28 April 2004
The Globus Alliance

Call for Community Testing: GridFTP in GT 3.3.0

What is a "Call for Community Testing"?

A Call for Community Testing is a mechanism to notify our users that new Globus code is available for testing in the field. Through these calls, the Globus Alliance hopes to expose its code to a wide variety of usage scenarios early in its development process. The ultimate goals are to catch bugs that have historically been found only after final releases, and to elicit feedback from the community on ways our software can be improved.

Participating in the GridFTP Testing Call is Easy!

1. *Optional:* Consider sending mail to testing@globus.org to let us know that you're helping out and describing what you intend to test
2. Install the software in a non-production environment: Use the 3.3.0 distribution from http://www-unix.globus.org/toolkit/downloads/development/
3. Use GridFTP as you normally would, simulating production job runs, etc.
4. Log your experiences in http://bugzilla.globus.org/globus/ under GridFTP, version "development". Please mention 3.3.0 explicitly in the body of the report.
5. *Optional:* Consider sending descriptions of your tests to testing@globus.org so that we might use them to build standard tests in the future

If you have any questions or comments about the process, feel free to contact Bob Gaffaney at gaffaney@mcs.anl.gov.

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About GridFTP

GridFTP is a data transport protocol, standardized in the GGF, for the high-performance, secure, reliable transfer of data (particularly bulk data) over wide-area networks. The Globus toolkit provides a reference implementation of this protocol. Previous versions of our server were built on the Washington University FTP daemon. In this development release we have a completely re-written server that is 100% Globus code. There are three primary pieces that will be of interest. First is the server (Server bundle). It is normally installed by root, but can run completely in user space if desired. Second is the client (client bundle). We provide a scriptable command line client called globus-url-copy that has greatly expanded functionality as of GT3.2 and in this release. We do not provide an interactive client, but NCSA, as part of the TeraGrid project, has produced a nice interactive client that you can try called uberftp. Finally, for those wishing to develop custom applications we provide C and Java client libraries (SDK bundle).

Reasons for testing GridFTP

GridFTP is the de facto standard for data transport in Grid projects around the world, and is considered mission critical by many communities. Our new implementation will provide improved flexibility, stability and performance, forming the foundation of data transport for future releases of the Globus Toolkit. Participating in this testing call will allow problems of relevance to your application to be identified and fixed prior to the first official release.

Components affected by GridFTP

1. RFT (used the client library to mediate 3rd party file transfers
2. GRAM (via its use of globus-url-copy for staging.

Environment/build parameters and other special conditions to test

1. MOST IMPORTANT: Do existing clients/jobs work with the new server as well as existing servers.
2. Root Installation
3. User space installation
4. TCP_PORT_RANGE environment variables
5. Environment variables affecting security
6. Performance and Scalability.

Release Notes

Release Notes for GridFTP can be found in the distribution at $GLOBUS_LOCATION/gridftp/server/src/README or in CVS at <cvs root>/gridftp/server/src/README.

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