

Minutes from Firewall Issues Group May 9th 2007 - OGF20 – Manchester, UK

The agenda of the FI-RG meeting at OGF20, Manchester, UK included the following items:

- Introduction and work status - (Leon Gommans)
 - Find Notetaker
 - IPR statement
- Progress on FI-RG docs - (Thijs Metsch)
- Interaction Data Management Tool - (Gian Luca Volpato)
- Current FI-RG work and how to proceed? - (Ralph Niederberger)
- Group discussions – (Leon Gommans)

After having found a notetaker and presentation of the general OGF IPR statement Leon introduced once more the charter of the FI-RG group and described the current work status. He announced Ralph Niederberger as new additional co-chair of the group. No objections to this have been made.

After this introduction Leon handed over to Thijs who presented the FI-RG document work in progress. Thijs mentioned the document strategy of FI-RG in detail having one document already provided as GFD-I083. The two remaining docs are in preparation currently. He proposed to combine these to one document again because of having many overlaps. This will be discussed on the mailing list in the next weeks.

Frank Siebenlist asked about ideas to use a Skype approach for file transfers in Grid environments and what the intent of this Research Group really is. Leon referred to the charter again and pointed out, that the activities of a Research Group are not related to creating standards. He referred to the further talk of Ralph later on in this session.

Next Gian Luca Volpato gave a presentation about “Interaction of Data Management Tools with Firewalls”. The questions that arose from these slides led to a discussion on opening ports for GridFTP. Main question: What is the difference opening 1 or 5000 ports? The answers coming out of the group can be summarized in this sense that in principle there is no difference, but on the first hand logging and controlling only a number of ports is much easier than a number of thousands and secondly having only a small number of ports, where mostly a services is listening on, makes it more complex for hackers to disrupt and attack.

The talk of Ralph Niederberger on “Current FI-RG work and how to proceed?” has been thought to open up a discussion on further activities of the Research Group. The group has seen increased interest from the grid applications area, but would like to see more outcome. The idea is to open up a discussion on intermediate useful solutions and paving the way to future standards. Having seen a fundamental interest in working on this area, it has been decided to have more detailed discussion on the FI-RG mailing list and in case of agreement coming up with a BoF or may be a Work Group at OGF21 already.

After checking that no further questions have been left, Leon Gommans closed the session and thanked all participants for the very useful discussions.

Notes taken by:

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