

Imperial College London



SWATCH: Common software for controlling and monitoring the upgraded Level-1 trigger of the CMS experiment

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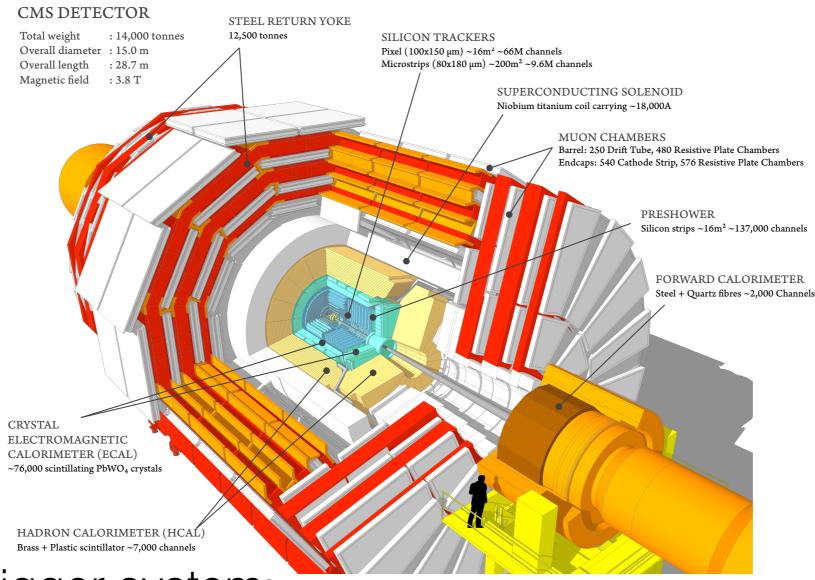








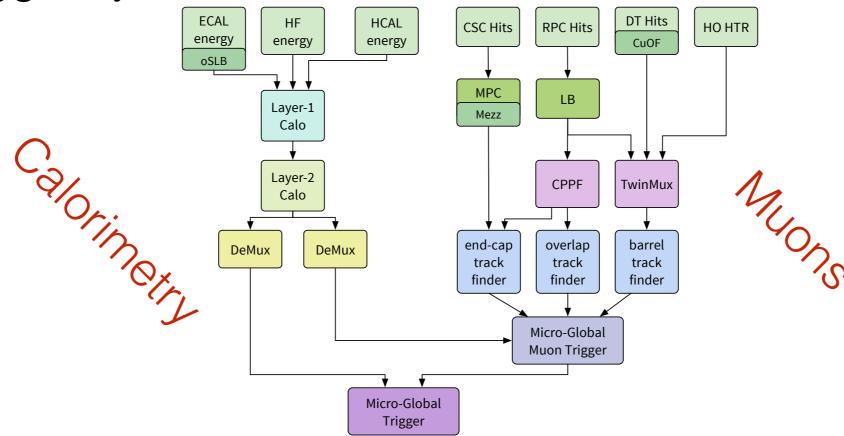
CMS Level-1 trigger system



- Level-1 trigger system:
 - Selects 100 kHz of interesting events from 40MHz pp collisions
 - Fixed latency: Decision within 3.8 us, whilst full-resolution data held in pipeline memories
 - Input: coarse data from calorimeters & muon detectors

