

Web 2.0 Workshop

January 29, 2007

When Google-Gadget Award-winner Pamela Fox told Grid developers at OGF19 that she had written some code at 3am on Sunday morning and it had 6000 users by Tuesday, the OGF audience knew they had to pay attention. Add to this the fact that the first time she used a Web API was 8 months before.

Fox's Web 2.0 developers' tutorial – entitled “Web 2.0 Mashups: How People Can Tap into the "Grid" for Fun & Profit” – was one of several invited talks at the workshop organized through the eScience OGF function, on Web 2.0 and the Grid organized at OGF19 by David De Roure. “In Grid and Web 2.0 we see different approaches to building interoperable systems. The workshop was the first crucial opportunity to see what Grid can learn from the successes of Web 2.0, like mashups” said De Roure, who leads OGF activities on the Web-Grid interface and founded the Semantic Grid activity.

The keynote speakers were Prof Noshir Contractor from NCSA, a leading world expert in social networks, and Prof Carole Goble of the myGrid project in University of Manchester who presented her vision of myExperiment – a social space for scientists which owes more to Web 2.0 sites like MySpace than to traditional grid portals.

Goble explained “myExperiment is about sharing the digital artifacts of the scientific process – like workflows, services and data – so that scientists can build on each other's work. This accelerates time-to-experiment as well as insight and dissemination, and it enables scientists to be more creative – to be scientists not programmers”.

The workshop also featured an update on Semantic Grid activities. Since its inception in 2001, many Semantic Grid projects have successfully completed and best practice in this combination of Grid and Web technologies is becoming established. “When we wrote the Semantic Grid report in 2001 we presented the technologies we felt were needed to fill the gap between the e-Science aspiration and the Grid reality” said De Roure, “If we did this exercise today, Web 2.0 would feature significantly.”

The closing discussion at the workshop observed that Cyberinfrastructure can be built with both Grid and Web 2.0, and discussed this new manifesto. One needs to combine the usability and people empowerment of Web2.0 with the robustness and manageability of the Grid. Further workshops are being planned for the OGF21 meeting this fall to explore the capabilities of Web 2.0 and its synergies with the Grid.

For further information, including the presentations, see <http://www.semanticgrid.org/OGF/ogf19/> or please contact David De Roure dder@ecs.soton.ac.uk.

About the Open Grid Forum

Open Grid Forum (OGF) was formed in June, 2006 with the merger of the Global Grid Forum (GGF) and the Enterprise Grid Alliance (EGA). OGF is a community of users, researchers, developers, and solution providers representing over 400 organizations in more than 50 countries. OGF works to accelerate grid adoption by providing an open forum for grid innovation and developing open standards for grid software interoperability.

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