GGF

GridConnections

News and Information for the Global Grid Forum Community

GGF MISSION:

LEADING THE PERVASIVE ADOPTION OF GRID COMPUTING FOR RESEARCH AND INDUSTRY.

GGF Perspectives and Directions

by Mark Linesch, Hewlett Packard, GGF Chair

2006 is shaping up to be a year when rising expectations, successful experience and the economic pressure for standards have an opportunity to align. The 'three amigos as I like to think of them (expectation, experience and economics) have not always been on the best of terms as it applies to grid over the last few years. "Expectation" seemed to always be a little too exuberant – standing on the table and commanding all the attention. It was a lot of fun but the hangover was enormous and it took a lot of coaxing to bring the other two back to the table to continue the discussion.

"Expectation" – has run a little "hot" in recent times as grids like many emerging technologies were over-hyped and misunderstood. In 2006 however, industry analysts such as Gartner have identified grid in their top 10 technologies and the 451 Group mentions grid technologies "starting to cross the chasm".

"Experience" – tended to leave all but the most enthusiastic pioneers a little "weary". In 2006 however, we can point to many successful grid implementations. In fact, grid projects from around the world wil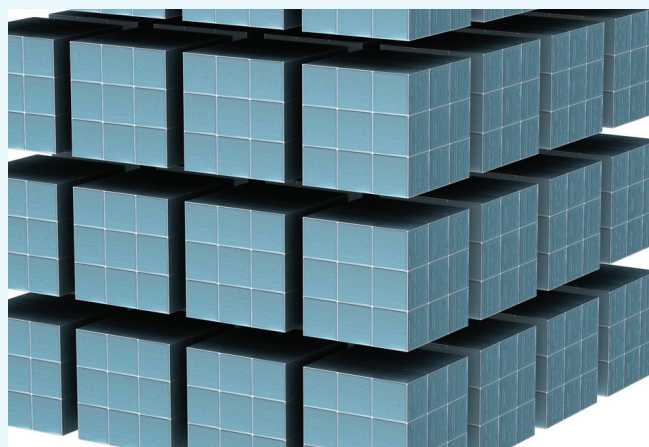l be meeting at GGF16 to continue to build strategies for practical, real-world interoperation – a tangible indication of successful deployment and maturity.

"Economics" – seemed to live up to it's often quoted description as "the dismal science" when applied to grid standardization over the last several years – there just didn't seem to be the right incentives in place. Fortunately, all indications are that the economic pressure for standards will build during 2006 as organizations connect grids to other grids.

Within this environment of expectations, experience and economics, GGF has again established aggressive objectives for our Community, Standards and Operations functions during 2006.

Our Community function is chartered with helping to build our international community *continued on page 6*

Standards Objectives

By David Snelling
Vice-Chair, Standards

In 2006 the standard development activity of GGF should see a significant increase in activity. With 26 Recommendations Track and 30 Informational documents in the current GGF Standards Roadmap, we could see a doubling in the number of published documents in the GGF Document Series. The Roadmap, which I will be discussing with you all during a keynote at GGF16, indicates that the progress is steady and increasing. It has also shown us that the scope of work in GGF is quite well focused on critical aspects of Grid computing and that the level of cohesion between working groups and documents is very high. I find this interesting from a "grass roots" organization like GGF, where one might expect a disorderly progression of unrelated activity. The development of the GGF Roadmap in 2005 has certainly revealed that the GGF community has a shared view of what is important in Grid Standards development.

As to 2006, we have a new set of objectives. Heading our list of standards objectives for this year is a plan to get credit for the work we have done in the community by enhancing the visibility of GGF standards through communication and branding strategies. This will involve little things like the way we refer our documents, i.e. we should be saying "GFD.56 - JSDL" rather than just "JSDL". This will help the community at large recognize our work while still being able to use our technical names for the document. We will also be looking at other ways to improve the use of GGF brands to avoid confusion and bring people's attention to our work.

In addition to improving the visibility of our standards, we are always looking at ways to improve the quality of our documents, particularly the Recommendations track documents. Experience in many contexts has shown that running "interoper-

ability fests" helps to improve both the quality and adoption of specifications. The interop fest program we develop with have these two measures in mind as it is implemented. We will be looking at both simple experimental interops for testing implementations as well as more public opportunities to promote the specification and the implementations. Steve Crumb and I will be exploring a strategy for these interops and are interested to hear the kind of support you would like for this activity.

