Proposed Charter for the
Application Contents Service (ACS)
Working Group

Definition
The Application Contents Service (ACS) Working Group (WG) will focus on two
main topics: a) Application Contents Repository service and its interfaces;
and b) Application Contents Archive Format to be exchanged between
Application Contents Repositories. Contents may include real entities or
location pointers to, deployable contents such as program binaries and
configuration data, descriptions of the hardware resources typically
required by each component, and also various elements such as descriptions
of procedures for lifecycle management and management policies typically
applied to the running system.

Structure
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et al. (TBD)
Mailing List: acs-wg@gridforum.org
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Charter
Focus/Purpose

In order to install and operate complex systems such as three-tier systems
more efficiently and automatically, it is necessary to specify and manage
as a unit a lot of different application related information. The
Application
Contents Service provides central management of such application
information.
Contents may include real entities or location pointer to, deployable
contents
such as program binaries and configuration data, descriptions of the
hardware
resources typically required by each component, and also various
elements such
as descriptions of procedures for lifecycle management and management
policies
typically applied to the running system. Systems may already have a
history of
correct operation, including performance validation. Such information
should
also be included as part of the application information since it can be
used
by the Grid system to provide more predictable operation.

Hence, the proposed WG (ACS) will address how to: create an exchangeable
Application Contents and enable its management operation over the
Application
Contents repositories.

Scope

There are many proprietary and open source systems that partially
overlap ACS,
but there is no consistent and standardized system or method which
interoperates across various platforms, languages, and
services/applications
in a secure and reliable way. As examples, an ideal ACS would enable:
exchange
of the Application Contents deployable and executable among the conformant
grid systems and to implement unified management operations of it on such
systems.

Within group there exists extensive experience gained with one such system,
called Business Grid project. The intent to promote its technologies as an
open standard and/or to present its core part as an open source is
expressed
in a project goals.

Goals and Milestones
This group is chartered with the creation of the ACS specifications and it
encourages companies and individuals to develop at least two reference
implementations. We hope to accomplish the following specifications:
1. Application Contents Service Specification, which consists of two sub
parts;
a) Application Repository Interface (ARI), and
b) Application Archive Format (AAF).

We hope to accomplish the following milestones:
- September 2004, GGF12:
1. ACS charter discussion BOF is held
2. Present initial intent as a draft ACS draft version 0.
- March 2005, GGF13:
1. ACS WG fully formed and core charter members established;
2. Completion of draft versions of the documents above.
- June 2005, GGF14
1. Final drafts of documents.
- September 2005, GGF15
1. preliminary reference implementations
- March 2006, GGF16:

1. Two interoperable reference implementations complete