Level-1 trigger upgrade

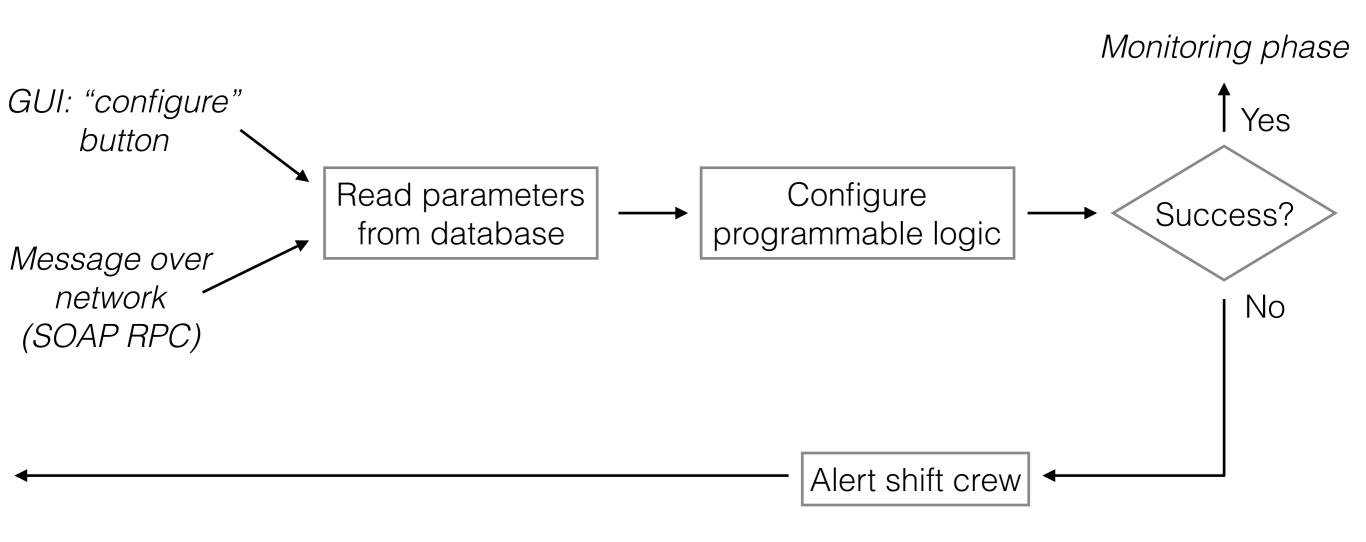
- 2015: LHC restarts after Long Shutdown 1
 - Higher energy & luminosity; trigger efficiency must remain same / improve
 - Trigger upgrade from 2015 (partial) to 2016 (full)
- 2016 trigger system:



- 8 subsystems different algorithms & scales
- O(100) boards, O(3000) links
- 5 different designs of processor boards

Online software: Generic Consistent

• Aim: Control & monitor electronics, with high operational efficiency

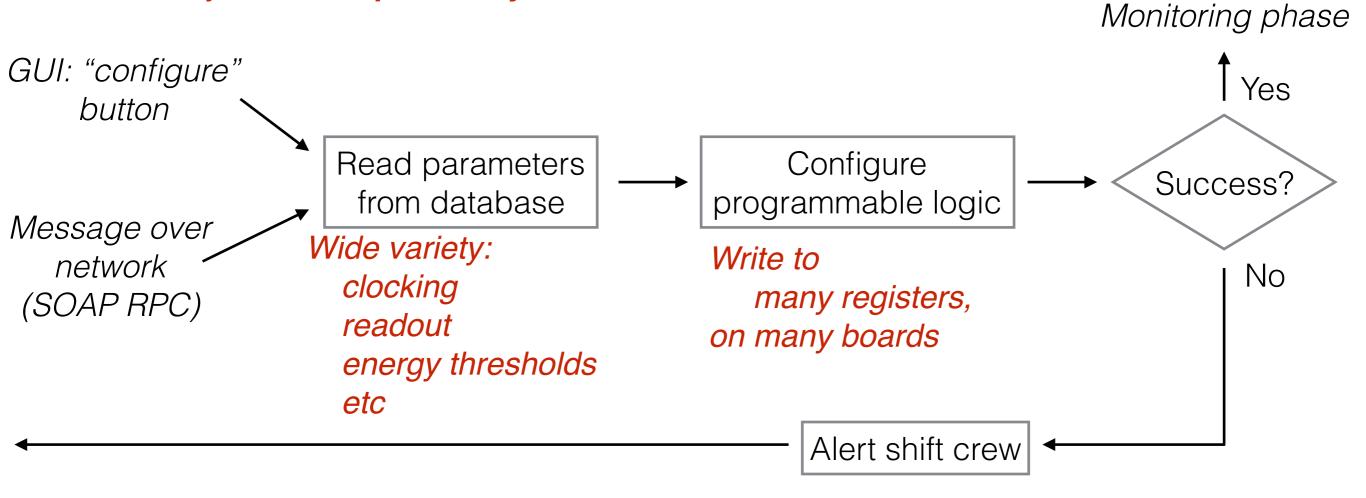


• Aim: Control & monitor electronics, with high operational efficiency

Reliable & predictable, ALWAYS!