We will also continue to accelerate Grid specification development through a comprehensive GGF Standards Roadmap process. As the WG chairs know, we now have a "living roadmap" on the Web, which enables group chairs to update the status of their document publication milestones. We will be improving both the document creation process and the mechanisms we use to exploit the information it contains. The Roadmap should soon be providing us with an indication of where there are gaps in our work and where critical work is falling behind. The Area Directors will use this information to help groups find the help they need to complete critical work and fill in the gaps.

In order to provide a consistent channel of ideas into the standards process, we will establish ongoing community interaction to ensure GGF publications match the issues and needs of the Grid community. We are piloting this activity with the workshop on Grid Interoperability at GGF16. I encourage members engaged in the standards work of GGF and interested in getting new ideas for standards work give a look at what is happening in the Community activities at GGF16 and in the future. We will be looking at ways to accelerate the migration of these ideas into practical specifications and we value your engagement in these activities.

As always our aim is to improve the quality and adoption of our specifications. We hope that the objectives we have set for ourselves this year will assist us in this process. Please let me know if you think of other ways to achieve these aims. It looks like a good year in the making and I look forward to seeing you all at GGF16.

> **"It looks like a good year in the making and I look forward to seeing you all at GGF16."**

Sponsor Spotlight

GRNET Hosts GGF16

By Professor Panayiotis Tsanakas Chairman of the Board, GRNET

The Greek Research and Technology Network (GRNET) supports the research and development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) within Greece and internationally, through the provision of its high-capacity networking and grid computing infrastructure, the strengthening of e-Learning & e-Business practices, as well as the participation in international research and education efforts. GRNET operates under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Development and is supervised by the General Secretariat for Research and Development.

GRNET's next-generation networking infrastructure serves as the foundation for advanced computing applications, taking advantage of the processing/storage clusters that reside in different parts of the country and the sophisticated middleware developed by its European collaborators. The resulting computing grid is the subject of the HellasGrid national project (http://www.hellasgrid.org/), coordinated by GRNET.

Moreover, GRNET is the coordinator of the South-Eastern European Federation for EGEE, the pan-European Grid infrastructure. EGEE aims at the development, use and support of Grid technologies for the adoption of e-Science applications in the wider area of European Research. The SEE infrastructure is in the order of magnitude of 20 clusters with 1000 CPUs and 90TB of storage. The integration of new infrastructure extension is under way, foreseen to add up to 1500 CPUs in the first half of 2006. Grid management services offer the full range of m/w services, as well as monitoring, catch-all Certification Authority, regional helpdesk and portal, etc. In the context of the European user base, the SEE Grid resources provided a significant percentage of support to EGEE-wide virtual organisations, with total usage amounting to 63 CPU years in 2005.

Additionally to the above, GRNET is dynamically involved in the effort for incorporating into the Grid initiatives all the non-EGEE Balkan countries and Turkey, through the coordination of the SEE-GRID project. SEE-GRID intends to set up a Grid infrastructure in Southeastern Europe, as well as to develop exclusive applications with augmented computational demands and with a common interest for the region. The strategic end goal of the project is to bridge the technological gap, which exists among the developed European countries and the developing countries of Southeastern Europe.

Further on the international front, GRNET participates in the GRIDCC EU project for the integration of scientific or other instruments and the Grid. GRIDCC aims at the advancement of Grid technologies and the extension of web-services-based m/w, with the intention to support infrastructures with real-time demands. More specifically, the objective of the project is the creation of a distributed system for the remote control and monitoring of different types of apparatus, which introduces demands for classes of service (CoS) through the establishment of SLAs. Additional requirements such as support for advanced portal capabilities and processing complex workflows are also being addressed.

Finally, GRNET played a key role in the establishment of the eInfrastructure Reflection group, a policy body providing recommendations to enable sharing of network, storage and computing resources. GRNET hosted the first e-IRG workshop that led to the creation of the body, and is an active member on the EC-funded project e-IRG Support Programme (e-IRGSP).

