

From: Lee Liming [liming@mcs.anl.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2008 3:55 PM
To: Miller, Grant
Cc: Isn-magic
Subject: Re: Magic Meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, April 2, 2:00-3:30 EDT,
NSF, Room 1150

I promised in the meeting to send these notes regarding recent CDIGS activities to the mailing list, so here they are. -- Lee

Recent CDIGS Activities

We just completed a round of reviews of the current CDIGS program plan with four representative user communities (SCEC, LIGO, OSG, and TeraGrid) and also via two open teleconferences announced on our user mailing lists. We received considerable feedback on the usefulness of our plans, and the results are now being digested by the team and used to reprioritize and adjust the program plan. This was the first time we did this kind of systematic review with specific user projects, and we are pleased with the results and grateful for the guidance we've received.

In regard to Globus Toolkit releases, our focus in February and March was on the preparation of GT 4.2 (scheduled for late March) until demands shifted to supporting TeraGrid's LEAD science gateway in the Spring Weather Challenge. As a result of this effort, an additional stable release 4.0.7 will be released in early April, with 4.2 re-targeted for May.

Our engagement with LEAD has yielded several results in regard to software improvements and administrative documentation. Software changes have focused largely on adding configuration features to enable administrators to avoid overload scenarios, and documentation improvements have focused on detailing how to design deployments to handle various load conditions.

We are currently participating in the OGF OGSA WSRF Basic Profile interoperability testing activity. This will exercise the WSRF/WSN and WSA specification compliance, which we put a lot of effort into over the past four months in response to a poll of our user community regarding the importance of compliance with more recent versions of the specifications. This will not test the basic profile's additional resource property requirements. We did not put in any effort toward implementing the additional presource properties piece of the profile because: (1) no user has asked us for it, and (2) we needed to focus our efforts on the features that our users were demanding for GT 4.2.

We continue to work with TeraGrid on its coscheduling plans, providing the GARS tool (remote interface to advance reservation capabilities) and helping with its deployment at several TG sites. TeraGrid's review of our plans (particularly the comments from members of the scheduling working group, but also from several TeraGrid user teams)

strongly confirmed the benefit of this to TeraGrid, though there is still some dissension in TG's scheduling working group regarding the selection of specific tools for coscheduling.

Our user perspectives study is nearing its end, and the latest quarterly report (available on our Wiki) is an early draft of the final report. A key result of this study is the identification of several distinct user types for Globus software that we can now begin to formally measure (as populations) and use as the basis for focused requirements and marketing analysis. The study will also provide detailed profiles for these user types showing how to recognize these types of users, how each type differs from the others, and how to tailor our education/outreach/training and overall engagement to be most effective with each type.