

Outline programme for the OGF20 industry track

“Grids Mean Business”

The goal of this track is to show the advantages of adopting Grid technology to IT leaders and managers in a variety of commercial sectors. Case studies will demonstrate examples of successful use, vendor contributions will explain some of the options available, while discussions and panels will allow exploration of the issues and problems that must be faced in order to achieve success.

For OGF, this is an outreach activity, intended to introduce Grid and the OGF to a new audience. For the audience, this is an opportunity to learn from experts in a vendor-neutral setting with major international speakers. For speakers, this is a chance to present their successes and concerns, and to learn from other successful businesses.

This programme is led by *Grid Computing Now!*, a UK Knowledge Transfer Network, and by the Open Grid Forum.

Day 1

Welcome and introduction

Session 1: Setting the scene

We begin by putting Grid in the context of other developments in modern computing infrastructure, including virtualisation, service-oriented architecture, web services and next-generation networks. The industry track will take a catholic view of Grid, overlapping and incorporating many of these technologies – our emphasis is on solving business problems and meeting business needs, rather than a purist definition of competing technologies.

By a combination of presentations and case studies, this session will outline where Grid can be applied – in the data centre, as utility computing, in specialised services (design, drug discovery ...), and in collaborative projects.

Session 2: Paths for adoption

A key question for a business adopting Grid is where and how to introduce it. This session will focus on case studies from companies who have introduced Grid to meet particular challenges. It will show a variety of areas that can be addressed by Grid, in practical and achievable ways. In some cases the decision to adopt Grid has literally allowed the company to survive. In others, the decision has increased ROI and flexibility.

This session will primarily consist of case studies, with opportunities for discussion.

Session 3: Grid Markets: Utility computing & software as a service

This session will examine business scenarios based on the provision and outsourcing of services to other companies. Utility computing provides this facility at the level of computing resources, whether these are CPU time or storage. Software as a service provides higher-level, application-specific, services.

Case studies from a range of companies will show the applicability of this paradigm across business sectors.

Day 2

Session 4: Scaling up to the Enterprise Level

For many companies, a key question is how to scale up their computing infrastructure to cope with increased business and operational demands. Larger infrastructures bring new challenges in management. Grid is designed to scale and hence address some of these issues. The presentations in this session will illustrate where Grid can help and discuss the challenges involved in increasing Grid operations across the enterprise.

Session 5: Issues in Grid – Security & privacy

When contemplating a Grid solution, IT managers need to understand any implications this may have on the security of their infrastructure and the privacy of their users. This session will directly address this concern. Presentations, case studies and extensive discussion will highlight which threats are real, which are not, and what technology exists to ensure an adequate level of security.

Session 6: Collaborative Grids

Another class of business scenarios arises when companies collaborate, for example on a joint project or as part of a supply chain. The sharing of data and even of computing resources can greatly enhance the benefits of such collaboration. Grids are explicitly aimed to support such collaborations, including the concomitant concerns about security.

Several case studies will show how Grid technology can be applied and discuss the steps needed to achieve successful collaborations.

Session 7: Issues in Grid – Licensing

One potential barrier to the deployment of Grid business solutions arises from the license policies applied to software applications. If an application is no longer tied to a particular CPU, or to a particular number of CPUs, or even to a particular site, traditional licensing models no longer apply. Yet vendors want a predictable income and CFOs want predictable expenditures.

This session will include a panel discussion, reviewing the current state of the field and looking at possible future developments.

Close

A review of the two days, with a link to the other activities of the OGF, GCN and EGEE.