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A Pattern-based Continuous Integration Framework for Distributed EGEE Grid Middleware Development

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Software Configuration Management (SCM) Patterns and the Continuous Integration method are recent and powerful techniques to enforce a common software engineering process across large, heterogeneous, rapidly changing development projects where a rapid release lifecycle is required. In particular the Continuous Integration method allows tracking and addressing problems in the software components integration as early as possible in the release cycle. Since new incremental code builds are done several times per day, only small amounts of new code is built and integrated at relatively short intervals. Developers are immediately
notified of arising problems and integrators can pinpoint configuration and build problems to the level of single files within any given software component. This paper
presents the implementation and the initial results of the application of such techniques in the SCM and Integration of the EGEE Grid Middleware software. The software is based on a Service Oriented Architecture model where services are developed in different programming languages by development groups in several European locations under stringent quality requirements. A number of basic SCM patterns, such as the Workspace, the Active Line, the Repository, are introduced and the Continuous Integration tools used in the project are presented with a discussion of
the advantages and disadvantages of using the method.

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