

Grid Scheduling Dictionary Working Group

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Grid Scheduling Dictionary of Terms and Keywords

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1. Abstract

The GGF Scheduling and Resource Management Area is concerned with various issues relating to resource scheduling and resource management in Grid environments. In examining current scheduling systems, it became apparent that a dictionary of terms and keywords would assist in discussions. This information could then be used to develop a Grid language that would provide seamless communication and advance reservation capabilities to the various schedulers in use within a Grid.

2. General remarks

The dictionary is focusing on scheduling in a grid environment, it does not address scheduling terms in general. The terms are used in the manner typically found in grid schedulers. The authors are aware that there may be multiple definitions of some terms depending e.g. on the environment where a term is used.

A context is given for each term indicating where a term usually is employed. If a term appears in several contexts, the most relevant ones are listed together with the term.

The following contexts are used:

- Access
- Application
- Network
- Process
- Resource
- Resource Management
- Scheduler

3. List of Terms and Definitions

Term	Context	Definition
Account	Access	The permissions for a particular user to use various resources.
Authentication	Access	The process by which one entity verifies the identity of another.
User	Access	A person authorized to submit jobs to high performance computing resources.
Application Software	Application	The actual programs used by an application.
Checkpoint	Application	Saving the current state of a program and its data, including intermediate results to disk or other non-volatile storage, so that if interrupted the program could be restarted at the point at which the last checkpoint occurred. This is a feature provide by some schedulers, but not all.
Re-runable	Application	If a batch job can be terminated and its execution restarted from the beginning without harmful side effects, then the job is said to be <i>re-runable</i> .
LDAP	Network	Lightweight Directory Access Protocol
Application	Process	A combination of program tasks and data manipulations that make use of computing resources.
Collaborative Computing	Process	To work jointly with other computing devices
Job	Process	An application or task performed on High Performance Computer resources. A job may be composed of steps/sections as individual schedulable entities.
Task	Process	A specific piece of work required to be done as part of a job or application.
Bandwidth	Resource	The capacity for data transfer.
Cluster	Resource	A set of execution "servers" or hosts on which a single <i>batch server</i> manages batch jobs. A cluster may be made up of a set of workstations, multiple CPU systems, or a set of nodes in a parallel system.
Computational Grid	Resource	Large-scale high-performance distributed computing environments that provide access to high-end computational resources.
CPU	Resource	Central Processing Unit - the part of a computer system that operates on information or data. Some schedulers require a specification of how many CPU's are available on a node.
Disk	Resource	A non-volatile device that is used to store information and that provides read/write access.
HPC	Resource	High Performance Computing - The technology that is used to provide solutions to problems that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • require significant computational power • either need to access, or process, very large amounts of data quickly • need to operate interactively across a geographically distributed network
HPSS	Resource	High Performance Storage System
Legion	Resource Management	Builds system components on a distributed object-oriented model and provides a uniform programming model.
Load	Resource	The quantity of resources required for a job to run.
Memory	Resource	The capacity for storing information during the lifetime of a program.
Name Space	Resource, Resource Management	Name Spaces provide (locally) unique names for (a hierarchy of) objects (e.g. resources, services, applications). The information is often organized in a tree structure and accessible through directory services. A Global name space aims

