3nd ASTERICS-OBELICS Workshop

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Data and Software Preservation through Containerisation

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ERLANGEN CENTRE FOR ASTROPARTICLE PHYSICS

FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER UNIVERSITÄT ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG

Overview

- About KM3NeT
- Motivation
- Containerisation
- Docker and Singularity
- Singularity in Production Pipelines
- Continuous Integration
- Data Provenance

About KM3NeT

- Thousands of digital optical modules (DOMs), each holding 31 photomultiplier tubes will be deployed in the Mediterranean within the next few years to observe neutrino interactions
- In its final configuration it will comprise 6 building blocks with 115 strings each (string = vertical line with 18 DOMs), i.e. 12420 DOMs in total.
- The raw data rate of a single building block is roughly 25 Gb/s
- Letter of intent for KM3NeT 2.0 https://doi.org/10.1088/0954-3899/43/8/084001


A KM3NeT

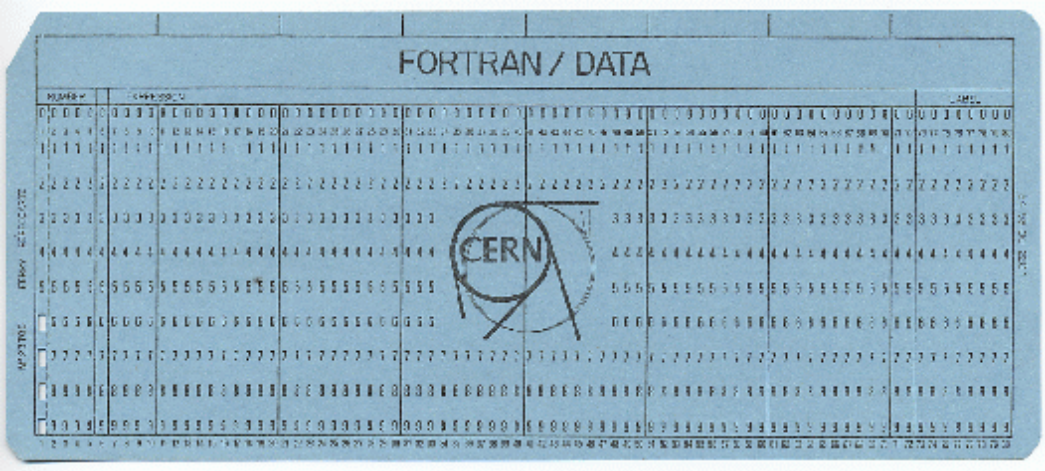
Computing Model of KM3NeT – Processing Chain

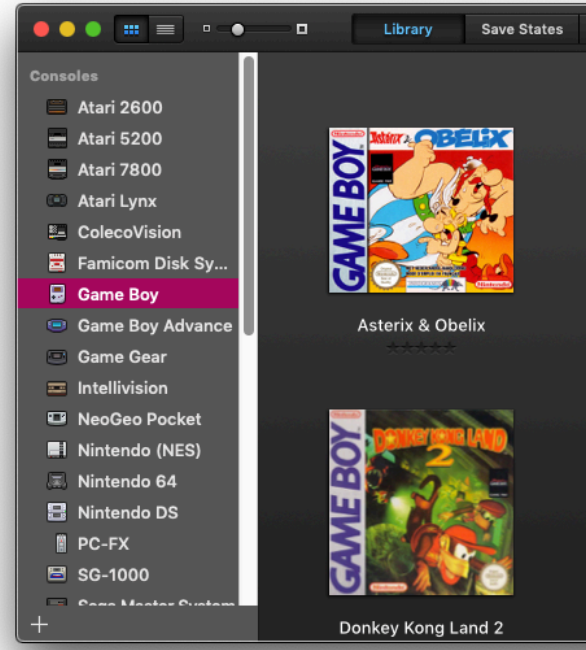
- "All data to shore" approach
- Events are triggered at detector site (Tier 0)
- Calibration and reconstruction on HPC centres (Tier 1)
- High level analysis on HPC, local computing clusters or desktops (Tier 2)