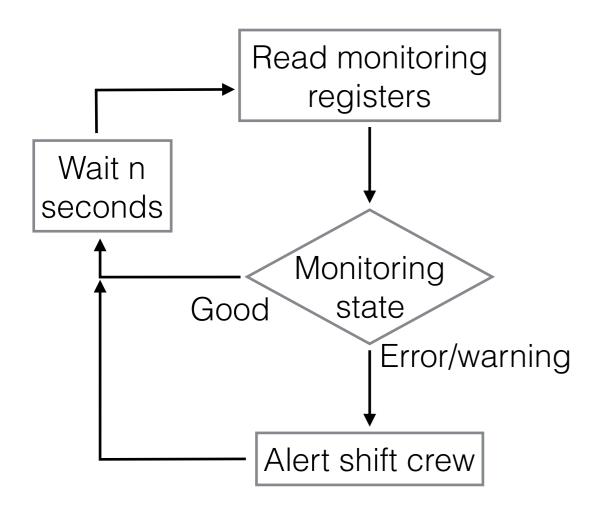
Two operation modes:

- Entire system
- Per subsystem, independently



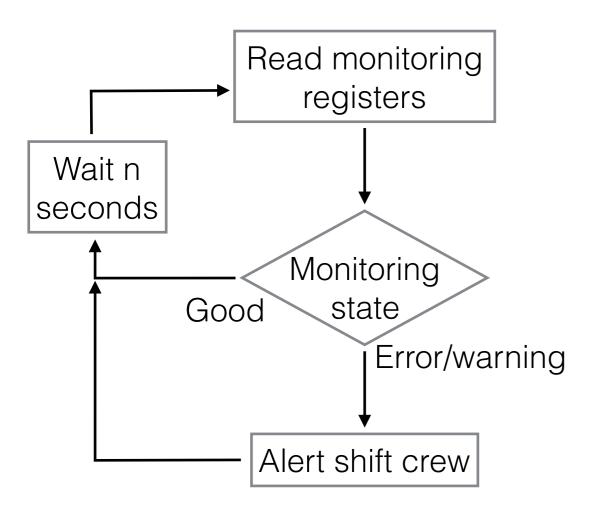
Must diagnose & fix problems quickly => GUI with details

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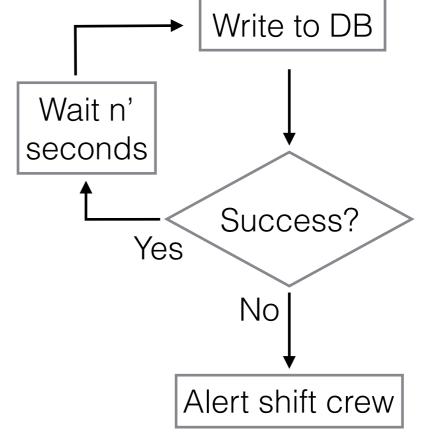
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GUIs: enough info to quickly diagnose & fix

Archiving of monitoring data in database



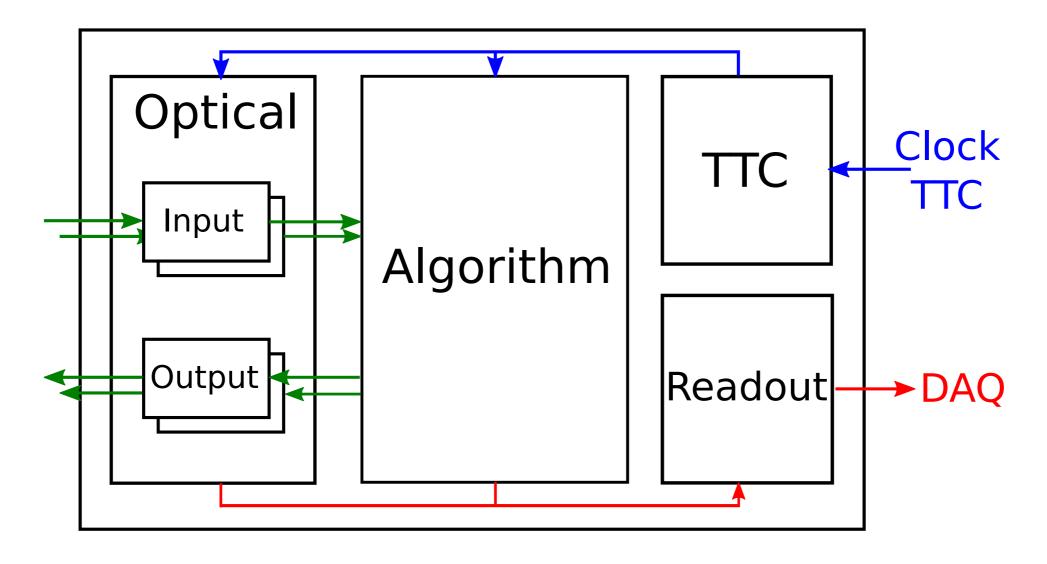
Critical info Small volume Fix problems immediately Non-critical info
Larger volume
Must not interfere with
critical services

