Introduction to the User Information Group (UIG)

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Information Society

Programme for session

• Introduction	Brendan Hamill
• Progress so far	Stephen Burke
• UIG and Training	Mike Mineter
• Plans for the future	Cal Loomis
• Dissemination from NA3/4	Hannelore Hammerle
• EGEE User relationships	Claus Jacobs

History of the UIG

- User Information Group was set up in phase one of EGEE, to address a perceived lack of easily accessible user-friendly documentation
- However, little was actually achieved before the end of phase one
- In EGEE-II, the group has been reconstituted, with members from NA1, NA2, NA3, NA4, SA1, JRA2 and a mandate has been approved by the PEB (*https://edms.cern.ch/file/753620/1/UIG-mandate.doc*)
- Five teleconferences have been held to date, and a programme of work is in progress

Purpose of the UIG

- To oversee the provision of a service for users, giving simple access to information including documentation, contacts, links to sites, access to user support, training, workshops, etc.
- To ensure that documentation and information related to activities is accessible in a coordinated way

What UIG does NOT do:

The UIG does NOT provide information for:

- **operation or installation of the EGEE infrastructure**
- **general user-support issues**
- **education planning**

The UIG does NOT:

- **critique operations, middleware and documentation, *(other than to flag up inconsistencies or shortcomings)***
- **try to act as an intermediary between activities *(except in matters affecting the aims of the UIG)***

What the UIG will do:

- perform an editorial role by means of a systematic, continual review of the existing information to ensure that it meets the needs of the user community
- identify missing documentation/information
- prioritize needed items
- suggest the activities/people who could provide them.

More general activities:

- produce and maintain an overview document describing the basic grid capabilities and strategies and EGEE middleware and infrastructure
- Identify appropriate people to produce and update use cases
- consult the QAG on matters such as quality control and tools for web-sites

UIG – Wish List

- ***Per-discipline web pages:***

  A web page for the manager of each scientific discipline to provide information on existing grid applications in that discipline.

- ***External services:***

  A section which describes application-level services which have been used in conjunction with the gLite middleware.

- ***Search facilities:***

  A centralized, coordinated search facility for all of the EGEE information. Should include GGUS, presentations, meeting agendas, meeting minutes, portal news, use case descriptions.

- ***Forum:***

  Open forum for users and groups to exchange information. Possible technologies would be a mailing list, chat, or wiki.

Introduction to grid concepts

- overview
- Virtual Organizations (VOs)
- WORM data model
- inside/outside grid
- technicalities
- references

Starting point – User Scenarios

- **Provision of user scenarios is the best mechanism to have a modular, flexible, easily-maintained user guide.**

- **Being small, a large number of different people can contribute to these and they can be arranged in increasing complexity to address the needs of users with different levels of expertise.**

Beginning Users

- get certificate (detailed by country/CA;
  - maybe part of Quick Start Guide)
- run a job (hello world)
  + series of increasingly complex cases
- copy/register/access files on the grid
- recovering results (and viewing results)
- monitoring job status
- preparing a job

Intermediate Users

- resource/service discovery
- linking jobs/data - jobs with data requirements
- environment setup (staging)
- monitoring status
- software installation (with a job, via SE)
- short-deadline job submission

Skilled Users

- software installation (installing software on site)
- large-scale data transfer
- monitoring status (e.g. via R-GMA)
- data encryption
- AMGA metadata
- MPI
- workflow examples
- VO deployed services
- Biomed app kernel
- Geo app kernel

