Next Steps: becoming users of the NGS

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Policy for re-use

- This presentation can be re-used for academic purposes.

- However if you do so then please let training-support@nesc.ac.uk know. We need to gather statistics of re-use: no. of events, number of people trained. Thank you!!

Goal of talk

- Thus far the emphasis has been on what the NGS is, and how to use its core services.

- The goal of this talk is to ensure that intending users of the NGS know
  - Relevant support services and procedures
  - The steps to be taken to join the NGS

NGS Becoming an NGS user

National Grid Service

- Most NGS users join as individuals

- Free to members of UK academic institutions

- What you can do next:

  1. Obtain a UK e-Science Certificate
     THEN

  2. Apply for access to the NGS

     - You join personally – not as a project

How Do I Get A Certificate?

- You need a valid UK certificate before applying for an NGS account:
  - https://ca.grid-support.ac.uk, the UK Certificate Authority.
  - You will probably need to provide non-electronic proof of identity to your local representative of the CA.
    - For example: a photocopy of your passport.
    - See http://www.grid-support.ac.uk/archive/ca/ralist.htm
  - Ensure that you use the same browser (on the same computer) that you sent the request from to download your certificate.
  - Always keep this certificate secure.
- Follow instructions on UK CA pages
  - and also refer to yesterday's security talk and 1st practical.

Apply for access to the NGS

- Via www.ngs.ac.uk/access

- You need a UK e-science certificate before you apply

- Simple web form
  - Specify cpu time, storage you want
  - Make best guesses!
  - You can apply for extra quota later on
  - Be aware that:
    - your university is invited to contribute resources so that the NGS can scale and support you and your colleagues as users

User Registration
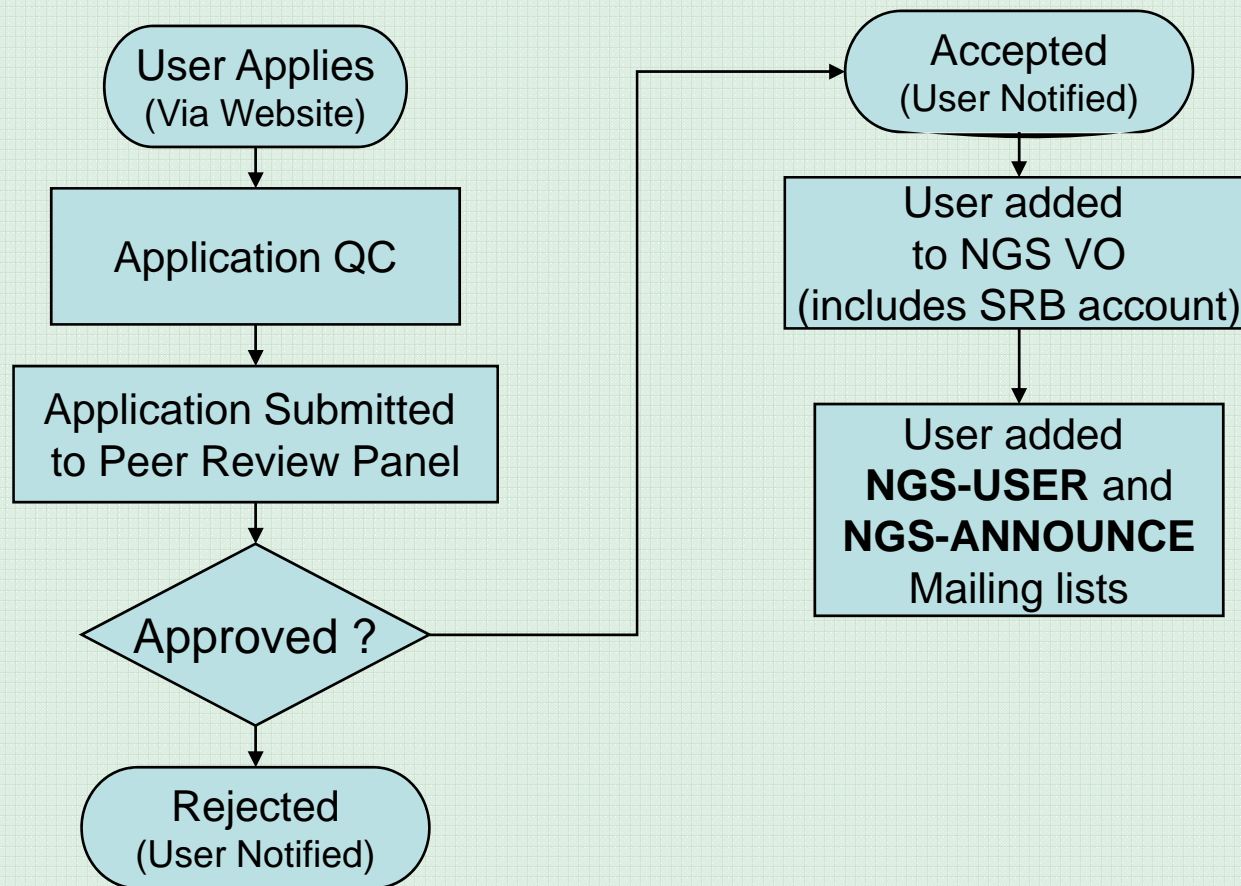
Access to data services

National Grid Service

- With your NGS account, you get
  - SRB account

- Can apply for an Oracle account

Joining NGS as a VO

- Currently most NGS users join as individuals
- VO support is being developed
- VOMS is now deployed
  - Credentials of VO membership are held as extensions in your proxy certificate
  - Resources will be able to allow/deny access based on these credentials
- Talk to NGS
- Currently, VOs supported on case-by-case
  - Procedures are being established

Accessing the NGS

- Determine your options for running grid commands

- Use GISSSH

- Ideally:
  - Set up equivalent of training-ui.nesc.ac.uk

- Or use RB's User Interface

- If you can do nothing else:
  - Use connect to NGS core nodes
  - Not elegant!! Compute nodes should not be user interfaces

Resource providers

Resource providers join the NGS by

- Defining level of service commitments

- Adopting NGS acceptable use and security policies

- Run compatible middleware

  – as defined by NGS Minimum Software Stack

  – and verified by compliance test suite

- Support monitoring and accounting

Two levels of membership

1. Affiliates run compatible stack, integrated support
2. Partners also contribute "significant resources"

How to get help

- NGS web site: http://www.ngs.ac.uk

- Helpdesk: follow "help" links

- Wiki: http://wiki.ngs.ac.uk/

- From the community of NGS users

  – Email NGS users list

More training?

- Watch http://www.nesc.ac.uk/training/events
- Also http://www.nesc.ac.uk/esi/esi.html

- Digital Library: http://egee.lib.ed.ac.uk/

- Come back tomorrow!

TELL US WHAT YOU WANT !!!!
- In future versions of this course
- In application developer courses
- …..
- Email: training-support@nesc.ac.uk