Grid Operations at the Holland Computing Center Derek Weitzel & Brian Bockelman







Introduction – HCC

University of Nebraska
Holland Computing Center – 2009

- 162 Research groups
 - Not all are active every day or able to use the grid, but grid provides benefit to a sizeable group.



Introduction – HCC Clusters

- Firefly
 - 5500 cores
 - Infiniband interconnect
- Prairiefire
 - 500 Cores
 - Infiniband interconnect
- CMS T2 Red
 - 2100 Cores



Introduction – HCC Grid

8,100 Cores, all opportunistic for grid

- HCC's Use of the Open Science Grid
 - 13.1 Million hours in 2010

 HTC jobs are based on Condor, and exported to OSG using GlideinWMS



HCC Engagement

- Having cores isn't enough having users is more important!
- 2 Fulltime Application specialists + 1 graduate student (ME).
- Actively seek out on-campus researchers
- Goal: Enable Nebraska researchers to run computational science.
 - Only one aspect is enabling grid usage.



HCC Engagement

- Engagement starts by categorizing users local or grid?
 - MPI or very large data (O(10GB)+) to local machines.
 - Single core to Condor and eventually the OSG.
- OSG acts as another, sometimes large, cluster in our arsenal.



HCC Engagement - Jobs

- GlideinWMS has been key
 - Allows for smooth transition from local resources to OSG.
 - Grid problems are handled by OSG factory support.
 - Simple debugging for us.



HCC Engagement - Data

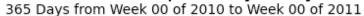
Data movement is kept simple, 2 options:

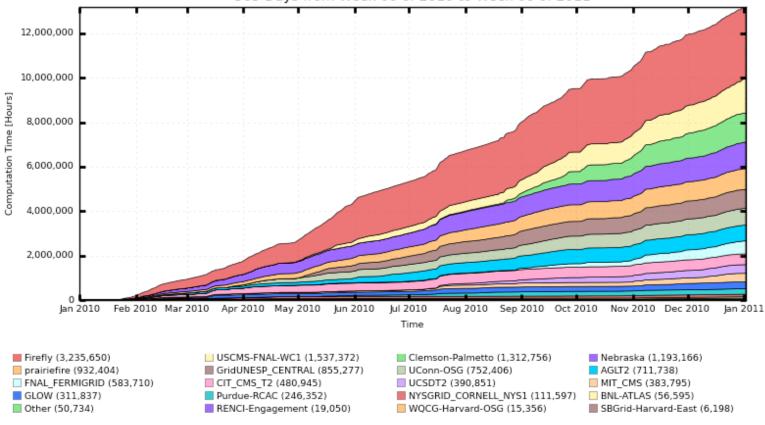
- 1. Condor file transfer
 - If input or output is less than 10MB, transfer files with the job.
- 2. Large files (10MB 1GB)
 - Stage files to Nebraska T2. Each job will pull/push the files using SRM.

If neither work, the jobs probably should stay on campus.

HCC Usage by Site

Cumulative Hours Spent on Jobs By Facility





Total: 13,187,800 Hours, Average Rate: 0.42 Hours/s



Building Relationships with Sites

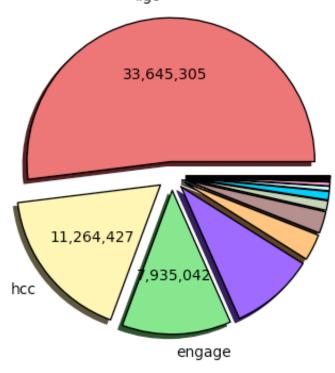
- Notice we run on many sites outside our own.
- Built partnerships with sites such as MWT2, NERSC, Oklahoma.
 - Goal was to enable opportunistic usage of the site.
 - We're the guinea pigs, but get cycles in return.



Open Science Non-HEP Grid Usage

Wall Hours by non-HEP VOs (Sum: 64,741,636 Hours)

52 Weeks from Week 00 of 2010 to Week 00 of 2011















Take-Home Messages

- The grid is a great tool, but know when to not use it.
- Local Engagement.
- GlideinWMS.
- Build relationships with sites.