GGF Document Series

New since GGF15:

GFD.54
MyProxy Protocol
Author: J. Basney

GFD.55
Job Submission Description Language (JSDL) Specification v1.0
Authors: E. He, P. Vicat-Blanc Primet, M. Welzl

GFD.56
Job Submission Description Language (JSDL) Specification v1.0
Author: A. Anjomshoaa, F. Brisard, M. Drescher, D. Fellows, A. Ly, S. McGough, D. Pulsipher, A. Savva

GFD.57
Attributes used in OGSI Authorization
Authors: M. Thompson, V. Welch, M. Lorch, R. Lepro, D. Chadwidk, V. Ciaschini

GFD.58
Standardised Namespaces for XML infosets in GGF
Authors: M. Drescher, A. Anjomshoaa

GFD.59
OGSA Profile Definition v1.0
Authors: T. Maguire, D. Snelling

GFD.60
Grid Economy Use Cases
Authors: J. MacLaren, S. Newhouse, T. Haupt, K. Keahey, W. Lee

GFD.61
The GGF Grid File System Architecture Workbook
Author: A. Jagatheesan

Upcoming Events

GGF17
GGF17 will be collocated with Grid World Japan in Tokyo, May 10-12. This three-day meeting will include group sessions, workshops, and other invited talks emphasizing technology innovations and uses of grids around the world. As a separate program, Grid World Japan will be holding its third Exposition event which includes a full exhibit hall and program beginning on May 11. Attendees of GGF17 may attend the hall free of charge. The Grid World Exhibition is hosted by Grid World Japan, in cooperation with Grid Consortium Japan, an organization member of GGF.

GGF18/GridWorld
GGF will team with IDG World Expo and GlobusWorld to hold its second GridWorld event on September 11-14 in Washington, DC. This event will host GGF standards activities, its growing technical community program, and an enterprise-focused program.

GGF Operations Directions

By Steve Crumb
Vice-Chair, Operations

2006 promises to be another interesting and challenging year for the GGF Operations team. GGF staff members, in collaboration with the new Area Directors now in place for IT, Marketing, Events and Membership have set aggressive objectives during 2006. The focus is to continue improving the way in which we support our standards and community efforts; communicate the value of GGF; and foster active participation and support to accomplish our mission.

In the IT Area, our objective is to improve our IT infrastructure and automate GGF processes to increased productivity and facilitate steering. Andre Merzky became GGF's first AD of Information Technology (IT) in October and has provided helpful insight into the operations of groups. Andre took on perhaps one of the greatest challenges facing GGF in 2005, the viability of GridForge as the primary group document publishing and collaboration tool of GGF. Working mostly behind the scenes, Andre has developed a strategy that significantly increases the usability of GridForge. With a new version of SourceForge (the software at the core of GridForge) and new server hardware in place, a significant leap in usability and response should be realized by our groups. Andre and Joel Replogle (Manager of Standards)

also plan to launch a set of custom interfaces that enable the data contained in a group's charter to be integrated with other core functions such as group and document approval to improve coordination and visibility of GGF group efforts.

In Marketing, Miram Vializ-Briggs (IBM) is leading our objective to better promote GGF as the recognized catalyst and thought leader for grid worldwide. Miriam has helped GGF jump-start our Marketing Area and has provided excellent leadership in setting direction for this year's marketing efforts. Having experienced its most productive year in 2005, GGF plans to better communicate our progress to the community and more aggressively promote GGF's contributions to the overall industry. GGF plays a unique leadership role in enabling grid adoption worldwide and communicating this role and our progress is critical to our continued success in 2006.

GGF Events are another critical area of focus for GGF during 2006 and we are very pleased to have Gary Tyreman (Platform Computing) join the GFSG as the acting AD of Events. Gary and Ann Collins (GGF Director of Events) are championing an objective of refining the GGF event model to better meet our financial and member satisfaction requirements during 2006. With GGF events in Athens, Tokyo and Washington, D.C. planned and our continued collaboration with IDG WorldExpo on GridWorld, this year promises to be "eventful" to say the least. We have received feedback however that GGF needs to continue to refine our event model – making events more productive for our hard working group

participants while continuing to look for opportunities to outreach to international organizations, new communities and other grid-related organizations. Stay tuned as we work to refine our existing event model and investigate new types of event approaches outside of our traditional 3 event per year model.

