived from the beginning as an integral part of the standard frameworks, retrofitting will be nearly impossible.

https://arxiv.org/abs/1810.01191 "HSF White Paper: Data and Software Preservation to Enable Reuse"



The role of the facility

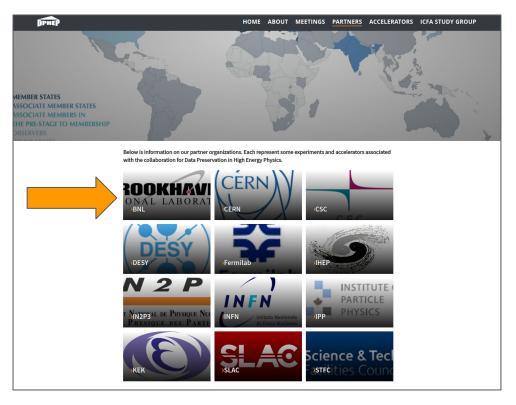


- DAP universally depends on continuity of services and expertise provided by the facility
 cf. the previous slide
- This is especially true for PHENIX: BNL SDCC is its only functioning computing site.
- In addition to bit preservation (mass storage) the facility provides software builds and provisioning capabilities (including containers, CVMFS etc), databases and more.
- Any planning of DAP must include facility involvement over the relevant time period.



The DPHEP Collaboration https://dphep.web.cern.ch/

International Collaboration for Data Preservation and Long Term Analysis in High Energy Physics



DPHEP: BNL Participation

- BNL is a member of the DPHEP Collaboration which was formed at CERN ca. 2013 "The collaboration aims to create a natural forum for the high energy physics community to foster discussion, archive consensus, and transfer knowledge on technological solutions and the diverse governance applying to the preservation of data, software, and know-how in the high energy physics community."
- SDCC (BNL) is an active DPHEP partner on the facility side, participating in DAP technology development and testing. This gives BNL and the RHIC/EIC community optimal access to the state-of-the-art methodologies and tools.
- PHENIX members participated in the DPHEP Workshops at CERN in 2019 and 2021 the latter takes place this week - and continue to be actively engaged with and receive guidance from DPHEP

PHENIX: DAP Challenges, categorized

PHENIX: Challenges of Knowledge Management

- Need to keep records of software provenance, dependencies, configuration, use etc
 - o cf. the exact sequence of analysis macros
 - o Parameters, arguments, provenance and location of "dead maps" etc
- Software preservation ≠ Analysis preservation
- Keep track of "data artifacts" such as conditions-type data which may be produced for the purposes of a particular analysis and depend on details known mostly to the people involved in this analysis (misc. cuts, maps, lists, numerical constants in macros etc)
- There is a requirement to record such info in a dedicated section of the "Analysis Note" which must accompany every paper
 - e.g. verbal description of the procedure and location of macros in HPSS
 - o ...but in reality its efficacy is variable, some notes are better than others
- Hard to provide continuity of know-how as people move on



PHENIX: Legacy web infrastructure

- Information was spread across a few legacy web resources the software, detector and subsystem information and other documentation
- Information was diluted with items once relevant for PHENIX but no longer aligned with its current and future needs
- PHP-based proprietary information systems e.g. document database (papers, talks, theses), numerical data archive etc became difficult to upgrade, maintain and keep secure - and we experienced outages

PHENIX: Software challenges

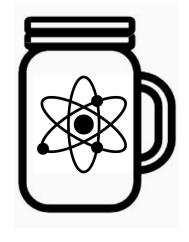
- Over the years, portability of the core software build procedures was largely lost
 - This is not unique to PHENIX
 - Build and configuration are specific and coupled to the computing site (BNL)
- Due to certain compatibility issues most of the software is still built in the i686 (32-bit)
 environment
 - This means extra software packages that need to be installed on modern Scientific Linux
- ROOT5 still widely used (and is default) due to many legacy macros
 - Dependencies must be addressed for the 32-bit build
- PHENIX used Singularity to run production in a containerized environment
 - ...with the caveat that the software stack is in AFS
 - Now running natively in the SL7 environment



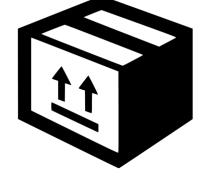
The DAP Strategy in PHENIX



Bit preservation



Analysis capture



Containers



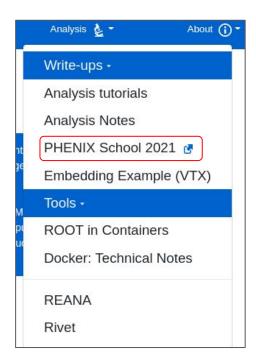
Web-based documentation



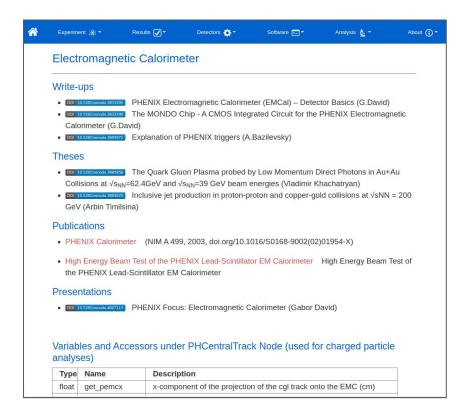
Modern repositories for research materials