- There is a need for robust processing chains for these complex tasks

Motivation of Data and Software Preservation

- Reusing existing data and software
- Reproducing scientific results
- Being independent of the processing infrastructure (cloud computing, GRID, etc.)
- *Minimise the efforts to achieve these tasks*





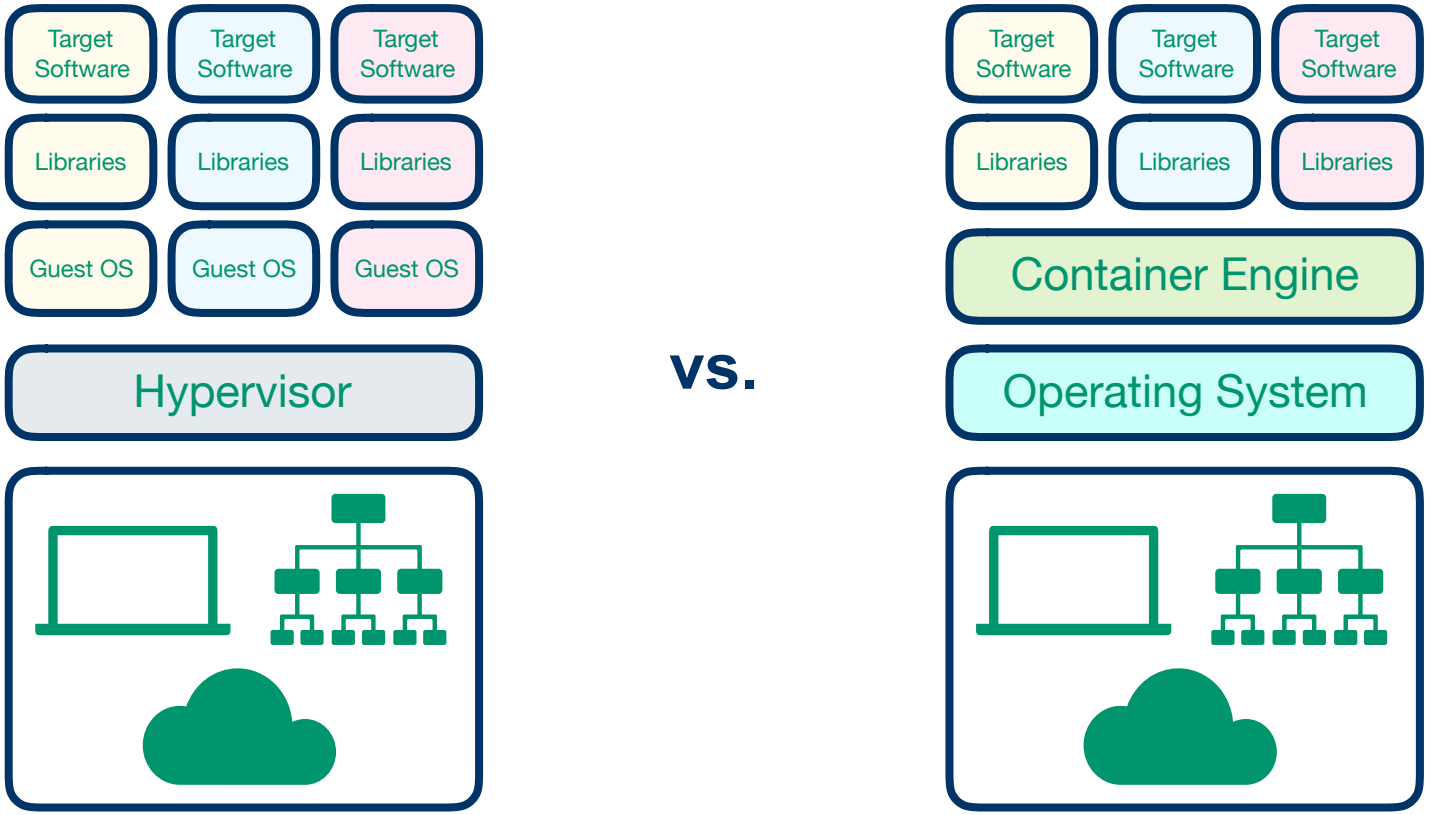