Even more online software requirements

- Commissioning: Rapidly adapt software
 - Operational needs & experience: Continually evolve
 - Short commissioning time: No bugs/regressions!
- Common interfaces: Test-able without hardware
- Development & maintenance:
 - Minimise the person power
- Maintainable lifetime: several years
- Existing libraries: Mustn't reinvent the wheel ...
 - E.g. XDAQ & Trigger Supervisor provide building blocks for distributed control & monitoring
- ... and try to keep developers sane!

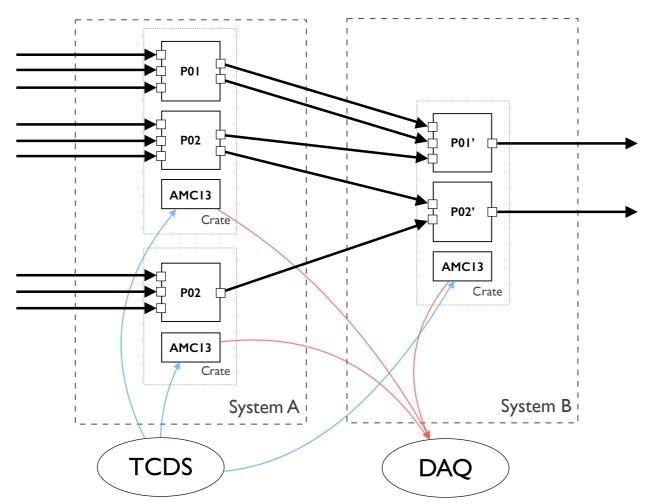
Common processor model

- Each subsystem's data-processing nodes ...
 - are all AMCs following the MicroTCA specification
 - transmit/receive the trigger data on high-speed serial optical links
 - implement the processing logic in an **FPGA** (Virtex 6/7 series)



Common system model

- Each subsystem:
 - One or more processor boards, in MicroTCA crates
 - One "AMC13" board in each crate:
 - Common CMS board; provides clock, timing & DAQ services via backplane



Trigger Control & Distribution System clock & fixed-latency commands

Data AcQuisition network sink for readout data

SWATCH framework (1)

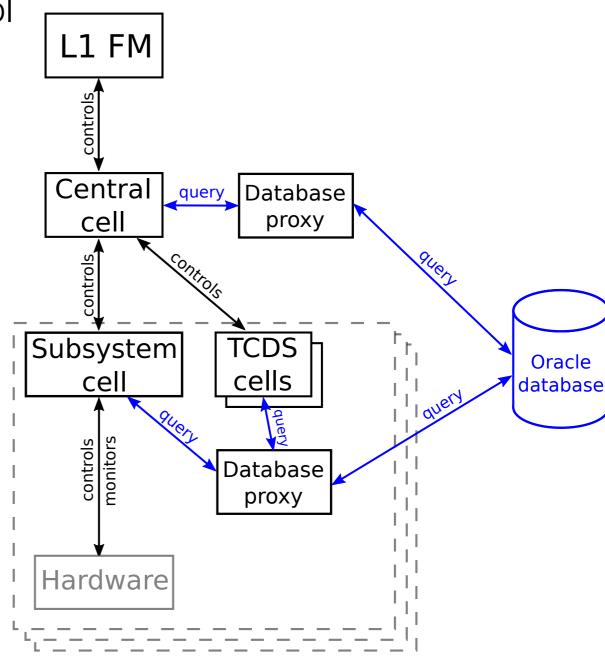
- SWATCH: SoftWare for Automating the conTrol of Common Hardware
 - Design based on common processor/system models
 - Abstract C++ interfaces for controlling & monitoring hardware
 - Specialisation through inheritance
- Subsystem-agnostic description of hardware
 - E.g. locations & names of processors, optical I/O ports & AMC13s; interconnections
 - Factory pattern for creating instances of subsystem-specific classes
- Tricky tasks e.g. thread-safety & multi-threading implemented within generic API

