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WLCG Input to MEDIA discussion

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Background

- WLCG recognises the significant effort of EMI to put most of the middleware components into EPEL and to disentangle the dependencies

- For the future we endorse the vision of mostly independent middleware services and tools being open source and available to whichever communities need them
  - Clearly: priorities for support & development will be driven by the main stakeholders/funding sources

- We anticipate that scientific communities will engage directly with the product teams to discuss requirements and roadmaps

- Each product should, as far as possible, have its own roadmap and release schedule independently of the others
  - Recognise that there may be some exceptions
  - But only loose coupling between components is highly desirable to maintain

- We also recognise that there is a need for some coordination activity, *but this should **not** drive development roadmaps from the top down*

What WLCG would like MEDIA to be:

- A collaboration (alliance) that provides a framework for:

  - A Forum to discuss long term roadmaps, shared future vision, selection of standards;

  - Coordination of common technical advances (e.g. IPV6, change of underlying technologies, etc);

  - A framework within which credit and recognition for contributions to products can be made, and hopefully within which new effort can be brought;

  - A communication hub for communities and product teams:

    - Through workshops, conferences, other events;

    - A forum for discussion between product developers and their scientific stakeholders

      - But not replacing the direct interactions

    - Could be a forum to help attract new communities and advise on available tools;

    - Publication of roadmaps and dissemination of information about upcoming releases of various products

What WLCG would not like to see:

- MEDIA should not provide services

  - It can provide a forum where product teams and communities could agree to work together on projects of common interest, e.g. common testing infrastructure

- Integration and deployment testing should be the responsibility of the infrastructure using the software (e.g. EGI, WLCG, …)

  - Since releases of products should now be independent

- MEDIA, as a collaborative framework, should not prioritise the work of the development teams

  - they should be autonomous and follow the needs of their users.

Conclusion

- WLCG welcomes the initiative for a *lightweight* collaborative framework/alliance

- It is important to have such a collaboration within which contributions to middleware can be recognised and credited