We are also excited to welcome Beth Plale (Indiana U.) as GGF's first Membership AD. Beth arrived at an interesting time in GGF's history – a time when the membership program was being reworked and the individual membership program re-launched. You can read more about changes to our 2006 GGF Membership Program for organizational and individual members in this edition of the GGF newsletter, but Beth is keen to see GGF's member benefits increased and member participation grow. Growth in grid projects worldwide and the continued maturation of grid software architectures and specifications requires financial support from our generous sponsors and active participation from our dedicated individual members worldwide. Beth and Steve Crumb, Executive Director, will be looking for ways of enhancing existing programs like the DOE-funded Student Scholar program, exploring new educational opportunities for members, and providing simpler ways for those new to GGF to become actively involved.

The GGF Operations team has a challenging set of objectives in IT, Marketing, Events and Membership during 2006. We are looking forward to a productive year and the opportunity to again improve on our ability to support and communicate the mission of GGF.

GGF Community Directions

By Robert Fogel
Vice-Chair, Community

If you are asking the question, "who or what is the GGF Community," the answer is actually quite simple; because, if you are reading this newsletter, then there is a very good chance that you already know the answer; that is, we, together, are the GGF Community.
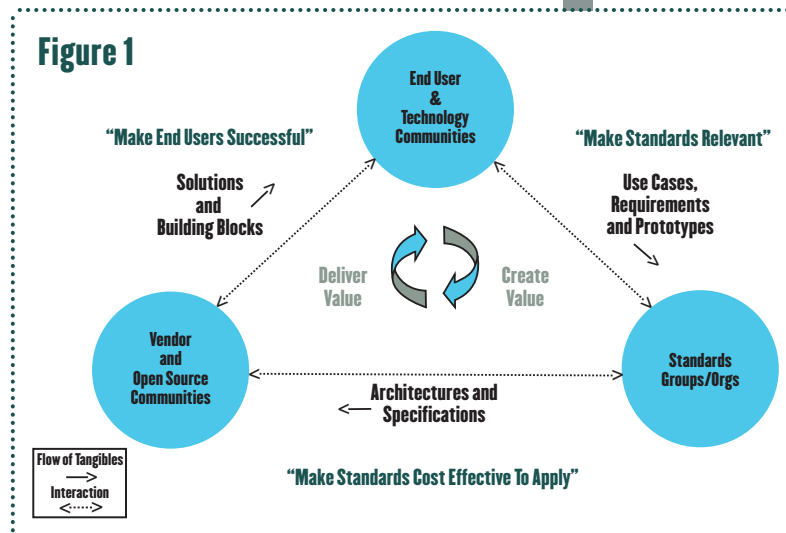
In 2005, the GGF Community function was officially introduced as the third strategic pillar for GGF; so, along with the Standards and Operations, these interdependent functions are committed to delivering on GGF's overall mission for pervasive Grid adoption across industry and research. Now, looking into 2006, the Community function is taking shape to deliver on a concise set of actions to build international communities to help research and industry achieve high business value through the use of Grid technology.

Historically, GGF is often thought of primarily as just a standards organization; however, with standards as the core value of GGF, it is essential to consider the community ecosystem, as depicted in **Figure 1**, that needs to be built around the creation of those standards so that: 1) the standards are relevant to end-users of Grid technology, and that Grid technology delivers what end-users want and need; 2) the standards can be cost-effectively implemented by in-house developers, commercial vendors and the open source community at-large. So, round and round the cycle goes: GGF creates core value through standards, and this value is ultimately realized by end-users. The GGF Community has four key objectives that are designed around this value cycle.

The first GGF Community objective is to establish and grow international research and industry communities. This is the most important objective because it is about creating the actual living and breathing communities themselves which consist of GGF members from all over the world. The two main communities that we are talking about here are first and foremost the end-user community who apply Grid technology for some specific purpose such as analyzing financial risk, managing a retail supply chain, searching for gene sequences, simulating oil reservoirs, collaborating with colleges around the world, or modeling complex drug molecules. The other community group is the in-house developers, commercial vendors and the open source community who actually implement Grid standards, specifications and reference architectures to create the solutions and building blocks that end-users ultimately use.

