Report sent on July 18th to: wlcg-scod@cern.ch

Type of Incident: CVMFS inconsistency  
Location: IN2P3-CC  
Duration: 21 hours  
Date: July 3rd 2012, 5:00PM to July 4th 2012, 02:00PM CEST  
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Description

Some subdirectories of the LHCb branch of CVMFS were not accessible but available at CERN, requiring a restart of the CVMFS clients on the worker nodes.

Timeline

July 3rd (Tuesday)
- 17:00 LHCb signalled the unavailability of some directories in CVMFS by a TEAM ticket.
- 19:00 Batch scheduling blocked for all jobs requiring CVMFS.

July 4th (Wednesday)
- 09:00 380 jobs for ATLAS and 90 jobs for LHCb killed to prepare restart of CVMFS clients on the worker nodes.
- 11:00 Completion of client restarts.
- 11:15 Progressively freeing jobs which use CVMFS.
- 14:00 Back to normal operation.

Analysis

Investigation showed that a particular directory of LHCb – apparently a new one – was visible but no further information was available. Especially it was impossible to know whether there were files in it or not. The corresponding directory at CERN existed and did not present any problems. A similar problem has already been encountered some time ago, also with a directory of LHCb (GGUS 80405, March 2012).

Impact

Jobs from ATLAS and LHCb using CVMFS could not start during the night from Tuesday to Wednesday and jobs still running on Wednesday morning were killed to prepare the CVMFS client restart on the worker nodes.

Corrective actions

Restart of the CVMFS clients was taken as an occasion to update them to the latest version which apparently contained a fix for the problem encountered. Feedback from LHCb would be appreciated when the experiment defines similar directories / files in CVMFS. The site could then verify if the client behaves correctly.