MAGIC Meeting Draft Notes
November 16, 2011, 10:00-12:00,
SC11, WSCC Room 204

Attendees

Gail-Joon Ahu	Arizona State U.
Gabrielle Allen	NSF
Rich Carlson	DOE/SC
Shreyas Cholia	NERSC/LBL
Rudi Eigenmann	Purdue
Ian Foster	ANL
Dan Gunter	LBL
Shantenu Jha	Rutgers U.
Dan Katz	University of Chicago
Ken Klingenstein	Internet2
Craig Lee	Aerospace
Mark Luker	NCO
Alex Malin	LANL
David Martin	ANL
John McGee	RENCI/UNC-CH
Don Middleton	NCAR
Grant Miller	NCO
Mike Nelson	Georgetown U.
Steven Newhouse	EGI-en
Ruth Pordes	ANL
Don Predss	NIH/NCBI
Alan Sill	Texas Tech Un
George Strawn	NCO
David Wallon	Oxford
Von Welch	Indiana Un.

Action Items

1. Grant Miller will send a message to the MAGIC members to solicit their suggestions for topics for future MAGIC meetings.

Proceedings

Welcome by the Co-Chairs, Gabrielle Allen& Rich Carlson

Discussion: Long Term Support for Software: Ian Foster facilitator

Discussion by the MAGIC participants identified that there are several categories of issues associated with the long-term maintenance of software:

- Funding issues: Who pays? What mechanisms are available?
- Technical issues: What is worth maintaining long-term
- Social issues: Motivating people to maintain software; motivating people to pay for software; how to maintain a viable workforce for software maintenance. If I charge fees for maintaining software, I have to set up a

business and mechanisms to charge the fees, collect them, and disperse them. If I ask projects to collect user information for software, that is very useful in identifying the user community and statistics for software use.

Mechanisms for software maintenance include:

- Commercial maintenance: e.g., MATLab
- Open development, e.g., Apache
- Restructuring software to reduce long-term maintenance costs
- Institutional contributions, e.g., like email
- Federated communities, e.g., InCommon
- Fee for service, e.g., DropBox

Who should have primary responsibility for maintaining software?

- Institutions, e.g., universities where researchers use the software in their research or teaching
- Funding agencies, e.g., NSF as part of the project funding provided to researchers and developers
- Users: would micropayments, e.g., $100. Reduce the barriers for user support for software. Would this provide sufficient funding to enable long-term software maintenance?
- How do you decide what software needs to be maintained? What is used, what is not? Would usage data provide sufficient justification for funding its maintenance?
- Can incentives be devised for academics to maintain software?, e.g., citations in papers, monetary rewards, community knowledge of who is maintaining the software
- Workforce development: How do we sustain the human expertise and skills to maintain software longer-term? Why would researchers want to maintain software when they are evaluated on the basis of new capabilities they develop?
- Can we harness the transformative potential of software delivery methods to provide support for the software maintenance?
- It is most efficient to maintain one place, one team to provide the software maintenance for the entire community
- Standards help expedite cooperative working both nationally and internationally. The standards increase efficiency in work and expenses.
- Can we build incentives and funding for maintenance into future software programs, e.g., S2I2?

Topics for next MAGIC Meeting (January 4, 2012)

Revisit Identity Management issues. Solicit new ideas for future MAGIC meetings from the MAGIC members

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Future MAGIC Meetings

January 4, 2:00-4:00, NSF, Room II-415
February 1, 2:00-4:00, NSF, Room II-415