https://xkcd.com/1742

Containerisation

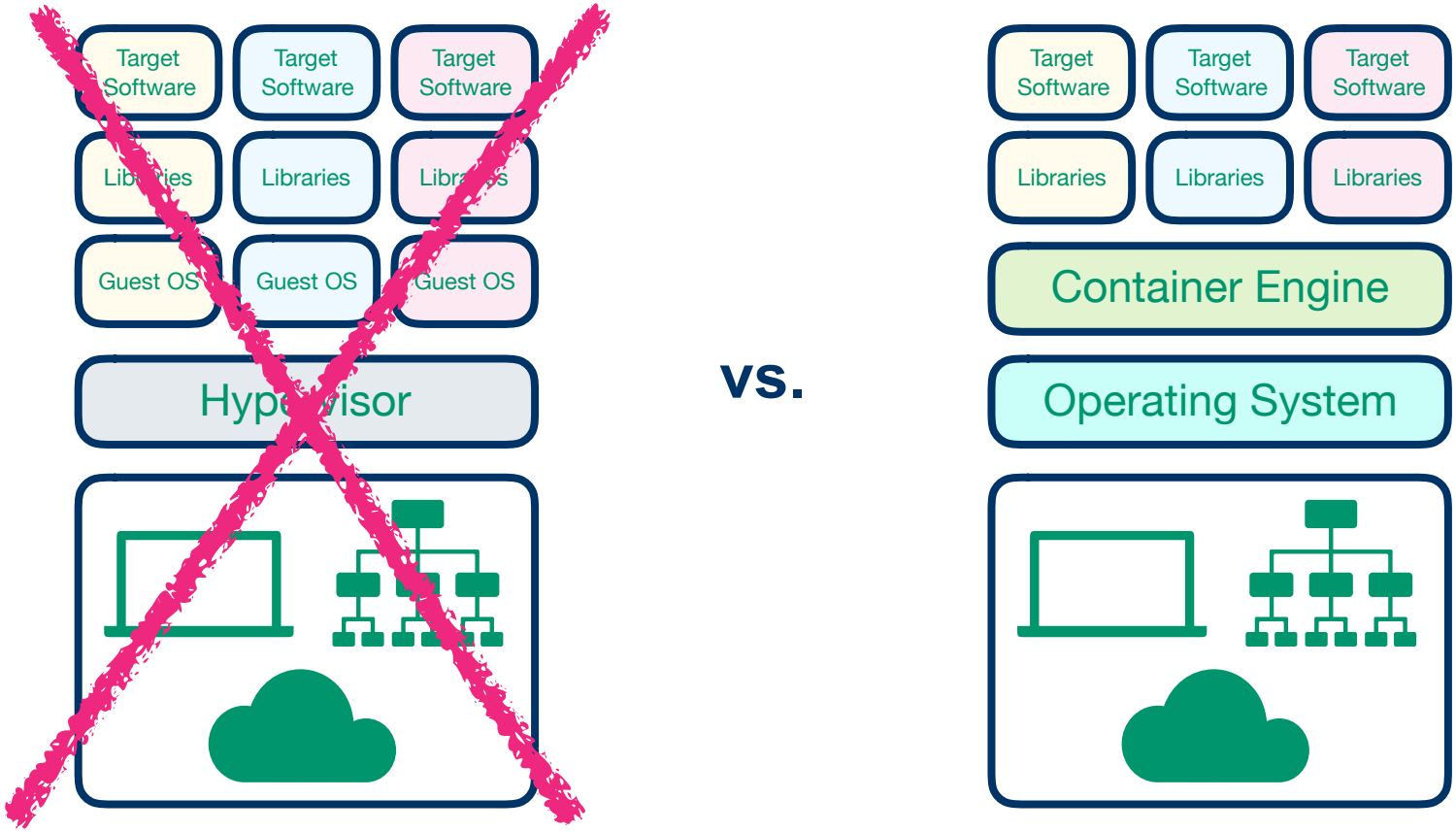
- Encapsulation of a system environment
- Primarily designed for micro-service virtualisation
- Enterprise solution for getting the most out of powerful servers
  - "lots of (idling) containers" vs. "bare metal solutions"
  - flexible ressource allocation and prioritisation

