



Making GATE more user-friendly



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Problems

- high barrier to entry
 - many variables to set
 - many dependencies
 - desktop integration problems
- time investment barrier
- frustrating install sessions by users don't help

Recommendations

- taking steps to make GATE more user-friendly and easier to try out
- removing unnecessary barriers to access
- providing ways to engage more people in our community by showing them the potential of GATE

Target audience?

- not for the general public
- students and researchers trying out the software for the first time
- still a highly specialized software for experienced scientists in a particular field but it's a good investment to make it more accessible

Steps

- precompiled binaries and ready to go environment on liveCDs/virtual images
- demo and testing - not intended for production use
- handing out Cds by GATE community members
- different package/environment for the Grid and clusters

GATE liveCD content

- what content?
 - exercices
 - benchmarks
- what settings?
- output formats?
- gui tool?
- including other visualisations tools: imagej?
- links to useful GATE online resources directly in the browser

Installation procedure

- The installation methodology needs to be validated and agreed upon
 - `env_gate.(sh|csh)`
 - `env.(sh|csh)`
- mindmap of packaging status
- recommendations for the development team

Prototype

- some more polishing to do (chroot working)
- uploaded on the GATE website soon
- roadmap for testing and feedback
- future iterations for refinements

More user-friendly-ness

- documentation per target system easier to maintain
- a manpage
- a better website with integrated accounts
- mailing-list search and FAQ
- wiki to permit comments on the official documentation
- overview documentation
- paid-for printed documentation

Training strategy

- introductory sessions to get familiar with the environment (OS, shell, X server, etc)
- installation sessions
- usage sessions per target
- advanced sessions
- contributor sessions

Clusters and the Grid

- help to run GATE jobs on the Grid and/or on your local cluster
- collaboration on the LifeGrid portal
(PCSV – LPC & HealthGrid)
- a Grid UI and environment dedicated to the GATE community members to launch their simulations on the Grid

Future steps

- setting up the repositories
- proper Debian/Ubuntu packaging (involvement in Debian-med and Debian-Science teams)
- input with Scientific Linux community for the Grid
- testing
- implement some developer recommendations

Community analysis

- more study of the GATE community dynamics and user profiles and interests to provides services which are closer to the user' s needs
- figures and analysis underway based on mailing-list and website trends
- adjustments of community services accordingly

Thanks

- that 's all folks
- thanks for your attention

Check out the HealthGrid portal and Knowledge Base:

www.healthgrid.org