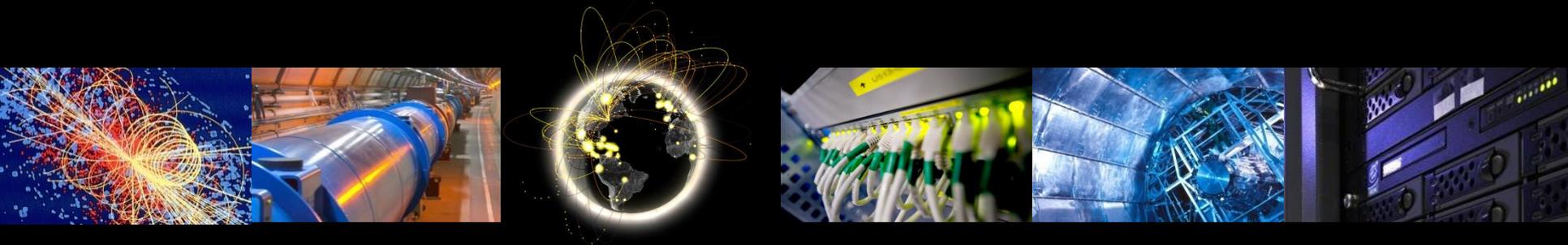


The Middleware Readiness Working Group

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2014/02/11



Who We Are

Middleware (MW) developers, Experiment VO supporters, Site managers.

Our Mandate:

*To ensure that operation won't suffer when a site is called to upgrade to version X of package Y, i.e. that versions are not only tested and certified internally by the Product Teams (PT), validated by the EGI staged rollout but also **ready to be used in operation at the sites, integrated into the experiment workflows.***

Our e-group: *wlwg-ops-coord-wg- middleware@cern.ch.*

Done so far (2 meetings): *2013/12/12 on repositories & 2014/02/06 on experiment (VOs) involvement.*

The above info & more details in our twiki ([here](#)).

Concept

- Ensure the information flow from Product Teams (PTs) to VOs and Sites.
- Use the WLCG Operations Coordination meeting section on "Baseline versions" to announce new MW versions, important for WLCG .
- Put new **client** versions, **from any repo the PTs use**, in CVMFS common area grid.cern.ch.
- The WLCG repository is available for overriding versions that showed problems & for products that cannot be hosted anywhere else.
- VOs shall pick what they need from there (LHCb model) and test in their own CVMFS area.
 - The CERN Data Management (DM) tools will continue being made available in afs in addition.
- New entries in the EPEL testing area should be automatically picked up by a new testing area within CVMFS grid.cern.ch.
- In our environment, there is no automatic passage from EPEL testing to EPEL stable, so no worries that products not verified get into production automatically.

Recommendations

- Use **HammerCloud** (HC) for all automatic testing (clients & services).
- Select a few sites friendly to the VOs, *the same as the ones PTs use for their product testing*.
- Make a, parallel to production, infrastructure available equipped with sufficient amount of space ($\geq 1\text{TB}$), where validation jobs routinely run.
- Test services and clients in a similar way.
- Publish results in a separate set of Dashboard pages.
- No OS, compiler or language bindings are part of this WG's mandate. These issues are decided by the Architects' Forum (AF). Observed discrepancies between AF-recommended versions and the ones adopted by the PTs can be brought up in the WG.

Workflow

- PT announces new version to the sites.
- WLCG Operations Coordination and the VOs keep track of new versions, particularly of clients!
- The VO framework is already available there and jobs run routinely in the parallel infrastructure.
- A (new function) WLCG MW officer checks the monitoring results before flagging a release 'green'.
- Validation may depend on efficiency issues observed (at the discretion of the MW officer).
- Each of these 'expert' testing sites, put the versions they trust in production for a week before they appear in the *extended* Baseline table. This allows us to 'verify readiness' of the version also with usage under load, before it is proposed to other sites.
- The Baseline is updated only when a new version brings a critical WLCG improvement.

We need:

- A MW officer &/or an integrator who will pick releases and include them in the right place in the common repository.
- Help the VOs to create the infrastructure necessary to adjust their framework so as to:
 - * Make flexible use of CVMFS (e.g. put new MW versions in test trees).
 - * Use HC.
- Tracking of versions deployed in WLCG. A separate, *secure* information system might be desirable for publishing detailed version information.
- E-groups' set-up or publicity of existing ones for PTs-sites' communication.
- Find a way to reward the sites for participating in the testing. Simone writing doc to be presented to the March MB.
- Discuss with the Monitoring team the presentation of those sites' validation data. The validation infrastructure should not impact the site Availability Reports.

Conclusion

- Thanks to excellent advice & work contributed by PTs, VOs & site contacts, we advance rapidly to the set-up of pragmatic and effective procedures.
- Next meeting: 2nd week of March.
- Please join e-group wlcg-ops-coord-wg-middleware@cern.ch , if interested.
- Comments/suggestions are Very Welcome.
- Thank You for your attention!