- For science, the use-case is different:
  - Maximum performance needed
  - No root access
  - One container to utilise all available host sources
  - No need for resource isolation

Virtual Machines vs. Containerisation



Virtual Machines vs. Containerisation



Docker vs. Singularity (from the science perspective)

Docker

- Great (and designed) for micro services, development and continuous integration
- Images consist of "layers" which can be reused
- Easy sharing of images and layers (e.g. DockerHub)
- Containers may however not be fully reproducible due to complex layer dependencies (which may change over time)
- Very high level of encapsulation – feels like a Virtual Machine with native performance
- Docker is not meant and allowed (I haven't seen one so far) to run on HPC (e.g. it requires root permissions)
- https://docker.com

Docker vs. Singularity (from the science perspective)

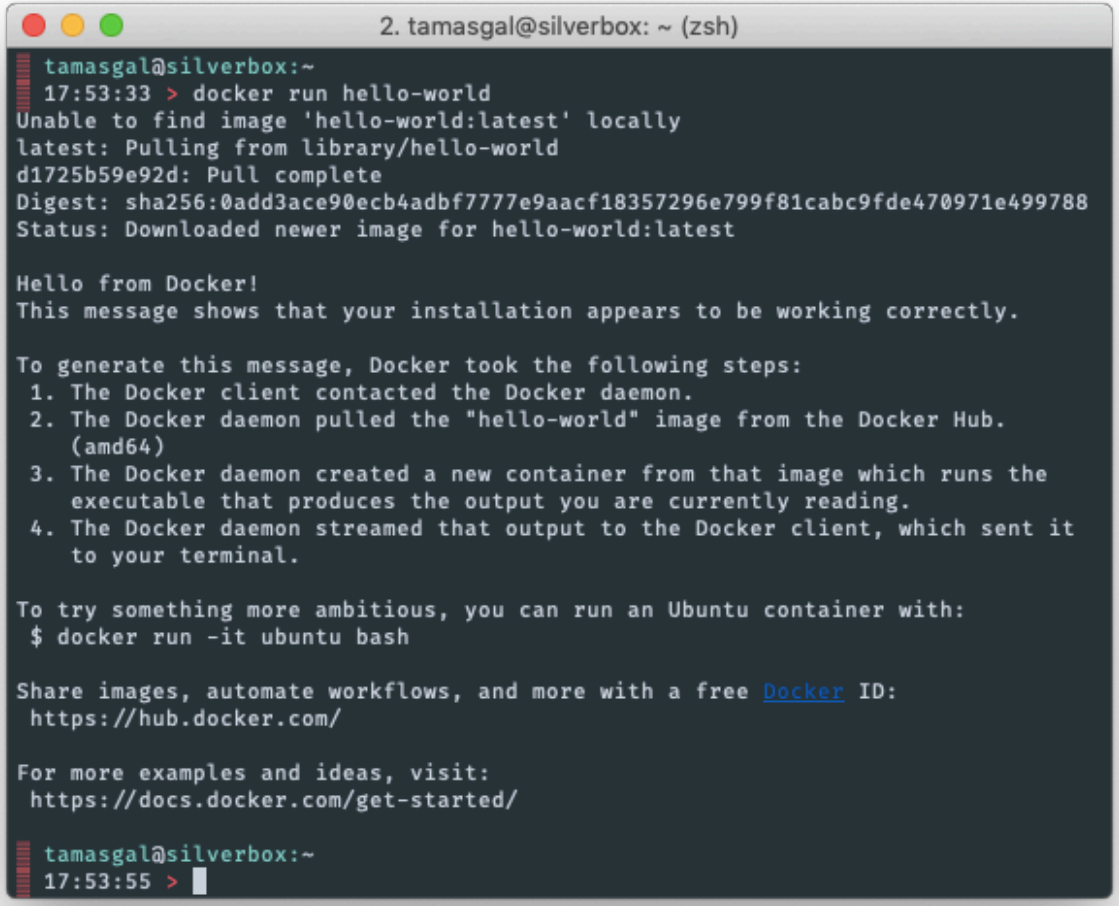
Singularity

- Created for and by HPC engineers, scientists and Linux developers
- No root-owned base container daemon needed, it runs under the initial user's privileges

