Greedy Pool @ EPFL Desktop Grid using Condor



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Talk overview

- Project aim
- Characteristics needed for the grid software
- Grid software that has been considered
- Why Condor?
- Our Condor pool: Greedy



EPFL computing equipment

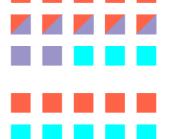
Dedicated HPC machines

about fifteen clusters of different types

"Simple" machines

> classrooms

	Win	Win/Linux	Linux	Mac
CPU qty	626	317	30	32





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⇒ a lot of CPU power to harvest



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more than 3000 employee computers



Desktop Grid



Various needed characteristics

▶ Light and simple to install on grid nodes



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- Easy entry and exit from the desktop grid pool, such as:

 - activity detection on a grid node to avoid bothering its owner



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- Multi-platform



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 - activity detection on a grid node to avoid bothering its owner
- Security of data on the grid nodes
- Multi-platform
- Compatible with standards middlewares,
 such as Globus and Unicore (Swiss Grid Initiative)



Grid software considered

Several software considered and/or tested

- > Bottom needs adaptation of the application
- Grid MP: commercial solution
- PBS Professional: commercial solution, known at EPFL, used for clusters management
- > Condormal : free solution, already used (in small scale) at Lausanne University and at EPFL





Minimal intrusion on the grid nodes



Time slot definition & activity detection





Minimal intrusion on the grid nodes



Time slot definition & activity detection



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Time slot definition & activity detection



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Jobs run under a standard user whose account is locked

grid nodes becomes multi-user machines!





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Grid nodes are authenticated via SSL certificates



Data integrity and encryption performed via SSL





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Able to run script jobs: Matlab, Maple, Octave, R, Mathematica....





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- Quite robust in case of server crash
- Compatible with Globus & Unicore



Condor history

- Developed at University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-Madison)
- First implementation in 1986
- The «Condor Project» started in 1988, directed by Prof. Miron Livny
- Known pools worldwide: 1559, corresponding to 100418 hosts!
- Latest stable version: 6.8.1 (19.09.2006)
- http://www.condorproject.org



Compatibility tests

- Various combinations of architectures/Linux distributions/Windows versions are supported.
- Confirmed on following EPFL platforms:
 - ⊳⊳ Intel architecture (x86)
 - ⋈ Fedora Core 3
 - □ Debian Linux 3.0 (Sarge)
 - ⋈ Ubuntu 6.06
 - ⋈ SuSE Linux 9
 - ⋈ Windows XP Pro
 - >> PowerPC architecture
 - ⋈ MacOS X
 - ⋈ SuSE Linux 9 (PPC64)



Our pool: Greedy

Current pool

Active during nights and week-ends, formed by:

- ▶ 160 Linux/Windows machines, and

Ideal jobs

- Monoprocessor jobs
- Duration: max 3-4 hours
- Reserved for production, no debugging



Our goal

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Integrate as many machines as possible in the Greedy pool

How to reach this goal?

Make the access of machines to the pool painless:

- Custom-made packages and installers (almost no human-intervention needed)
- Support large variety of platforms
- Make this grid effort known to the EPFL population



More informations

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