GridPP
UK Computing for Particle Physics

Nagios/RT notes

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Nagios + RT

- Use Nagios for monitoring nodes and services
  - Both external tests (eg ssh to port)
  - And internal tests (via node's nrpe daemon)
- Use RT (“Request Tracker”) for tickets
  - Includes Asset Tracker, used to list all the original Dell nodes
  - Not used AT that much, but powerful as has a web interface and links to tickets
  - Transitioning for a long period of static configuration to something dynamic

Populating AT

- Added new Viglen nodes to AT
- Updates of node-switch-rack links
  - Aim to represent the physical and network topology in AT itself
  - Duplicated cfengine node groups via custom fields in AT (dell_nodes, dpm_viglen, ...)
  - IP and MAC of each node
- A lot of this involved writing one-off scripts to automate repetitive tasks
  - Done via MySQL queries
  - RT/AT has a Perl API too

Making Nagios config

- Previously maintained lists of hosts and group membership in Nagios cfg files
- Now make these from the AT MySQL DB
- Nagios hostgroups correspond to cfengine groups used for configuration
  - Can be built up in the same way:
    bohr_nodes = dell_nodes + viglen_nodes
- Obvious advantages in montoring services only where cfengine has installed them

Web crosslinks

- AT allows you to add web links to an asset's details
  - Automatically link to the Nagios page for each node
- Nagios allows you to add a link to notes about a host/service
  - Automatically link to the AT page for each host
- Useful when drilling down from “critical alarm in this group”, to that host, then across to the Asset's details, then to its existing tickets

Going beyond Nagios

- Since have MAC/IP, can build DNS and dhcpd configuration from AT too
- Can derive cfengine lists of machines from AT, so everything in one place
- Want to be able to deal with racks that aren't fully live as older machines fail
  - Need to keep track of what is online and should be updated and monitored
- Deriving it all from AT accommodates this