  It even blocks privilege escalation out of the container via the kernel feature `pr_set_no_new_privs`
- /home, /dev, /sys and /proc are mounted from the host machine
- Direct usage of host resources (like network, filesystems, devices etc.)
- Safe for HPC! (and even runs MPI and can natively use GPUs!)
- Singularity is compatible to other container solutions (especially Docker)
- Single-file based images (just needs Singularity installed on the target)
- More performant than Docker (not designed around micro-service process isolation => minimum number of namespaces necessary)
- https://singularity.lbl.gov/

Docker

```
# Dockerfile
FROM scratch
COPY hello /
CMD ["/hello"]
```



Docker – Dockerfile example (used in KM3NeT)

7. nvim Dockerfile

Dockerfile buffers

```
1   FROM centos:7.4.1708
  1  MAINTAINER Tamas Gal <tgal@km3net.de>
  2
  3  RUN yum install -y man sed cygpath grep test && yum clean -y all
  4  RUN yum install -y libreoffice texlive texlive-*.noarch && yum clean -y all
  5  RUN yum install -y ant bison bzip2-devel compat-gcc-34-g77 fftw-devel flex flex-devel gcc gcc-c++ gcc-g
    fortran gdb git glibc-static gtk2-devel gzip libgpg-error libproxy libX11  libX11-common libX11-devel li
    bXext libXext-devel libXft libXft-devel libXpm libXpm-devel make openssh-server openssl-devel pakchois s
    ubversion cmake boost-devel doxygen rpmdevtools && yum clean -y all
  6  RUN yum install -y subversion wget vim zsh csh && yum clean -y all
  7
  8  RUN curl -L https://root.cern.ch/download/root_v5.34.36.Linux-centos7-x86_64-gcc4.8.tar.gz > root.tar.g
    z && tar xvf root.tar.gz -C /usr/local/ && rm root.tar.gz
  9  RUN sed -i 's/-std=c++11//g' /usr/local/root/bin/root-config
~
NORMAL  master  Dockerfile                    dockerfile  utf-8[unix]  10% ≡  1/10 ㏑ :  1
"Dockerfile" 10L, 877C
```

Singularity – Usage Example (using an ANTARES image)

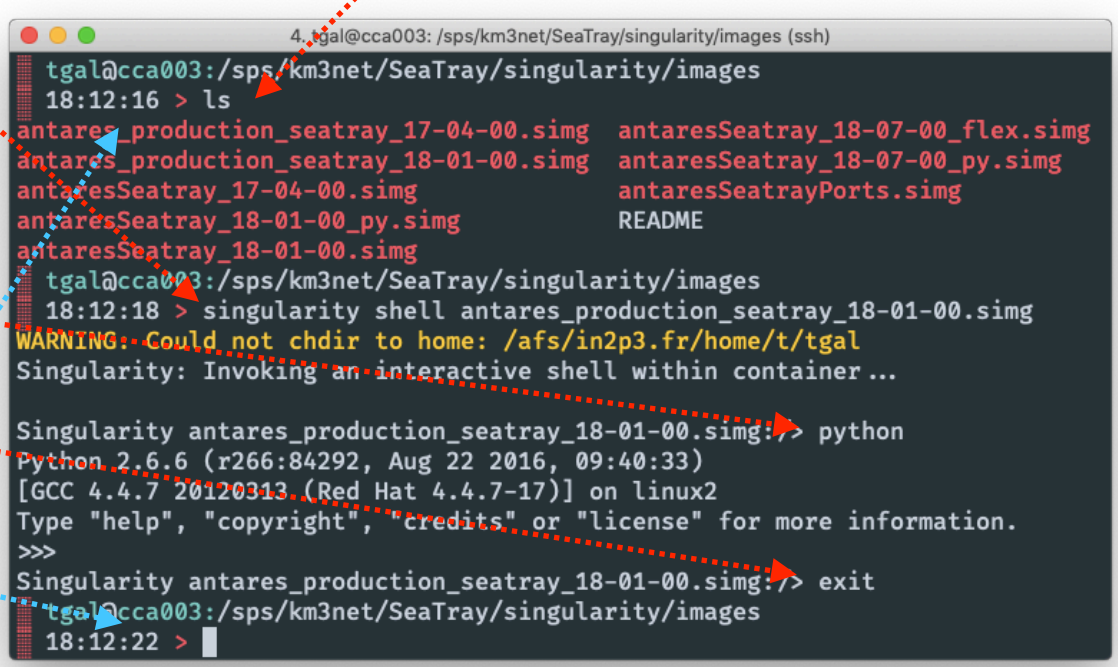
available images (prebuilt)

launch a shell in a container from an image

run e.g. python

exit...

