

Grid Education and Training Working Group (ET-WG)

Minutes of the first meeting

Wed September 13th 2007 GGF18 Washington D.C

Chaired by Malcolm Atkinson and David Fergusson.

Attendees

Malcolm Atkinson - NeSC
Puri Bangalore - University of Alabama
Borja Sotomayor - University of Chicago
Torsten Antoni - Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe Germany
Kilian Schwarz – GSI
Kihwan Kim - ?
Weilong Ueng – Academia Sinica
Huimin Lin – Academia Sinica
Stephanie McLean - University of North Carolina
Amy Krause - University of Edinburgh
Gillian Law - University of Edinburgh
Kathryn Cassidy – Trinity College Dublin
Peter Brezany – University of Vienna
David Fergusson - NeSC
Erwin Laure - CERN
Junseok Hwang – Seoul National University
Anurag Shankar – Indiana University

Agenda

The following agenda was proposed, but it was not expected that all of these items would be covered, rather that progress would be made on some items while others would be revisited at a later date.

1. Welcome.
2. Introduction
 - a. Charter progress
 - b. Report of activities since GGF 17
3. Characteristics of Courses.
 - a. Framework for terms describing courses
 - b. Commitment to develop terms
4. Collation of Courses.
 - a. Work in progress
 - b. sources and sharing
 - c. plan for creating and maintaining a web-based tabulation
5. Mechanisms for Agreeing on Curricula and Standards.
 - a. What is a standard grid curriculum?
 - b. E&T attainment targets
6. Mechanisms for Developing and Sharing Best Practice.
 - a. Accrediting trainers

- b. Standard qualifications
- 7. Policy for Providing t-Infrastructure.
 - a. Booking policies
 - b. Access policies
 - c. Provision policies
- 8. Policy for Supporting Self-paced Learners.
 - a. Requirements
 - b. Arrangements to interwork between resources including existing standards.
 - c. Policy for access

Status

The status of the work group was summarised as follows:

- There have been two BOF sessions at GGF16 and GGF17.
- The group's charter was completed and accepted
- The group's formal identity has been agreed as a working group (it was originally thought that it would be a community group)
- The group is called the Education and Training Working Group or ET-WG. TOE and E&T were previously proposed, but for various reasons rejected.
- The group is part of the OGF eScience area

Group Leaders

The co-chairs were listed, this is acknowledged to be a large number, but the scope of the group is wide and it was deemed necessary to involve a large number of people.

Group Areas

The three areas of the Group's work were introduced

- ET Frameworks – Common policies, standards and terminology.
- ET Synergy – sharing information, facilities, services and materials.
- ET Content – curricula, teaching material and presentation methods.

Group Focus

It was explained that the group would focus on the following target communities

- Training required & provided by grid projects
- Education provided in University, colleges and similar tertiary educational institutes

For the time being other communities such as Secondary level education are not considered in-scope for the group, but this could change in future.

Alliances

Alliances exist or will be pursued with the following projects in order to avoid overlap or incompatibilities and also to leverage synergies between projects

- ICEAGE
- EGEE-II
- OMII-Europe
- NextGrid
- CoreGRID

- e-IRG
- EPIC
- Commercial training bodies

There is also a European group in Amsterdam writing a Grid book and it was suggested that we should try to get them involved in what we're doing.

Group Milestones

A number of milestones have been defined on a per-theme basis. These were described and generally reaffirmed by the participants. These milestones will be put into the GridForge project (in the calendar and tasks areas) as soon as possible, for now they are listed below:

- '05 Initial meetings and charter development
- Q2 '06 Adoption as WG
- Q4 '06 Definitions document draft (Theme1)
- Q1 '07 Reference materials information document & framework (Theme1)
- Q1 '07 Outreach to commercial groups (Theme 1)
- Q3 '07 Course and resource information (Theme 2)
- Q3 '07 Definitions document (Theme 1)
- Q4 '07 Experiences of using materials framework (Theme 1)
- Q4 '07 Certification framework (Theme 1)
- Q4 '07 ET material (Theme 3)
- Q1 '08 t-Infrastructure experiences (Theme 2)
- Q2 '08 Investment and uptake (Theme 2)

Method of Work

We discussed the methods which we will use to get work done and the following were suggested

- Wiki
- Mailing list
- Scheduled conf calls
- F2f meetings at conferences
- AccessGrid or VRVS video conferences

The new version of GridForge has mailing lists and wikis so these should be set up soon. Work in progress docs can be stored in wiki where they can be developed collaboratively. The group's GridForge project is now available at <https://forge.gridforum.org/sf/projects/et-cg>

We agreed to have a monthly conference calls and occasional face to face and video conference meetings.

VRVS video conferencing tool was suggested as an alternative to AccessGrid as not everyone uses AccessGrid. These meetings could use mixed technology with some people connecting in via phone in order to avoid excluding anyone because of the technology used.

Existing Courses

The participants each described courses currently being run by them or their institutes or organisations. The details of these are now available in the wiki (<https://forge.gridforum.org/sf/wiki/do/viewPage/projects.et->

cg/wiki/ExistingCourses), but it would be helpful if those involved could review the details and correct any mistakes or omissions.

Malcolm requested a North American and Asian partner to work on maintaining web-based tabulation of courses. Puri Bangalore offered to be involved in this activity.

Glossary of Education and Training Terms

We went on to work on defining terms. This will allow consistent language in any documents which the working group produces and will also allow us to develop a standard vocabulary for describing courses in order to facilitate materials sharing, cross-certification of courses, etc.

The terms so far defined are now in the wiki (<https://forge.gridforum.org/sf/wiki/do/viewPage/projects.et-cg/wiki/Definitions>) so that they can be further refined collaboratively. Additional terms should be culled from the documents circulated so far (minutes and charter) and then added on an ongoing basis as new terms in need of definition are identified.

Each term can have associated parameters which further define types of instances of these terms, e.g. length of course, whether it leads to a qualification, prerequisites, whether it's part of a curriculum, etc.

For other grid definitions Malcolm suggested that we would use the OGSA thesaurus (<http://www.ggf.org/documents/GFD.81.pdf>) as our source unless we have a particular requirement for a customised term. It was pointed out that while writing the documents which will be the outputs of the working group we would identify other terms which needed defining.

Puri Bangalore and Borja Sotomayor volunteered to be involved in the ongoing work to develop terms on the wiki. Other people will obviously need to input too.

Curricula

We reviewed a proposed curriculum developed by the ICEAGE Forum. Some general comments were collected on this. A few people pointed out things which were missing, etc. This was further discussed in the next session of the ET-WG on Thursday (see the minutes of that session or the wiki for more information).

Future Plans

It was agreed that we would meet again at OGF19. There should be three sessions on the following topics

- Curricula
- Policy for sharing
- T-Infrastructure

These would be followed by a wrapup and planning session.