

Grid Education & Training BOF

This was the second meeting of the Grid Education and Training Community Group/BOF. Materials from the meeting are available at http://www.ggf.org/gf/event_schedule/materials.php?event_id=4

Goals

The goals of this workshop were to:

- Share information & ideas about existing education & training for the Grid
- Investigate whether people were willing to continue working together towards the goals stated at the Athens meeting
- Develop a charter and create a GGF community group

Attendees

Malcolm Atkinson - National e-Science Centre
Lee, JongSuk Ruth - KISTI Supercomputing Center
Ake Edlund - KTH PDC
Laura McGinnis - Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center
Lisa Childers - Argonne National Laboratory
Jay Boisseau - Texas Advanced Computing Center / UT Austin
Tom Roney - NCSA - University of Illinois
Fotis Karayannis - GRNet
Gwen Nichols - GGF
Kilian Schwarz - GSI Germany
Beth Plale - Indiana University
Olle Mulmo - KTH
Mike Jackson - EPCC, University of Edinburgh
Erwin Laure - CERN/EGEE
Kathryn Cassidy – Trinity College Dublin

Recap of Athens meeting

The Athens meetings were summarised and the url (http://www.ggf.org/gf/event_schedule/materials.php?event_id=3) to materials from that meeting was supplied for those who were not present.

Progress to date was discussed. To summarise, there has not been much progress and we still need to produce a charter in order to be set up as a formal GGF community group.

Update on ICEAGE & ISSGC06

Malcolm gave a brief overview of the ICEAGE project, details available at <http://www.iceage-eu.org/>

The project's first forum will be in Ischia 15 July (in conjunction with the summer school).

The 4th GGF international summer school will take place from 9th - 21st July with 64 participants chosen out of 108 applicants. The programme & practical exercises for the school are almost complete. Details available at <http://www.dma.unina.it/~murli/ISSGC06/>

All events at the summer school will be recorded in order to create a library of reusable video lectures in accordance with one of the actions suggested at Athens. It was suggested that we examine these materials at GGF18 to decide how close they are to what we want, they can then be modified as appropriate. Laura McGinnis suggested that we also do the same for other grid summer schools so that we can determine a standard / consensus.

Mention was also made of other summer schools:

- ISSGC07 planning underway
- EGEE CE/SEEGRID summer school 3-8th July
- Baltic Grid summer school, 4-8 July
- KTH summer school, 25-28 August
- CERN computing school, 21 aug - 1st september
- GridKA school, 10-15 september

Reports of Other Work

The following additional related projects were discussed. We did not have a representative of all of these projects present.

- The EGEE-II project (<http://www.eu-egee.org/>) has begun with 32 partners in the NA3 (Training) component.
- An EU e-IRG e-infrastructure reflection group's (<http://www.e-irg.org/>) education & training task-force has been set up with a policy-making brief. This is complimentary to our work as e-IRG will focus on the policy level, while our group is more generic. On the other hand, e-IRG is a European only initiative.
- Globus training
- Grid education program in Indiana
- EPIC – EPIC will be involved with GGF18 in Washington. There will be a shared meeting of this group & EPIC after GGF18.
- Pittsburg – teragrid tutorials
- Grid school in Texas run by Mike Wilde

Suggested Headings for Charter

Officers

Chairs: Malcolm (currently), David Fergusson, & someone from EPIC.

Secretary: Kathryn Cassidy

Scope

Education & Training should both be covered, and also outreach to some extent. Malcolm proposed the acronym 'TOE' for Training, Outreach & Education community group.

Grids for application disciplines should be covered as well as Grid engineering, production & management and computer science for grids. This generated some discussion with Lisa Childers pointing out that looking at the science behind Grid applications makes for more interesting training.

Target communities are mainly Universities & colleges. At Athens it was decided that schools should be excluded for now and industry should also be a later focus as there were no industry representatives in the group. There was also some discussion on this point. Laura McGinnis pointed out that as the life-time of a community group is longer than a working group it may be possible to keep these items in the goals with a view to revisiting them later. However, Beth Plale argued that Grids are not sufficiently prevalent in undergraduate courses yet to even consider schools at this stage.

Mission

The 3 goals below were confirmed at the meeting:

- To raise the commitment to grid training, outreach & education
- To improve the quality and availability of the Grid TOE
- To support the community of Grid Educators and trainers

A fourth goal was also suggested

- Synergies & coherent policies

However, Malcolm asked for a suitable wording to be proposed.

Goals

The goals from the Athens meeting were summarised.

In addition the idea of certification for students was suggested. It was suggested that we could develop a certification framework similar to the LPI (Linux Professional Institute)

where the curriculum details what you need to know in order to be certified but you can have different 'plugins' for different middlewares, etc.

While it was agreed that this might increase the attractiveness of training for students it would require quite a standard curriculum and certification of the various courses, etc. Because it is such a large undertaking it was left as an open point for further discussion with no commitment made.

Milestones

The original first milestone was to be a collated report on current work in Grid education & training by GGF 18, however this will probably now be GGF19.

At GGF18 we should meet and develop a draft of this document as well as planning for the next documents to be produced.

At GGF19 we should meet and collate & polish the content of report for public review

At GGF20 we should complete a draft of a standard for sharing training material. This would address curriculum ownership, IP issues, etc.