all in ~6 seconds
(I cannot type faster ;)

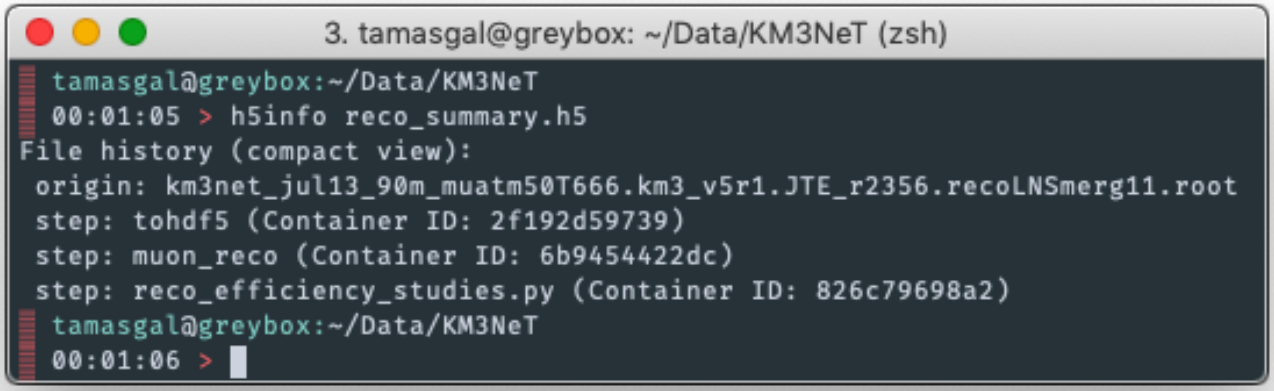


Singularity Images in Production Pipelines

- Seamless integration into the file system of the host
  - Processes running within the container take data from the host as input and write their output to the host
  - Runs like native software
  - No "source env.sh nightmare"
  - Transparent user privileges
- Completely independent of the host system (as long as Singularity is installed)
- OS upgrades on HPC are no-brainer
- Perfect fit for Grid computing with heterogeneous systems