SWATCH framework (2)

- Generic interfaces for controlling individual boards:
 - Command stateless action; basic building block
 - Sequence of Commands
 - Finite State Machine (FSM) stateful actions
 - Gatekeeper abstract pool of configuration parameters
 - Independent of source of the parameter values (file, database ...)
- Generic interfaces for monitoring individual boards:
 - Metric individual piece of monitoring data, read from hardware
 - Error/warning conditions
 - Monitorable object
 - Create multi-level trees of monitoring information

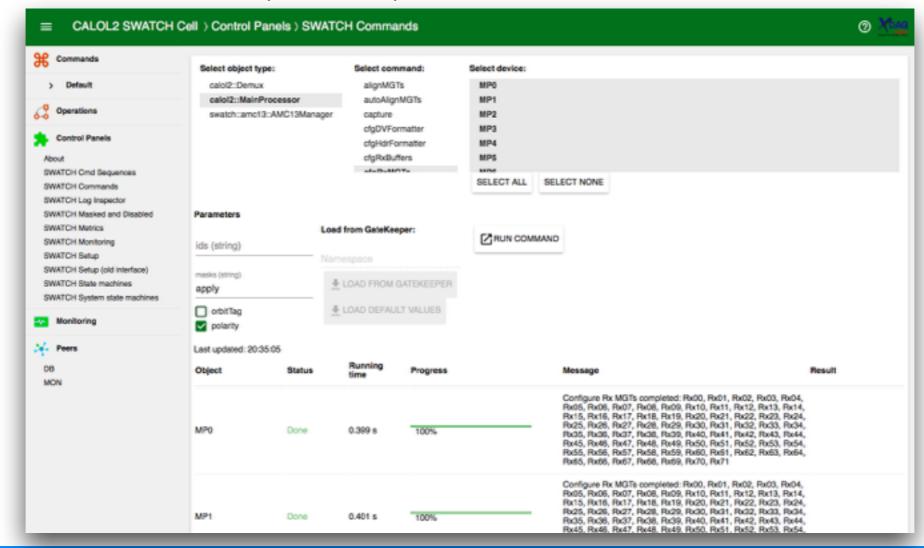
Distributed control & monitoring

- Level-1 Function Manager (L1FM):
 - Gateway from top-level CMS run control
 - java application
- Central cell:
 - Coordinates multiple subsystems
- SWATCH cell:
 - One per trigger subsystem
 - Contains a SWATCH system
 - Generic implementations of services:
 - Network-controllable "run control" FSM
 - Publish monitoring state
 - Retrieve parameters from DB
 - · Common DB schema
 - Control/monitoring GUIs



