INFOD Working Group
Global Grid Forum, Data Area

Administrative Information

Name and Acronym:
Information Dissemination, INFOD

Chairs:
Dieter Gawlick, Oracle Corp., dieter.gawlick@oracle.com
Susan Malaika, IBM Corp., malaika@us.ibm.com

Secretary(s)/Webmaster(s) (both optional):
Secretary: Steve Fisher, S.M.Fisher@rl.ac.uk
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Email list:
infod-wg@ggf.org

Web page:
http://forge.ggf.org/projects/infod-wg

Charter
Focus/Purpose

The purpose of this charter is to develop a model and define operations for Information Dissemination (ID) that support asynchronous data distribution.

For background information on Information Dissemination, please review
http://forge.ggf.org/projects/infod-wg

Scope

The scope of the charter is to:
- Define a model and Web Services operations to support ID
- Describe use cases for ID
- Position the ID with respect to related standards and standards activities, especially to WS-Notification.

Goals

Deliverable/Milestones:
Information Dissemination Base Specification, GGF16 – Recommendations document
Information Dissemination Use Cases, GGF16 – Informational document

Management Issues

Management issues are resolved by having dedicated co-chairs who are aware of the time commitment a GGF working group demands and deliver on that commitment.

Evidence of commitments to carry out WG tasks
Dieter and Susan and other workgroup members have been working consistently on ID.

Pre-existing Document(s)

    Please refer to: https://forge.gridforum.org/projects/infod-wg
    WS-Notifications specifications can be found at the Oasis Website: http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/tc_home.php?wg_abbrev=wsn

Exit Strategy

    The exit strategy for the INFOD working group is to deliver the following document

    Information Dissemination Base Specification, - Recommendations Document.

Any other relevant information

    None.

Section 1 - Seven questions: Evaluation Criteria (from GFD-C.3)

    When considering the formation of this group, the Steering Group will wish to ensure that every WG has clear and focused objectives, and has demonstrated support from the community. The Steering Group will consider the following seven issues (taken from GGF document GFD-C.3).

1.1   Is the scope of the proposed group sufficiently focused?

    Is the group attempting to produce everything from beginning to end (a survey of the state-of-the-art, plus use cases, plus a requirements analysis, plus recommendations documents) or is it focused on only one or two of these areas? Is there more than one type of standard being proposed (Architecture/framework vs. information model (schema) vs. API vs. Protocol)? Is the topic area too specific or too broad (for example, overlap with other GGF WGs may indicate "too broad")? Are the milestones reasonably achievable in the proposed timeframe (1-2 years for a WG)?

    The INFOD WG intent is to produce the documents mentioned in the section above (Informational and Recommendations documents).

1.2   Are the topics that the group plans to address clear and relevant for the Grid research, development, industrial, implementation, and/or application user community?

    ID has been recognized as an important element of many use cases, e.g., for sensor based computing

1.3   Will the formation of the group foster (consensus–based) work that would not be done otherwise?

    Does the group foster standards or practices that are greater than the work done by any single group (taking advantage of GGF to come together on neutral ground)?   How many distinct groups, institutions, and regions of the world are participating in this effort? (GGF activities typically have membership drawn from more than a single research group, institution or project).

There is no current standard that supports communication with the level of functionality or operational characteristics that are required by ID.

1.4   Do the group's activities overlap inappropriately with those of another GGF group or to a group active in another organization such as IETF or W3C?

What is the nature and extent of any overlap? The proposed group may still be formed, or the GFSG may recommend that the work be done within the existing GGF (or external) group.

The INFOD WG has some relationship with **WS-Notification** (in Oasis) and the INFOD group is tracking its progress.

1.5   Are there sufficient interest and expertise in the group's topic, with at least several people willing to expend the effort that is likely to produce significant results over time?

How much experience do the participants collectively have in the proposed area of work? How committed are the participating individuals? An attendance list or an email subscriber list is a very weak indication of commitment; a list of people who have attended multiple teleconferences is somewhat better; a list of individuals who have committed to specific tasks, or who have made non-trivial time commitments, is much better. Additional evidence could include statements from organizations stating that they will dedicate resources (people) to participate in the group, and statements from participants expressing their personal, compelling need for the output of the group. Can you, the chair, commit to at least 4 hours per week to run this group? (Please address this question directly).

The intense F2F meetings have demonstrated commitment.

1.6   Does a base of interested consumers (e.g., application developers, Grid system implementers, industry partners, end-users) appear to exist for the planned work?

How broadly applicable will the output of the WG output be? Does the WG have true clients of its work? Such interest can be measured by the interest of industry partners, grid deployment projects, and other groups committed to implement the recommendations or adopt the results.

The success of a working group requires "buy-in" from a broad set of constituents who will use the output of the group. It is useful to indicate what is the target set of consumers in the community. While not necessarily a requirement for approval, it is essential that the organizers comment on the relationship of the work, and the level of interest, from large segments of the Grid community such as major software projects, architecture activities, etc.

The participants in INFOD have demonstrated the high interest in ID.

1.7   Does the GGF have a reasonable role to play in the determination of the technology?

What other organizations are working in similar areas? Is the GGF the right place for this work? Is it clear how the proposed WG will coordinate with related efforts?

The answer to this question has already been addressed in 1.4.