Term	Context	Definition
		to unify multiple or conflicting naming schemes allowing to use the same name across an entire grid.
Node	Resource	A point of connection on a network. Some schedulers require a job to specify how many nodes it requires. A node consists of one or more central processing units (CPU's). Each processor may have multiple <i>threads</i> running on them that share code and data but have different stacks.
Processor	Resource	The part of a computer which performs the manipulation of data from one state to another
Queue	Resource	A collection of schedulable entities, e.g. jobs (or job-related tasks) within the (batch) queuing system. Each queue has a set of associated attributes that determine which actions are to be performed upon each job within the queue. Typical attributes include queue name, queue priority, resource limits, destination(s), and job count limits. Selection and scheduling of jobs is implementation-defined. The use of the term "queue" does not imply the ordering is "first in, first out."
Visualization	Resource	A device that displays data in picture form. The most basic visualization is that of turning transaction data and summary information into charts and graphs.
Advance Reservation	Resource Management	The process of requesting various resources for use at a later time.
Allocation	Resource Management	The quantity of resources required by a job or reserved for a job.
Broker	Resource Management	A process which performs resource quoting (producer) or resource discovery (consumer) and selection based on various strategies, assigns application task(s) to those resources, and distributes data or co-locates data and computations. Cost Models may be used for negotiations before selecting/requesting resources.
Co-Allocation	Resource Management	Ensures that a given set of resources is available for use simultaneously.
Condor	Resource Management	A computing environment that makes use of and manages very large collections of distributed, private workstations.
Condor-G	Resource Management	A version of Condor that works with Globus.
Co-Scheduling	Resource Management	The ability to schedule various resources for a given time or for a series of sequential times (supported by <i>Co-Allocation</i>).
Cost Model	Resource Management	Defines the cost-benefit ratio of a resource, determines supply and demand. Cost models exist for both producers and consumers.
Data Co-Location	Resource Management	For task-parallel programs, computations or data may reside in distinct locations, and the scheduler must determine which needs to be moved.
Data Distribution	Resource Management	For data-parallel programs, all computation resources execute the same program, and the complexity of the scheduling process lies in the determination of a performance-efficient distribution or decomposition of data.
Duration	Resource Management	A specification of how long a job is expected to run.
End Time	Resource Management	A specification of the time when a job is expected to quit running or actually quit running. May be specified as an actual time or as an offset from the current system time.
Fair Share	Resource Management	A scheduling policy that ensures each user or group of users receive a configurable share of (computing) resources over a configurable period of time called "history hours". The priority of each job is based on a dynamic calculation based on weighted usage of one or more resources during the history hours for the user/group. A decay factor is applied so recently used time weighs more heavily than the time used in the distant past.
Globus Project	Resource Management	Software tools that make it easier to build computational grids and grid-based applications.
Grid	Resource Management	Grids are persistent environments that enable software applications to integrate instruments, displays, computational and information resources that are managed by diverse organizations in widespread locations.
Reservation	Resource Management	The act of specifying a resource, a start time and an end time.
Resource Discovery	Resource Management	The process of locating a set of resources on which to schedule the task(s) of an application.
Resource Quotes	Resource Management	Bidding of resources together with costs. May be mediated through a Broker.
Resource Selection	Resource Management	The process of selecting candidate resources from a pool.

Term	Context	Definition
Start Time	Resource Management	A specification of the time when a job is expected to run or actually began running. May be specified as an actual time or as an offset from the current system time.
Time	Resource Management	Usually refers to execution time of a job.
UNICORE	Resource Management	UNICORE (UNiform Interface to COmputing REsources) provides a science and engineering GRID combining resources of supercomputer centers and making them available through the Internet.
Usage	Resource Management	A measurement of the compute resources accessed by a user. This is typically a combination of nodes and execution time.
Batch Queue	Resource, Scheduler	An execution queue where the request actually is started from/runs
Batch Server	Resource, Scheduler	A persistent subsystem (daemon) upon a single host that provides <i>batch-processing</i> capability.
Batch System	Resource, Scheduler	A set of <i>batch servers</i> that are configured for processing. The system may consist of multiple hosts, each with multiple servers.
Application Scheduler	Scheduler	An assignment of tasks, data, and communication to resources, ordered in time – based on the rules of the scheduling policy, and evaluated as “performance efficient” under the criteria established by the performance model.
Batch	Scheduler	A group of jobs (as programs) which are submitted for processing on a computer and whose results are obtained at a later time
Batch Processing	Scheduler	The capability of running jobs outside of the interactive login session and that provides for additional control over job scheduling and resource contention.
EASY	Scheduler	EASY (Extensible Argonne Scheduling System) was originally written to enable parallel jobs to be scheduled efficiently on IBM SP2 systems, however, various versions supporting other systems are now available.
Gang Scheduling	Scheduler	The gang scheduler permits a set of processes, or multiple threads from a single process, to be scheduled concurrently as a group.
Grid Engine	Scheduler	A scheduling system that accepts job submission by users and schedules them for execution on appropriate systems in the grid based on resource management policies.
Job Scheduling	Scheduler	In a large computer, establishing a job queue to run a sequence of jobs (programs) over any period of time
Load Balancing	Scheduler	The process of maintaining balanced workloads across multiple CPU's or systems.
LSF	Scheduler	Load Sharing Facility – load sharing and sophisticated batch scheduling across distributed UNIX and Windows NT computing environments.
Machine Scheduler	Scheduler	A method used to schedule jobs for execution on a machine. Priority, length of time in the job queue and available resources are examples of criteria used.
Meta-Scheduler	Scheduler	A scheduler that allows to request resources of more than one machine for a single job. May perform load balancing of workloads across multiple systems. Each system would then have its own local scheduler to determine how its job queue is processed. Requires advance reservation capability of local schedulers.
NQS	Scheduler	Network Queuing System – allows a user to submit batch jobs to various queues on local or remote machines, to monitor the job progress, and to have the log file returned to the originating machine or another machine. The queues can be set up according to a variety of parameters such as job size and required resources.
PBS	Scheduler	Portable Batch System – a batch queuing and workload management system.
Scheduling	Scheduler	The process of ordering tasks on compute resources and ordering communication between tasks. Also, known as the allocation of computation and communication “over time.”
Scheduling Model	Scheduler	Consists of a <i>scheduling policy</i> , a <i>program model</i> , a <i>performance model</i> , and a <i>performance measure</i> .
Scheduling Policy	Scheduler	A set of rules for producing schedules
Submit Jobs	Scheduler	The process of placing a job into a queue for execution.
Super Scheduler	Scheduler	(See <i>Meta-Scheduler</i>) The process that will (1) discover available resources for a job, (2) select the appropriate system(s), and (3) submit the job. Each system would then have its own local scheduler to determine how its job queue is processed.
Scheduling Algorithm	Scheduler, Resource Management	A procedure used by a scheduler to determine when a job can run.
Fork	Scheduler, Application, Resource Management	Making a copy of a process for execution.