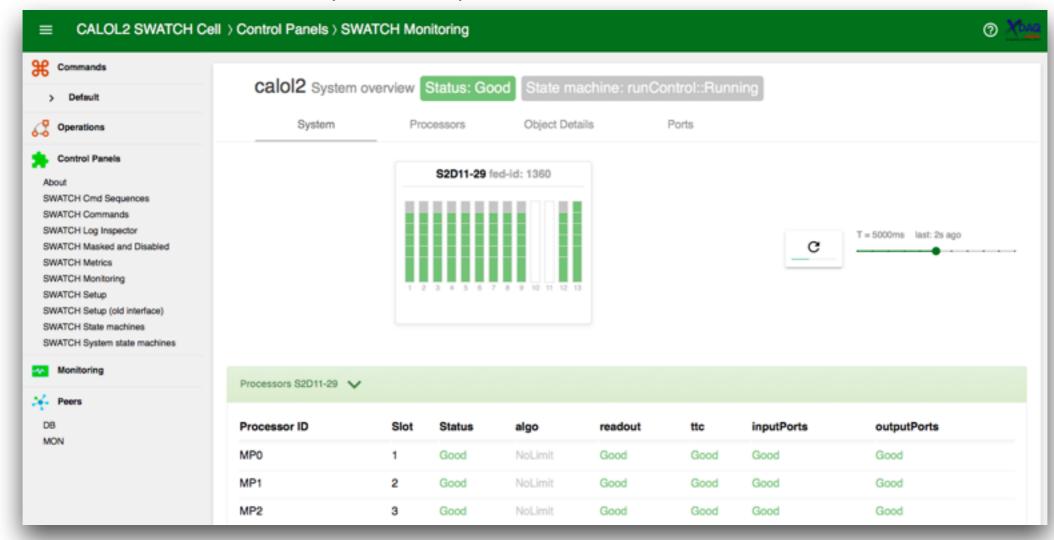
Generic GUIs

- Subsystem-agnostic SWATCH API:
 - Access to common & subsystem-specific control/monitoring primitives
 - Could develop detailed subsystem-agnostic GUIs:
 - Significantly reduced required person power
 - Uniform interface for operation personnel!



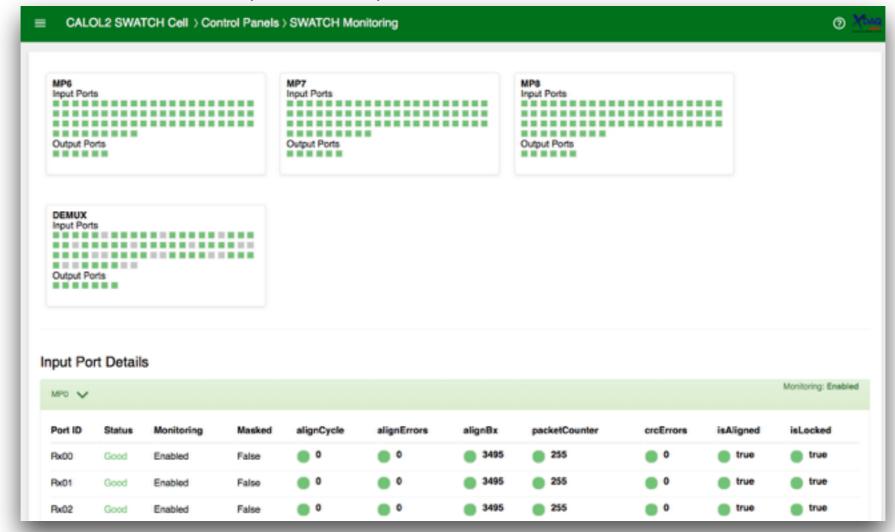
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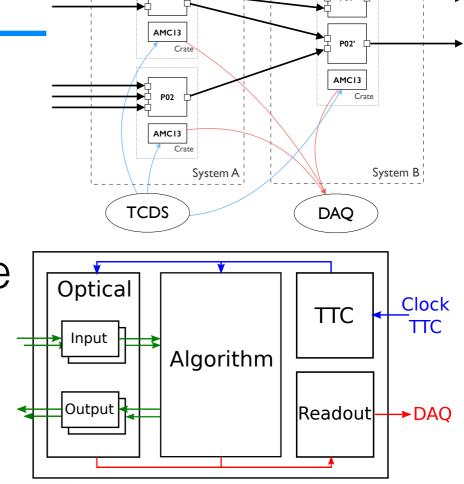


