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Introducing the Scalable Storage Competition (SSC)



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Introduction

Motivation

- Storage community is small
- Students and professional training for HPC-I/O is insufficient
- Vendors and research have a hard job to attract (qualified) people

About the Scalable Storage Competition

- International competition for teams of students and IT-specialists
- Tasks: deploy and optimize filesystems on HPC hardware
- Goal: encourage and challenge participants to learn more about I/O

Prospect Tasks

Given

- Cluster with 10 nodes
- Storage servers

Tasks

- Setup cluster with image of your choice
- Setup storage system with file system of your choice
- Run various I/O-benchmarks and applications incl. IO500

Steps

- Teams apply to participate providing some information about them
- Selection of the teams based on interest, support, and expertise
- Kick-off with all teams revealing the tasks that need to be completed
- All teams will get (user) access concurrently to the system to be able to understand its hardware composition
- According to schedule, each team gets 1 week exclusive remote access (1 week buffer between teams to rectify problems and reset system state)
- At ISC or SC, we will reveal the results and honor the successful teams

Outline

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Status

- We will proceed and seek discussion
- We want to form a steering board
- We'd be happy to get more externals involved
 - ▶ Trainers
 - ▶ Steering board, other supporters...
- We are considering to establish a summer school for storage
- We have discussed this with vendors but can also use on-premise hardware
- Key challenge: organizing teams to participate...