

Large Hadron Collider - powered by Linux

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The most powerful physics project in the history of the known universe - The \$10 Billion Large Hadron Collider (LHC)- shot its first light speed beam this morning around its 27 km circuit. Beyond the 20 years it took to build and half of all the world's astrophysicists, it also takes another key ingredient to make LHC work -- Linux.

CERN which is the organization that runs the LHC project is using something called CernVM which is is custom Linux distribution. According to VMware, CernVM runs inside of VMware virtual machines that include PC and Macs across a grid that encompasses the power of approximately 40,000 CPUs and some 15 petabytes of data a year.

CERN itself is no stranger to Linux and is one of the lead backers of the Scientific Linux distribution, which is a recompiled version of Red Hat Enterprise Linux.

[MOre Here](#) [3]

[Linux Sci/Tech](#)

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