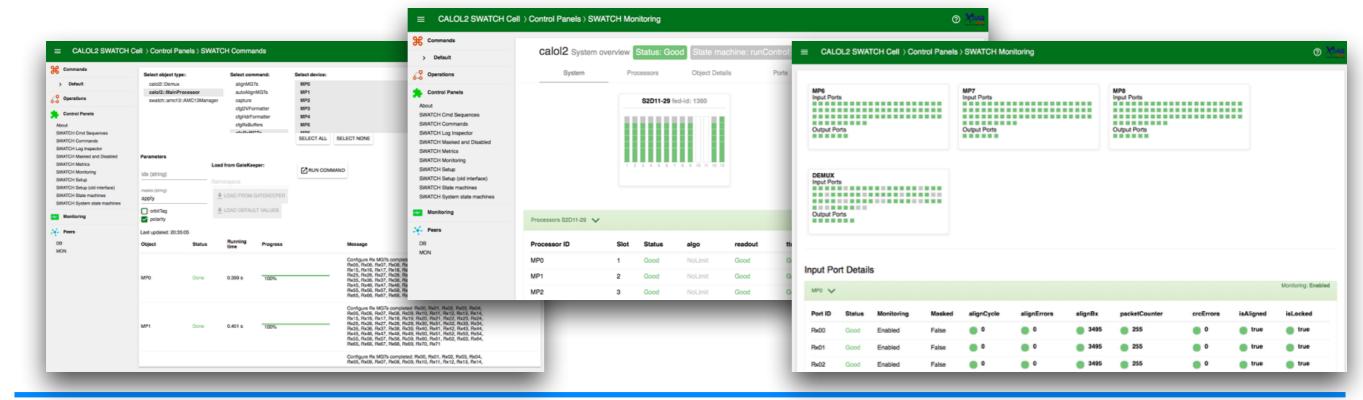
Commissioning: Did we survive?

- Short integration phase:
 - 25th February: New system used as CMS trigger (no beams)
 - 1st time online software integrated into global "run control" hierarchy
 - 25th March: Trigger on "splashes" (beam commissioning)
- High operational efficiency of software, despite various new features, e.g:
 - Transition from file-based configuration to database
 - Major migration of GUIs to HTML5-based libraries (Polymer)
- Success critically depended on design of SWATCH:
 - Large fraction of software is common
 - Common SWATCH plugins used wherever common firmware is used
 - Extensive hardware-independent testing

Conclusions

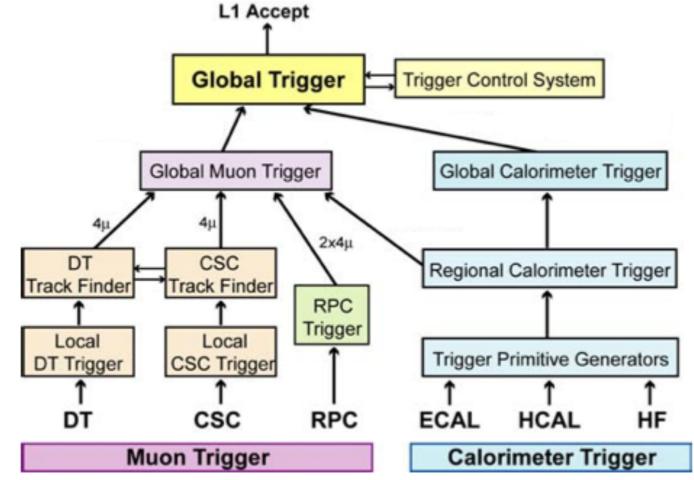
- Successfully controlled & monitored upgrade system since February
- SWATCH API based on detailed common model of hardware & firmware
 - Flexible & reliable approach
- Increase in uniformity & fraction of common software across subsystems





BACKUP: Legacy trigger system

- Level-1 trigger before 2015:
 - Several subsystems
 - O(4000) processor boards custom application-specific designs



- Controlled and monitored by medium-sized distributed system
 - Approx. 40 computers, 200 processes
- Small fraction of online software common between subsystems
- High long-term maintenance costs & risk of losing critical knowledge through turnover of developers

BACKUP: Integrating drivers into SWATCH

- Low-level driver software libraries performing individual register reads/writes
 - Independent of SWATCH for most boards
 - SWATCH "plugin" libraries implement corresponding SWATCH commands
 & monitorable objects
 - Upgraded trigger uses common hardware & firmware
 - E.g. AMC13, common infrastructural firmware blocks (TTC, DAQ, optical I/O)
 - One common "SWATCH" plugin for each common component
 - Greatly reduced commissioning time