On the Metrics and Schedule for CCRC'08

CCRC'08, which would preferably consist of a final 2008-scale test in February, with May as a safety net, sees the first wide-spread production use of major new or revised services – notably SRM v2.2 implementations. Associated to this are major upgrades to clients and servers, as well as experiment software. The schedule for deployment of an agreed set of clients and servers for the February run is now nail bitingly tight – we will hopefully be able to publish a recommended set during this week, with the week beginning January 28th for final pre-challenge testing and ramp-up by the experiments. Experience tells us that we are bound to find problems during February – however, the time to fix these prior to May is extremely short. If no changes to the production environment are made from April 21st – the start of the WLCG Collaboration workshop – we should agree on a target set of middle- and storage-ware no later than the April Face-to-Face meetings (April 1/2). It is clearly essential that we profit as much as possible from these two challenges, with well defined goals and mechanisms for measuring our degree of success.

For February, we have the following three sets of metrics:

1. The "scaling factors" published by the experiments for the various "functional blocks" that will be tested. These are monitored continuously by the experiments and reported on at least weekly;

2. The lists of "Critical Services", also defined by the experiments. These are complementary to the above and provide additional detail as well as service targets. It is a goal that all such services are handled in a standard fashion – i.e. as for other IT-supported services – with appropriate monitoring, procedures, alarms and so forth. Whilst there is no commitment to the problem-resolution targets – as short as 30 minutes in some cases – the follow-up on these services will be through the daily and weekly operations meetings;

3. The services that a site must offer and the corresponding availability targets based on the WLCG MoU. These will also be tracked by the operations meetings.

Whilst some services that appear either in the 2nd or 3rd categories have no explicit scaling target for February, it is nevertheless essential to measure our degree of readiness – e.g. in terms of service availability. Deferring assessment of scalability to May is clearly risky, as no further run is scheduled to check whether residual problems have been solved. This would therefore occur during data taking! (It is assumed that after May we operate in continuous data taking mode until the end of the year.)

The overall progress of the challenge based on the above three criteria will be part of a weekly report to the WLCG MB and will be used to structure the post-mortem of the run to be performed in early March.

Daily (except Monday) CCRC'08 meetings at 15:00 will continue throughout February. However, it is proposed that the weekly planning call (Mondays at 17:00) be suspended and any operations issues handled at the standard weekly operations meeting (Mondays at 16:00). Planning meetings for May will restart in March at the F2F during the pre-GDB on the 4th. (Long term planning will of course continue but does not warrant a dedicated meeting during this period of high activity.)