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Releasing the HTCondor-CE into the Wild

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One of the most critical components delivered by the Open Science Grid (OSG) software team is the compute element, or the OSG-CE. At the core of the CE itself is the gatekeeper software for translating grid pilot jobs into local batch system jobs. OSG is in the process of migrating from the Globus gatekeeper to the HTCondor-CE, supported by the HTCondor team.

The HTCondor-CE provides an alternate view on how grid gatekeepers can offer provisioning services, with a model that significantly differs from other gatekeepers such as GRAM or CREAM. Further, the HTCondor-CE is not a standalone product in itself but a specialized configuration of the familiar HTCondor software. Basing the HTCondor-CE on the much larger HTCondor product will allow a rich set of new features in the future (with low development costs!).

In this presentation, I'll highlight some of the biggest technical similarities and differences between the HTCondor-CE and other gatekeepers. Further, I'll discuss some of the non-technical considerations (documentation, operations, rollout, etc) we had to take into account in managing such a large-scale software transition in the OSG Production Grid environment.

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