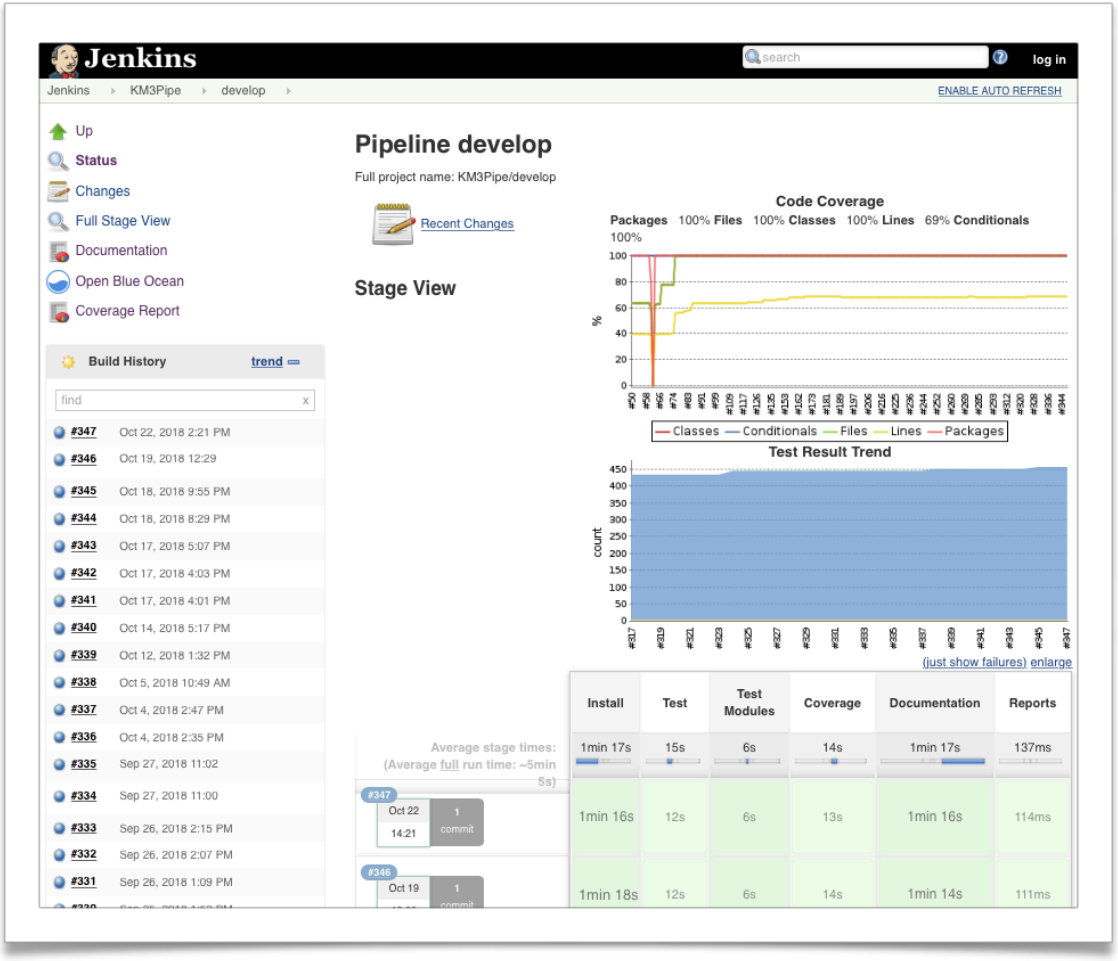
Data Provenance

- File history is part of the data preservation
- Provides historical records of the data and its origins, like
  - container IDs (e.g. Singularity Hub)
  - or specific software and library versions
  - and additional parameters
    (e.g. command line arguments or configuration files)
- Data and Software stored together in a single image file



Continuous Integration using Jenkins and Docker (1/2)

- Containerisation as part of the software development process
- Software projects utilise Jenkins to automatise steps for build, test, documentation etc.
- Docker is used to give developers full access to the container creation process