The new website: https://www.phenix.bnl.gov/





The new website: a typical subsystem page



The website functionality and design

- Links to various (and new) PHENIX resources are provided and managed on the site:
 - o Zenodo, HEPData, OpenData, InspireHEP, GitHub, Docker Hub, REANA
 - Technical notes and descriptions of the detector subsystems, run history etc (hosted locally)
- The website is effectively replacing a few legacy web resources
 - With a lot of functionality moved to cloud platforms listed above
 - Some items are hard to migrate (cf. Analysis Note archive), some impossible (CDS)
- Design goals ease of long term maintenance, performance and security
- We are using a static site generator (Jekyll) to achieve these goals
 - Development version is hosted on GitHub pages, production version is hosted at BNL
 - Helper macros developed (in Liquid) to make content creation and management easier
- Contributions are most welcome!



Open Data Tiers: HEPData and OpenData portals

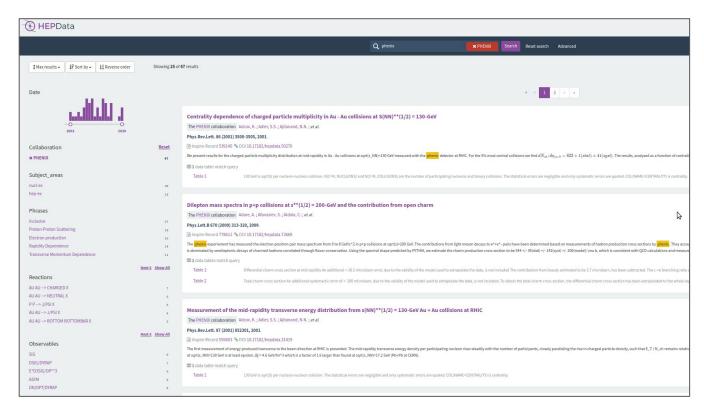
- Level 1: Data Products used in publications.
 - Such as data points and errors used in plots, in numeric format
 - cf. the "HEPData" portal: https://www.hepdata.net/



- Level 2: Special Purpose Datasets for Education and Outreach.
 - Select datasets + virtualized or otherwise portable analysis software + documentation
 - cf. the "OpenData" portal: https://opendata.cern.ch/
- Level 3: Reconstructed Open Data; may be released in future
 - Implies a more complex analysis environment than in Level 2
 - Requires adequate software and computing infrastructure to be properly used
- Level 4: Raw Data. Preserved, but not considered useful for release.



PHENIX on HEPData



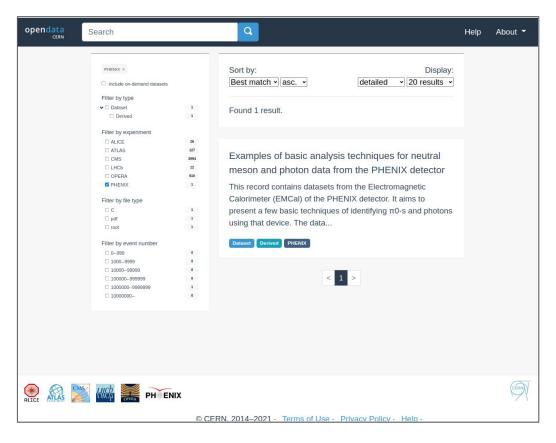
HEPData submissions mandated for all new publications

Revisiting older publication materials as time permits

Using GitHub for material development, support of team effort

Your contributions are welcome!

PHENIX OpenData entry - the first for a US-based experiment

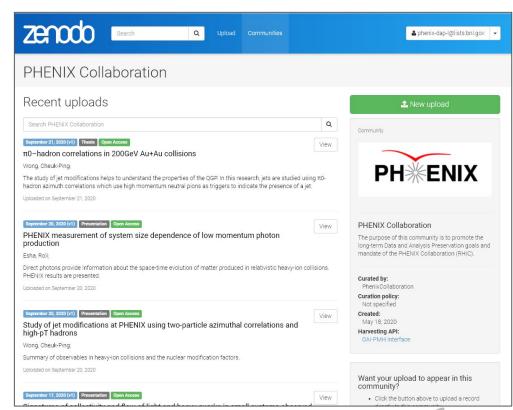


- Package Content:
 - Derived data (Ntuples)
 - ROOT macros
 - Detailed instructions (PDF)
- Subject area:
 - Analyses based on the EM calorimeter data
- Thanks to the CERN team for helping this happen!
- Plan: to add more instructive items of this type

Zenodo@CERN - the PHENIX community

https://zenodo.org/communities/phenixcollaboration

- ~400 PHENIX items, uploads ongoing
- Branded, curated, discoverable, DOI'd
- Well-suited for long-term preservation
 - Also works well for current activity: theses, analysis tutorials, conferences etc
 - 99% percent of document storage is outsourced here from the PHENIX website, taking full advantage of Zenodo search capabilities
- Indexed
 - Keywords are managed and linked on the PHENIX website
- +elastic search capability



Docker/REANA: more in the interactive section ...Just a quick intro here...