UIG Branding

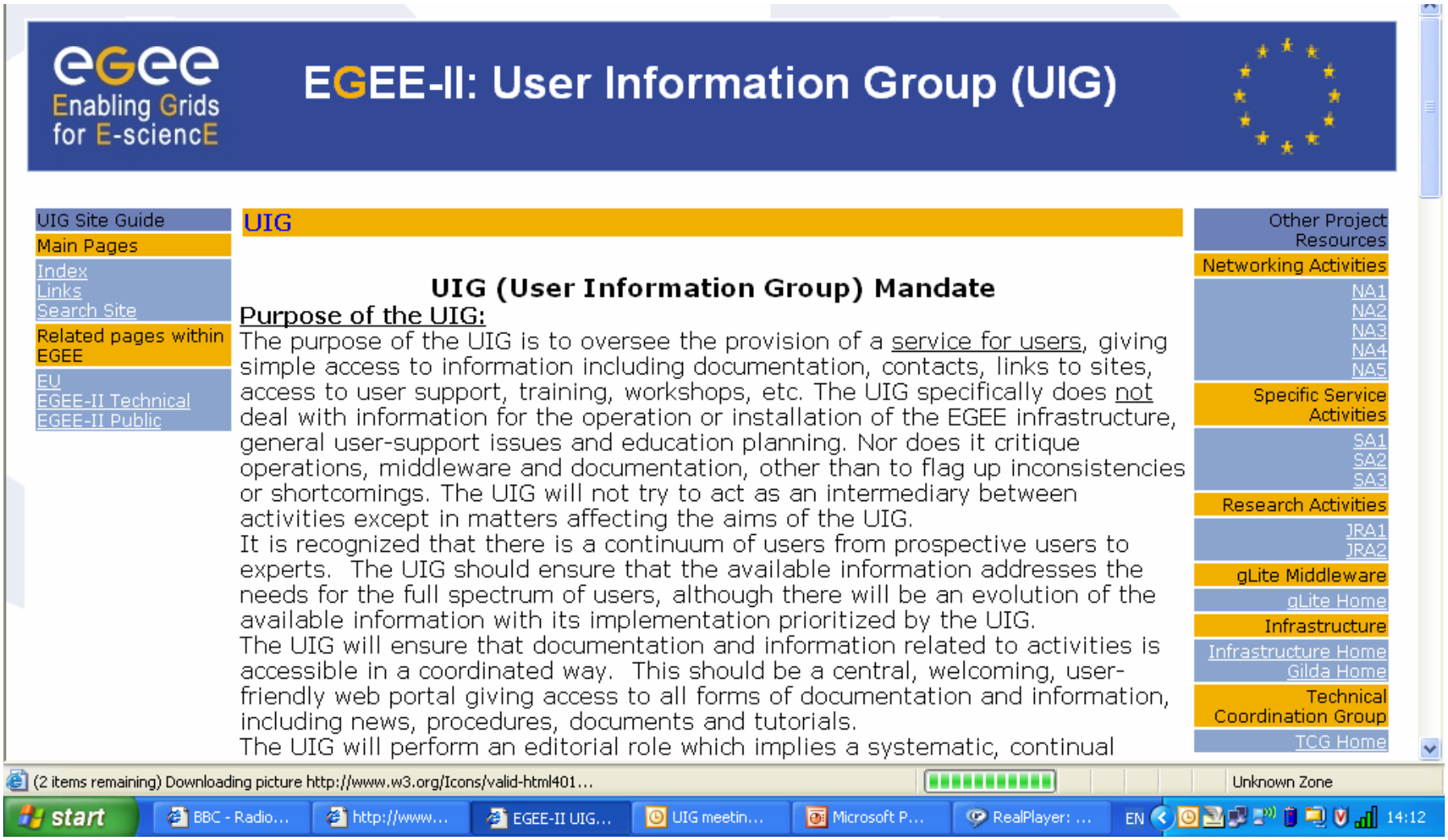
USER INFORMATION GROUP

Enabling Grids for E-sciencE

Every page should display prominently:

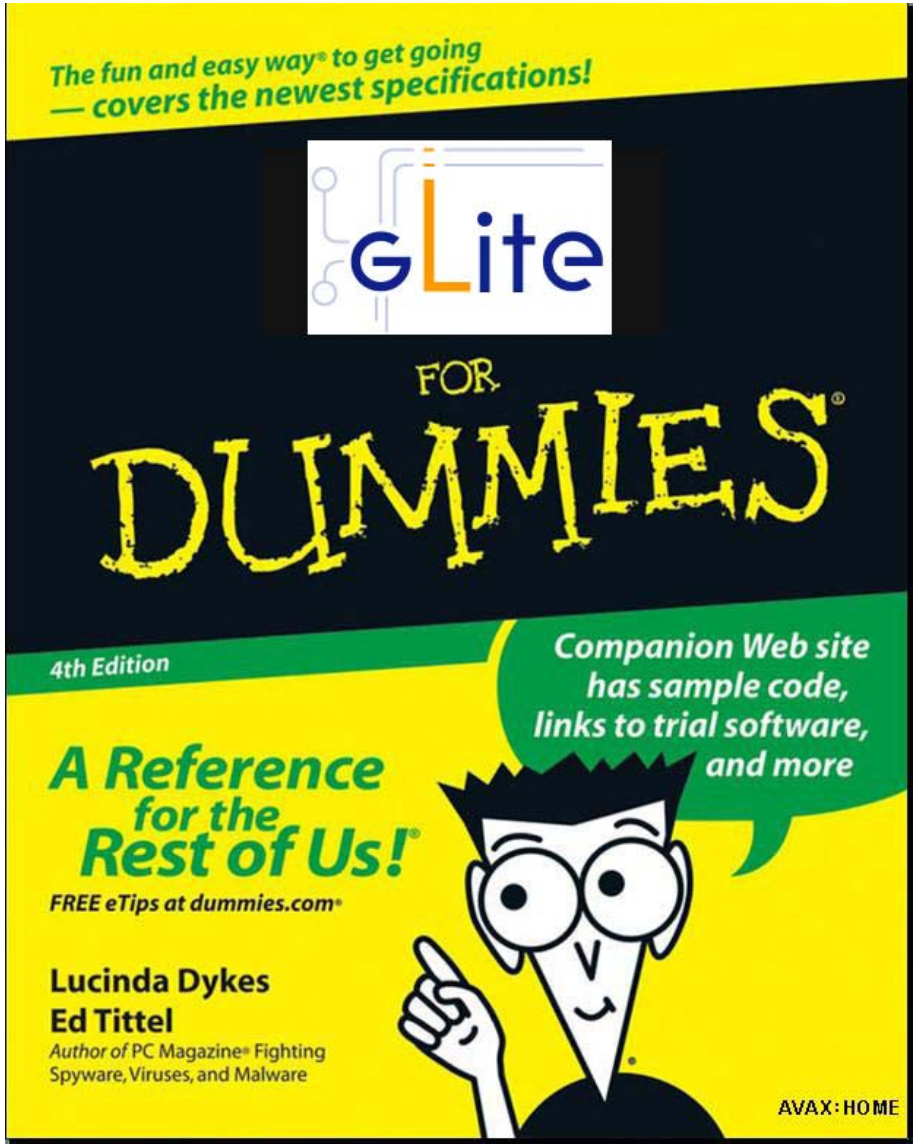
- Version number of page
- Date of last review
- Date next review due
- Contact e-mail address for problem notification

Home page (under construction)



- **Will link to existing documents (e.g. User Guide)**

Alternative branding??



UIG members

Frank Harris
Cal Loomis
John White
Stephen Burke
Andrea Sciaba
Flavia Donno

Alistair Mills
Owen Appleton
Gabriel Zaquine
Torsten Antoni
Stephen Benians
Brendan Hamill

NeSC:
John Scotland
Lilly Hunter