WLCG Overview Board

Activities since the last CB meeting

Full details (reports/overheads/minutes) are at:

http://indico.cern.ch/categoryDisplay.py?categId=860

Individual meetings are protected by the keyword "lcgover"

Role of the Overview Board

- Standing CB sub-committee. Membership comprises management representatives of experiments, LCG project and Tier-1's
- Consideration and decision on actions needed in the light of reported progress of LCG project and other projects/services on which it depends (*relative to milestones & experiment requirements*) – all of this with special emphasis on the Tier-0 and Tier-1 levels
- No difficulty in the last year in identifying topics that need presentation and/or discussion/resolution
- OB is influential by messages that members take away. Specific discussions/decisions marked by ◀

Meetings

- 5th 13 April 2007
- 6th 29 June 2007
- 7th 08 October 2007
- 8th 03 December 2007
- 9th 31 March 2008
- 10th *11 July 2008*
- 11th *27 October 2008*
- 12th *01 December 2008*

Overall Observations

- Progressive (not always smooth) ramp-up over last year of:
  - s/w readiness
  - compute and storage capacity
  - monitoring and accounting capabilities
  - service (human) readiness

► production operation by mid-year (in 2 months)

Events & Formal Progress

- Project Management: Phase-over in the last six months, now complete:
  - Project Leader: Les Robertson → Ian Bird
  - Resource manager: Chris Eck → Sue Foffano
- Subject to confirmation, CERN will continue to run its WLCG activity as a project at least until end-2009 ◀

- The WLCG MoU has now been signed for all Tier-1 sites and there is very good progress with signature for Tier-2 sites and Federations. Open issues concern Brazil (reluctance of the Funding Agency to sign), along with the open signature timetables of Austria and the Czech Rep. US-ALICE has submitted a request for capacity to the DOE

Grid infrastructure fallback plans

- 6 (out of 7 – NDGF absent) European Tier-1's have confirmed that they have fallback plans for the case that EGI (or other EU activity) does not provide the hoped-for Grid Infrastructure effort in 2010 and later.
- The same applies with respect to OSG for the US and Canadian Tier-1's (Taipei was absent)
- **But** a high value is attached to a *common European infrastructure* and so the pressure on the EU to provide it is maintained.

Management of storage

- There were many concerns last year about getting SRM 2.2 and CASTOR into production
  - SRM 2.2 is a mass-storage management system – a critical component underlying LHC data.
  - Must be a stable version in production for LHC start
  - SRM 2.2 needed for both dCache and CASTOR HSM's
- dCache 1.8.x & CASTOR successfully deployed with SRM 2.2 to the Tier-1's by end-2007

Capacity ramp-up

- CERN & Tier-1's OK for 2007 pledges. Should now be ramping up to 2008 pledges
- Less easy to judge the real situation at Tier-2's
- Needs to be emphasised that capacity pledges for year ***n*** must be available in ***April of year n*** at the latest (≡ start of run) ◄
- Since ≥ 1 year it has been evident that power/cooling capacity will become an issue at CERN and at the Tier-1's. Perhaps the most urgent case is CERN (*present capacity saturates at end-2009*). CERN is working on the issue with the aim of fulfilling its capacity commitments ◄

Monitoring/Accounting

- Steady expansion, automation and refinement of monitoring information available to WLCG (*more later from I. Bird*)
  - Bringing Tier-2's in since autumn 2007 (*five Federations not yet in*)
  - Further work needed on best metrics to use (*e.g. pledged vs delivered capacity*) ◄
  - Shows more work needed on reliability and in particular VO-specific reliability

Preparation for production operation

- Much effort invested in understanding the implications of continuous operation at the sites
- Working-up to 24*7 operation since last autumn (*but not all Tier-1's there yet*)
- Critical services checklist established (*aided by Critical Services workshop in December*) and available to sites
- Recognition that this aspect is also relevant to EGEE

Combined Computing Readiness Challenge (CCRC)

- Two CCRC phases –February & May 2008
- February phase looked-on as broadly successful
- *More later from J Shiers*

Reported progress not directly part of OB business

- LHC schedule receded over the year but in recent months has stabilised at mid-end June for start of commissioning with beam. (Some parts of) experiments are already data-taking with cosmics and this will generalise to full running with cosmics by the time the detectors are closed for the start of beam-commissioning => LCG service as for collisions
- The Computing Resources Scrutiny Group (C-RSG) has been set up to review (after the manner of the M&O Scrutiny Group) that the capacity needs expressed by the experiments are well-founded and not exaggerated. The Group reports to the C-RRB, thereby adding weight to the demands made on funding agencies. Jos Engelen has appointed Domenec Espriu (Spain) as Chair. First review cycle will conclude for the November C-RRB

Computing Resources Review Board (C-RRB)

(*the funding agency representatives*)

Meeting of 15 April 2008

Full details (reports/overheads/minutes) are at:

http://indico.cern.ch/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=28399

Reports

- Status of the LCG project — Ian Bird
- LHCC Deliberations — Emmanuel Tsesmelis
- Status of Common Projects Accounts — Patrick Geeraert
- Report from the C-RSG — Domenec Espriu
- Status of Resources & Financial Plan — Sue Foffano

Highlights

- CERN P+M funding
  - ~40MCHF in 2006-7, ~48MCHF in 2008
  - ~38 → ~36MCHF planned in 2009-12 (*includes an infrastructure allowance for increased power/cooling needs*)
- Insisting that Agencies meet the 2008 pledges and asking them for 2009-12 pledge values as soon as possible
- Relative to expressed needs, large (~40-50%) pledge shortfalls for ALICE in all resource categories.
- Also overall shortfalls in following years but hard to know what really means as some capacity is not exchangeable amongst experiments
- But… Tier-1 installed cpu capacity got ahead of usage since mid-2007 – a feature for the ramp-up needed to 2008 levels

Agency Reactions (personal view)

- Some agencies are confused by the requirements/pledges/installed/used relationships (e.g. much of the large 2008 shortfall for ALICE reflects requirements based on a Heavy Ion run 2008)
- Agencies are no longer content with being exhorted to honour pledges and pledge more. They are:
  - eager to see reliable, understandable accounting
  - anxious to be reassured by the C-RSG that requirements of the individual experiments are valid in time and size, and that they have taken sufficient account of efficient use of computing resources