Capturing the Software Environment

- For most of the PHENIX software the build is not portable
- Containerization offers a partial solution to this problem
 - Also opens the possibility to use REANA (next slide)



- Work is currently underway to create images of the analysis software environment (e.g. fun4all etc)
- Created images to preserve legacy ROOT5 versions to ensure compatibility with older macros
 - You can have an environment on your laptop identical to an interactive SDCC node i.e. same version of ROOT, emacs, X11
- We are using GitHub to manage Dockerfiles, Docker Hub for image delivery and also a private Docker registry at BNL to provision software to REANA



REANA - reproducible analysis

- Deployed at BNL, with PHENIX team currently on the learning curve, running analysis macros
- Demonstrated capability to run complex analyses at the LHC scale
- Synergy with the recent EIC effort
- Both storage and CPU can be scaled up if resources are made available
- There is interest in running complete final stages of analyses in this environment
- We will have an interactive exercise in a few minutes



DAP: Data and Analysis Preservation in 2020s

- In the past few years, DAP has gained an increased prominence in the scope of effort of major High Energy and Nuclear Physics (HEP/NP) experiments, driven by the policies of the funding agencies as well as realization of the benefits brought by DAP to the science output of many projects in the field.
- Platforms like REANA, Zenodo/Invenio, OpenData, HepData form a fairly complete DAP ecosystem, placing solid DAP capability within the reach of most experiments and reducing the need for in-house development
- Observation: pursuit of reproducibility of calculations is not limited to HEP and other sciences but is an integral part of many industrial projects, leading to the establishment of techniques and practices we can learn from
- Knowledge Management is perhaps the central part of DAP, beyond the software and infrastructure preservation (as challenging as these items are)

DAP evolution: from tape archives to DevOps

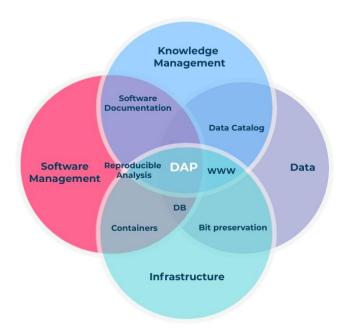
- In the past, there was an assumption that while DAP required investment and effort upfront, any benefits coming from it could only be realized in the long-term, thus complicating adoption of DAP practices. This may no longer be true.
- The technology landscape has changed.
- Many aspects of DAP overlap with modern practices of software development, management and packaging which have immediate impact
 - Version control and code organization
 - Containerization, CI, testing and validation
 - More generally, "software sustainability"
- Knowledge Management (KM) is a core component of DAP but in fact not exclusive to it
 - O KM is conducive to efficient knowledge transfer which brings about efficiencies. Consider onboarding new members of a collaboration, bringing graduate students up to speed etc
- Reproducibility is a key factor in creating high-quality scientific output and therefore has both near-term and long-term benefits.

DAP practices have the potential to enhance quality of the science output in near term by helping ensure reproducibility

DAP focus on knowledge management is conducive to efficient knowledge transfer within the collaboration and across projects

Software management, packaging and containerization facilitates deployment

Modern digital repositories create efficient document management solutions on every time scale (cf. the use of Zenodo in both PHENIX and EIC)



Lessons learned

- DAP in new experiments: plan and start early
 - The effort will pay for itself by increasing overall productivity of the experiment
 - PHENIX is fighting an uphill battle here due to a late start
- Avoid building in-house information systems, there are many tools available
 - State-of-the-art services such as Zenodo, OpenData, HEPData, REANA, Inspire etc cover a vast majority of the experiments' needs
- Containerization solves many of the challenges of capturing the software environment
 - Use it!
- Create websites for the long haul (static site generation works well)
- Prioritize analyses for preservation as effort is always limited



Final thoughts

- In the past two years PHENIX made progress in Analysis Preservation
- A new website has been commissioned, designed for low-maintenance, long-term operation. It serves as a portal to a external resources leveraged by PHENIX
 - HEPData, Zenodo, GitHub, Docker Hub, InspireHEP, OpenData
- We are catching up with other experiments in the area of HEPData submissions
- 400 uploads on Zenodo an impressive body of work, all theses, conference presentations for the past few years, older technical papers
- We created our first entry on the CERN OpenData portal and will continue this effort
- Wider adoption of REANA is a worthy goal
 - If your analysis depends on "pure ROOT" macros it's a low hanging fruit
- Creation of full PHENIX containers is on the critical path and is in progress