Term	Context	Definition
Staging	Scheduler, Resource Management	The process of moving a file or files to the host before the batch job begins execution.
High-Performance Schedulers	Scheduler, Resource Management	Software systems that use scheduling models to predict performance, determine application schedules based on these models, and take action to implement the resulting schedule. The goal is to optimize the performance experienced by the application on computational grid. The result is an <i>application schedule</i> .
Mapping	Scheduler, Resource Management	The allocation of computation and data "in space".

3. Summary of Terms by Context

Context	Term
Access	Account
Access	Authentication
Access	User
Application	Application Software
Application	Checkpoint
Application	Fork
Application	Re-runable
Network	LDAP
Process	Application
Process	Collaborative Computing
Process	Job
Process	Task
Resource	Bandwidth
Resource	Batch Queue
Resource	Batch Server
Resource	Batch System
Resource	Cluster
Resource	Computational Grid
Resource	CPU
Resource	Disk
Resource	HPC
Resource	HPSS
Resource	Load
Resource	Memory
Resource	Name Space
Resource	Node
Resource	Processor
Resource	Queue
Resource	Visualization
Resource Management	Advance Reservation
Resource Management	Allocation
Resource Management	Broker
Resource Management	Co-Allocation
Resource Management	Condor
Resource Management	Condor-G
Resource Management	Co-Scheduling
Resource Management	Cost Model
Resource Management	Data Co-Location
Resource Management	Data Distribution
Resource Management	Duration
Resource Management	End Time
Resource Management	Fair Share
Resource Management	Fork
Resource Management	Globus Project
Resource Management	Grid
Resource Management	High-Performance Schedulers
Resource Management	Legion
Resource Management	Mapping
Resource Management	Reservation
Resource Management	Resource Discovery
Resource Management	Resource Quotes
Resource Management	Resource Selection
Resource Management	Scheduling Algorithm
Resource Management	Staging
Resource Management	Start Time
Resource Management	Time

Context	Term
Resource Management	UNICORE
Resource Management	Usage
Scheduler	Algorithm
Scheduler	Batch
Scheduler	Batch Processing
Scheduler	Batch Queue
Scheduler	Batch Server
Scheduler	Batch System
Scheduler	EASY
Scheduler	Fork
Scheduler	Gang Scheduling
Scheduler	Grid Engine
Scheduler	High-Performance Schedulers
Scheduler	Job Scheduling
Scheduler	Load Balancing
Scheduler	LSF
Scheduler	Machine Scheduler
Scheduler	Mapping
Scheduler	Meta-Scheduler
Scheduler	NQS
Scheduler	PBS
Scheduler	Scheduling
Scheduler	Scheduling Model
Scheduler	Scheduling Policy
Scheduler	Staging
Scheduler	Submit Jobs
Scheduler	Super Scheduler