Figure 1

The second GGF Community objective is about helping end-users understand and use Grid technology. The success of GGF, in our mission for pervasive adoption of Grid technology, will ultimately be measured by end-users actually using the technology and deriving high value from it. One major way that we facilitate this is by providing high value, high impact content for GGF events. This content includes tutorials, keynotes, birds of a feather (BoF) meetings, workshops, expert panels, talks, and best-known-methods sharing.

The third GGF Community objective is about identifying, prioritizing and driving end-user requirements and use cases into the GGF standards process. This objective is how we ensure that the Grid standards we develop will ultimately be relevant to end-users, and that the solutions and building blocks which implement the standards are what end-users want and need. The mechanism that we are using to capture the requirements and use cases is through Voice-of-the-Community documents or just VOCs. The VOCs will be targeted for specific areas of research and industries such as finance, pharma, telcom, life sciences, automotive, government, oil & gas, aero,

and linking this community to our standards efforts and mission of pervasive adoption. During 2006, this team will play a key role in driving requirements and use cases into the GGF standards process. They will also champion efforts to ensure our specifications are valuable to adopt within the software community. In addition, they plan to continue to help users understand and use grid technology through their program content leadership at GGF events. Robert Fogel, Vice Chair of Community outlines the key objectives for this important GGF function later in the newsletter.

Our Standards function continues to make progress defining grid specifications that lead to interoperable software standards. During 2006, this team will be placing special emphasis on increasing standards visibility and accelerating grid specification development. A focus on software interoperability will begin to take shape throughout the year as we work to ensure GGF standards track the issues and needs of the grid community. Dave Snelling, Vice Chair of Standards shares his thoughts regarding the directions that Standards will take during 2006 in this issue of the newsletter.

Our Operations team provides the foundational support to enable GGF to make progress on our mission of pervasive adoption. The focus during 2006 is to continue improving the way in which we support our standards and community efforts; communicate the value of GGF; and foster active participation and support to accomplish our mission. This team has launched a new GGF Membership Program for 2006 and outlined an exciting event plan for the year starting with GGF16 in Athens. Be sure to read Steve Crumb's article in the newsletter for the latest on our Operations objectives for the year.

2006 promises to be another year of challenging opportunities for our international grid community. Who knows, this may be the year when the three amigo's (i.e.
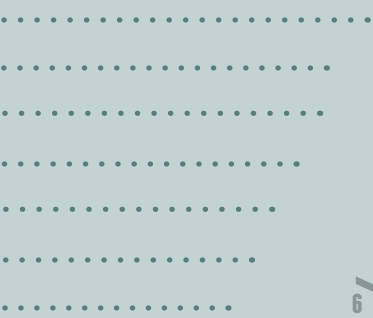
expectations, experience and economics) actually sit down across the table and share a margarita or two and establish a more productive dialogue. I'll bring the chips and salsa.

GGF Community Directions, from page 5

retail, health, etc. The idea is that each of these areas has their own way of doing business and thus their own language for describing what they do. It is also very important to note that another path and input comes from the technology research community. This group of researchers is different from the researchers who use Grid technology to do research; instead, these are researchers, computer scientists and technologists who innovate, experiment and research new Grid technology itself. Their primary form of input to the standards development process is via prototypes that help communicate what is required of the standards development process in order for specifications and reference architectures to incorporate this new technology.

The fourth GGF Community objective is about championing efforts to ensure that GGF standards are valuable for in-house developers, commercial vendors and the open source community to adopt. In order to accomplish this, we are establishing an Adoption Forum which consists of individuals who have a product development mindset and will work with the GGF Standards function as an independent forum to ensure that GGF standards are cost-effective to implement. Even if the standards reflect end-user needs and wants, the standards must also represent the economic interests and practical concerns of those who will be actually implementing the standards; otherwise, the standards will not be adopted.

These objectives comprehend the community interaction and flow of tangibles that describes what the GGF Community is, and how value is created and delivered by GGF overall; however, the true responsibility for the success of GGF lies in your hands; and, through the GGF Community, we can deliver on the promise of pervasive Grid adoption and hopefully help you achieve your own success. If you are not already, I strongly encourage you to become an active member of the GGF Community to hear and to be heard; otherwise, the only voice that you hear might just be your own.

