Grid Education and Training Workshop at GGF16, 14th Feb 2006

This was an initial meeting of people interested in Grid Education and Training, with a view to forming a GGF working group. The goals of the workshop were to
- Share information and ideas about existing education and training for Grid Computing
- Investigate whether people would be willing to continue working together to:
    – Develop and share best practice
    – Develop and share educational and training material
    – Develop and share t-Infrastructure
    – Develop agreed policies for access to training resources
    – Develop shared eLearning resources
    – Develop co-scheduling and cross-accreditation of courses
- If the answer is "yes" (which it was), initiate development of a charter and formation of a R/WG.

The meeting was in two sessions, the first dealing with Education and the second with Training. Some 40 people participated in one or both sessions. This level of interest was very encouraging for an initial meeting.

The outcomes were

- A secretary was appointed - Kathryn Cassidy, of the University of Dublin.
- One co-chair was established – David Fergusson, of the National e-Science in Edinburgh.
- A representative of the EPIC (Engaging People in Cyberinfrastructure) project agreed to see whether someone from that project would be able to provide a second co-chair.
- An initial mailing list will be formed, comprising the participants of this meeting, and the participants in the related Education Community Group meeting (see below). The people on this initial mailing will forward information about the group to further people that they think might be interested.
- There will be a further meeting of the group at GGF18.
- It was proposed that a concrete goal for the next meeting would be for each intended member of the group to contribute the transparencies for one lecture, as a starting point for - a shared pool of education/training material; a discussion of Grid syllabuses.
- That although there were significant differences between "Education" and "Training", there is sufficient overlap that both would be covered by one group.

Content of the Workshop

The workshop included a number of presentations on existing Education and Training initiatives -
- Globus Training, presented by Ian Foster
- ICEAGE (International Consortium for Extending and Advancing Grid Education), an EU-funded project presented by Malcolm Atkinson.
- EPIC (Engaging People in Cyberinrastructure), an NSF-funded project presented by Anne Redelfs and Leslie Southern
- Grid Education for Minority Groups, presented by Geoffrey Fox.
- Training and eLearning within EGEE, part of an EU-funded project, presented by David Fergusson.

- European Grid Training – Is Collaboration Possible? – presented by Rosa Badia. (presentations available at http://www.ggf.org/gf/event_schedule/materials.php?event_id=3)

The two principal discussion sessions were
- Summer Schools and MSc programmes. A number of Education programmes were identified including – GGF summer School series; A US grid Summer School focussing on VDT, GridKa Summer School at Karlsruhe, MSc in e-Science at Edinburgh University.

- The Way Forward – with the outcomes identified above.

Education Community Group meeting

This subject domain of the Grid Education and Training workshop was related to that of a subsequent meeting, the Education Community Group, addressing the use of the Grid for learning. There was significant overlap between the participants in both workshops. In this workshop it was recognised that there was some overlap between the two groups, in that the the Grid Education and Training Group would be addressing e-infrastructures for teaching about Grids, which would include the use of Grids for teaching about Grids. However the two groups were of sufficiently different focus that it seemed best for them to be separate, closely cooperating, groups.