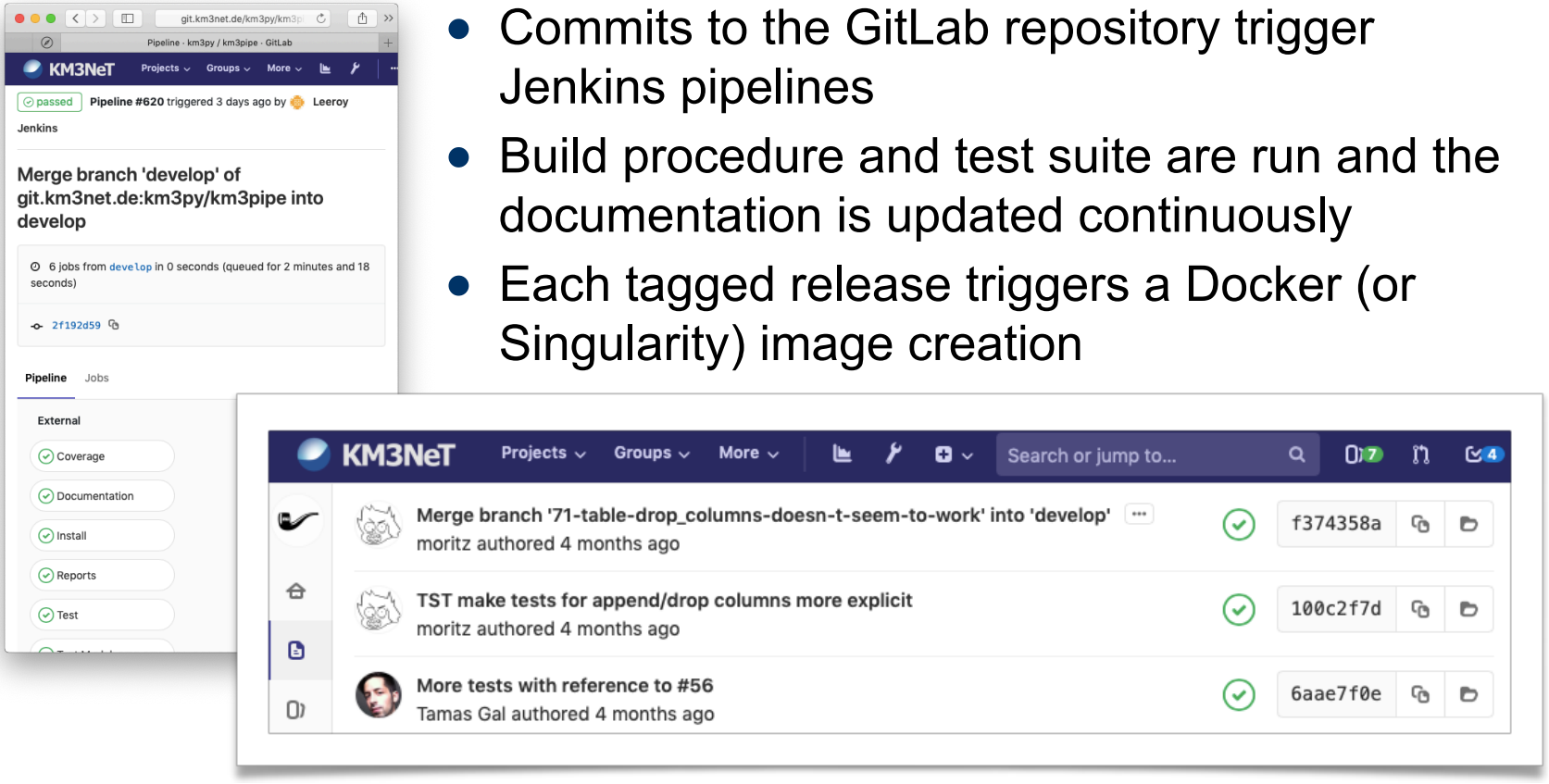


Continuous Integration using Jenkins and Docker (2/2)

- The Jenkinsfile contains a full recipe for each stage (building, testing, generating documentation etc.)
- Everything is executed in a specific (isolated) Docker container
- The same environment can be (re)used by Singularity to build the single-file image

```
updateGitlabCommitStatus name: 'Install', state: 'pending'
stage("Install") {
  try {
    sh """
      pip install -U pip setuptools wheel
      make dependencies
      make install
    """
    updateGitlabCommitStatus name: 'Install', state: 'success'
  } catch (e) {
    sendChatMessage("Install Failed")
    sendMail("Install Failed")
    updateGitlabCommitStatus name: 'Install', state: 'failed'
    throw e
  }
}
updateGitlabCommitStatus name: 'Test', state: 'pending'
stage("Test") {
  try {
    sh """
      make clean
      make test
    """
    updateGitlabCommitStatus name: 'Test', state: 'success'
  } catch (e) {
    sendChatMessage("Test Suite Failed")
    sendMail("Test Suite Failed")
    updateGitlabCommitStatus name: 'Test', state: 'failed'
    throw e
```

Continuous Integration using Jenkins, Docker and GitLab



- Commits to the GitLab repository trigger Jenkins pipelines
- Build procedure and test suite are run and the documentation is updated continuously
- Each tagged release triggers a Docker (or Singularity) image creation

Summary

- First Aim: Data and Software Preservation
  - Selection of appropriate method:
    containerisation with Singularity (and Docker)
  - Implementation of use case for KM3NeT
- Derivation I: Preservation of full processing workflow
  - Implementation of ANTARES code to run at HPC
  - Implementation for KM3NeT: WIP
- Derivation II: Preservation & Optimisation of Development and Analysis
  - Containerisation as part of software development and integration
  - Reproducibility of results through containerised analysis chain

- ...fully implemented in KM3NeT

Thanks.

"People are very open-minded about new things — as long as they're exactly like the old ones." - Charles F. Kettering

KM3NeT

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Acknowledgement

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