GGF Launches Membership Program

In an interview with Steve Crumb, GGF Executive Director, Grid Connections explores the purpose and importance of the recent Membership Program launch.

GC: What is the GGF Membership Program?
SC: The GGF Membership program is a simplified way of determining and measuring our organizational and individual participants. This program allows GGF to identify and reward our contributing members and provide a consistent set of benefits to both. It allows us to answer questions like, "How many members does GGF have?", and "What does being a member of GGF mean?" It will also help us collaborate better with other bodies who allow for member discounts for their events or other entitlements.

GC: What does being a GGF Member really mean?
SC: As we developed the new program, we identified three reasons why organizations and/or individuals engage in GGF: **Influence on GGF directions and priorities, recognition as a leader driving grid adoption, insight into grid standards and best practices.**
At the core, most people engage in GGF for one or more of these reasons. As a result, we designed benefits that align with these three reasons that are detailed on our website (http://www.ggf.org/Members/ggf_members_become.php). Whether it's involvement in leadership, access to Grid experts, or the opportunity to contribute to setting a global standard, GGF membership means something today and will mean more in months to come.

GC: What happened to the Sponsorship program?
SC: The simple answer is that it was renamed Organization membership and combined with the individual membership program. When I first came to GGF, we had separate programs for organizations and individuals. While the sponsor program was very successful financially, I did not see many tangible benefits for individual participation. As I've become more familiar with the needs of the organizations and individuals engaged in GGF, it was clear that we needed a single, simple program that balanced financial contribution and technical involvement. So, we worked with our existing sponsor organizations and others to develop a single set of benefits that would map well to the needs of individuals and organizations. The result is a single membership program that I hope will continue to encourage organizations and individuals to contribute financially and technically to the mission of GGF.

GC: Why a re-launch of the individual membership program?
SC: As we talk about GGF's contributions to the industry through our marketing efforts, I want to use participation information that can be measured. At the same time, I believe GGF needs to celebrate its accomplishments – both as a community and individually. We launched a "Leadership Award" last year to reward those who showed outstanding efforts in leadership but there are many who are doing heroic work at the individual level - in groups and committees. I want those people to know they are part of something significant but I also want a way to reward them for their contributions. Without an individual membership, there is a huge disconnect between what we are doing and who we are as a community. I hope to bridge those two through this program. This won't happen overnight, but with time, I have confidence that being a member of GGF will be a badge of honor.

GC: Who is a member and who isn't?
SC: First of all, any employee (or designee) of a paying 2006 organization member (formerly known as a sponsor) receives complementary (free) membership for 2006. Organization representatives can simply send an email to member-info@ggf.org to receive specific instructions for activating their membership. Beyond organization representatives, we made the decision, based on the fact that most of GGF's business is done via email, that anyone subscribed in 2005 to a group email list (-wg, -cg, or –rg) or a standing member in a key GGF committee such as the GFAC would also be granted complementary (free) membership in 2006. That resulted in approximately 2000 members who we believe will encompass our core participants. These people have been notified via email that they must activate their membership at our membership portal to receive their membership number and qualify for member benefits. There is no fee for this activation assuming you are one of the above mentioned groups of participants. I'm sure that in the process of determining our core participants, we have left vital participants out of the loop and we invite them to contact us (member-info@ggf.org) so we can correct the situation.

GC: How can someone become a member if they are not already one?
SC: First, check to make sure you have not already been granted complementary according to the criteria in the previous answer. If you have questions, email member-info@ggf.org and we will determine whether you qualify. Anyone can become an annual member of GGF by visiting the membership page (http://www.ggf.org/Members/ggf_members_become.php) and registering as a member. There is a $100 annual fee for people who were not already granted complementary membership in 2006.

1 Attend a Meeting
GGF17/GridWorld Japan
   May 10-12, 2006
   Tokyo, Japan
GGF18/GridWorld
   September 11-14, 2006
   Washington, D.C.

2 Join a community of interest

3 Join a working or research group

4 Become a Member
For more information, visit www.ggf.org.

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