The Globus Toolkit® Contribution Review Process

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Step 1, Architecture

The contribution process is initiated when the potential contributor submits a conceptual description of the contribution to The Globus Alliance Board. The description includes high-level architectural information along the following lines:
1. A statement of the problem addressed by the contribution
2. A survey of the current solutions in the problem space
3. A description of the contributor's approach to the problem
4. A statement on the relevancy to OGSA, GT, community standards, etc.

In addition, other terms related to the contribution might be specified up-front:
1. A statement on the contributor's maintenance commitment to the contribution
2. A statement on legal issues/concerns related to the contribution
3. A statement of time-related dependencies wrt the contribution

If the Globus Alliance Board finds merit in the concept, the submission moves forward to the next step in the process. The Board may reject the contribution or return the contribution description with a request for refinement.

Step 2, Design

A Globus Technology Coordinator is then assigned to aid in the evaluation (and potentially the development) of the contribution's design. Campaign(s) would be written if the design process requires the time of a Globus developer. This step culminates in a high-level design review, which is conducted using documents developed by the contributor (perhaps in collaboration with Globus staff.) Documentation can include:
1. A description of the contribution's external interfaces
2. Miscellaneous collateral documents to facilitate design-related discussions (UML diagrams, usage scenarios, etc.)
3. Articulation of a testing plan for the components
4. Special considerations with respect to testing, Native Language Support enablement, performance, etc.

The Globus Tech Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that all the dependencies/interactions with other components (security, DAI, etc.) are taken into consideration in the design. The impact of the contribution on the toolkit should be explicitly documented.

Working with the Board, the Tech Coordinator has the power to decide whether or not the submission moves forward. The tech coordinator keeps the contributor informed about the status of the contribution in the approval process.

Step 3, Implementation

This last step culminates in an implementation review. A lightweight implementation plan might be sketched out that specifies

1. The Globus staff member who is ultimately responsible for managing the implementation process
2. The way in which the implementation responsibilities are divided between Globus and the contributor
3. A schedule that specifies when the contribution will be ready for feature freeze and release

An implementation plan may result in one or more campaigns.

Once the implementation is at the appropriate stage, it is checked for adherence to best practices (coding guidelines, Native Language Support Enablement, error handling, the inclusion of automatic tests, documentation, etc.) If all implementation issues are resolved, the contribution is accepted in the toolkit.