OGSA DAI WG Session 1 of 2. Update to the Community (12:0015th Oct 2002)

About 50 attendees

Agenda:
1. Overview of the WG.
2. Update on the Requirements/Functionalities document.
3. Overview of Grid Database Services Specification proposal.

1. Norman Paton gave an overview of the WG.

The group has a Web site: www.cs.man.ac.uk/grid-db (currently 400 hits/month) and a mailing list Dais-wg@gridforum.org (70 members).

2. Dave Pearson gave an update on the Grid Database Access and Integration: Requirements and Functionalities document.

DP presented the functional scope of the WG. This covered:

- Publishing and Discovery.
- Statements.
- Structured Data Transport.
- Data Transformation.
- Transactions.
- Authentication, Access Control, Accounting (it was observed by Malcolm Atkinson that work in the OGSA WG on Usage Records is relevant; usage monitoring is important for database service providers e.g. for charging).
- Metadata.
- Management: Operations and Performance.
- Data Replication.
- Connections and Sessions (further investigation is required in this area: assistance was encouraged).
- Integration.

DP asked the audience for comments on the scope:

Q. If information on a database service is published in a registry, is there any control over who has access to it?

Dave Pearson responded that it is expected that there will be access control for the registry. Malcolm Atkinson added that there is an overlap with OGSA service access, and this is being discussed with members of the OGSA WG.

3. Norman Paton presented an overview of Grid Database Services Specification proposal.

The spec. is OGSA compliant.

The interface is document based, but some operations are also provided through an RPC interface. These use the same portType as the document interface. It is not yet clear if it would be better to separate the two. The authors are looking for advice on best practise.

There was a question on Security and Encryption: why were these not covered in the presentation? NP answered that it is hoped that OGSA will provide a security model that can be adopted by the database services. In general the database services are being designed so as to separate out orthogonal concerns. Where possible, Grid or Web service solutionswill be adopted.

There was a suggestion to create a relational port type as an extension of the Grid data service portType. NP indicated that the best way to divide the operations over portTypes was not fully resolved, and that proposals such as this were welcome.

Q. Have you considered using the WSDL binding mechanism to suggest the various transports that are available?

Ans. NP said that WSDL isn't descriptive enough, as would be explained later in the talk.

Steve Tuecke asked if a factory approach would be better: each statement would create a new service interface that would live only for the duration of that one query. Norman Paton made the case for services persisting beyond a single query in order to reduce the cost of creating and destroying services. However, the disadvantage is the need for lifetime management of services that persist beyond single statements. Steve Tuecke explained that, within the OGSA WG there was work on super-light services, and it was agreed that if these were possible, then it may be practical to create a new service instance for each statement.

Minutes taken by: Paul Watson.