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Grid Information Systems Revisited

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The primary goal of a Grid information system is to display the current composition and state of a Grid infrastructure. It's purpose is to provide the information required for workload and data management. As these models evolve, the information system requirements need to be revisited and revised. This paper first documents the results from a recent survey of LHC VOs on the information system requirements. An evaluation of how well these requirements are met by the current system is conducted and directions for future improvements are suggested. It is shown that due to the changing computing models, predominately the adoption of the pilot job paradigm, the main focus for the information system has shifted from scheduling towards service discovery and service monitoring. Six use cases are identified and directions for improved support for these are presented. The paper concludes by suggesting changes to existing system that will provide improved support while maintaining continuity of the service.

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