

GridPP operations meeting 2014 06 10

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Minutes by Ewan MacMahon

Experiments

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LHCb:

No issues to report

CMS:

Not much to report – Brunel had an interesting ticket open describing a problem with CMS xrootd monitoring not working with their DPM. Raul then reported that this had just been fixed. Details in Savannah: <https://savannah.cern.ch/support/?143490>

ATLAS:

Nothing much to report. There are three VO tickets open:

- One against Glasgow (GGUS #106011) which looks like it can probably be closed, but the shifters are just waiting for confirmation. Sam responded that while the immediate errors may have stopped, the disk server involved is quite poorly, and that there will be further follow up; there may also have been some data loss.
- Apparent storage problems at Sussex (GGUS #106060), though Matt RB reported that Sussex is all offline at the moment, and the ticket was raised (he thinks) when the GocDB downtime was accidentally allowed to expire; the site is back in downtime again.
- And another apparent storage issue at Sheffield (GGUS #106061) which is being worked on.

Other VOs

Nothing much to report (and Chris Walker is at the pre-GDB meeting). Tom Whyntie noted that there are some CERN@school ticket(s) open, and dirac things, but that these will be discussed later, in the ticket review.

Meetings and updates

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General updates

The EMI2 update deadline has now expired at the end of last month, so any remaining EMI2 services should be in downtime. Alessandra said that she was finding the APEL upgrade more complicated than expected, and queried whether it was necessary to contact the central APEL staff to co-ordinate changes. There was some discussion about the best way to contact them, David Crooks recounted Glasgow's experience and suggested that advice could be sought by email, but issues should have GGUS tickets raised.

The UK e-Science CA is now issuing SHA2 certs. Users are notified that they're getting a SHA2 cert and are asked to report any problems; we're not aware that any have been.

WLCG meeting registration is now closed, and anyone planning to go should already have filed a GridPP travel request.

There is a short GDB tomorrow, and an interesting IPv6 pre-GDB today.

Jeremy Coles noted the existence of EGI's 'e-grant' system for connecting site resources with new/minor VOs, and asked whether anyone has used it; no-one seems to have done. There will be bi-weekly broadcasts about this.

JC ran through the highlights of the recent WLCG Operations coordination meeting (list from the bulletin):
https://www.gridpp.ac.uk/w/index.php?title=Operations_Bulletin_Latest&oldid=4724

- There was a WLCG ops coordination meeting on Thursday 5th June.
- Middleware: CVMFS updated; FTS3 added; fix for DPM 1.8.8
- CERN: Grid submissions to the remaining SLC5 resources stop on the 19th of
- June. LFC decommissioning for Atlas: the daemons have been stopped, and

- the data is frozen.
- DM: Update to DPM's gridftp server released, to fix issues encountered with FTS2 transfers.
 - All sites need to upgrade their CVMFS client to version 2.1.19 by August 5th ahead of CERN repository migration to 2.1.X.
 - ALICE: KIT seeing high network load due to continued use of old ROOT versions by users
 - ATLAS: MonteCarlo production and analysis: stable load in the past week
 - CMS: will now ramp up scale of Tier-0 tests on AI and HLT clouds.
- ARGUS
- problem - affects glexec. DPM fix for FTS2 issue.
 - LHCb: CVMFS switching over to new stratum infrastructure.
 - Tracking: Next GGUS release 19th July - The automatic creation of tickets through mail will be stopped.
 - FTS3: Discussion on new feature request: multi-destination transfer with automated rerouting.
 - glexec: Down to 10 open tickets. See the tracking page.
 - Machine/job features: SGE implementation now at Imperial.
 - M/w readiness: See the task overview.
 - SHA-2: CERN VOMS - EMI fix now available. Quick check with RFC proxies failed for ATLAS.
 - Network and transfer metrics: Planning to organize a kick-off meeting in July - membership being agreed (so get involved now).

Tier 1 update

Castor and batch services are currently down for a castor nameserver upgrade.

There was a brief network outage (~5mins) this morning for a core router firmware upgrade; the T1 is not aware of its having caused any issues.

Jeremy noted the existence of an update on the Tier 1's Ceph work that was written for the PMB, but suggested that it could be usefully presented at the storage group meeting too.

Storage & Data Management

- The DPM Collaboration agreement has been updated:
<https://svnweb.cern.ch/trac/lcgdm/wiki/DPMCollaborationAgreement>

- Sam noted the considerable UK contribution to today's IPv6 pre-GDB:
<https://indico.cern.ch/event/313194/>

Accounting

JC highlighted that several sites (Brunel, Sheffield, QMUL, Durham and Sussex) are not up to date for APEL publishing. This may be planned work, but any sites surprised to find themselves in that list should probably investigate.

Documentation

Jeremy raised the issue of very old pages on the GridPP website and queried whether something could be done about that. Andrew McNab said that it was technically easy to do something, but that it was a large site, and any manual process would likely to be a major undertaking. Tom Whyntie volunteered to do it anyway, and it was agreed that Andrew would generate an HTML format list with links to all the pages, in date order.

Monitoring

David Crooks reported that there was a meeting last Friday:
<https://indico.cern.ch/event/319204/>

and pointed out two particular talks, one concerning the migration of the Nagios box:
<https://indico.cern.ch/event/321470/contribution/3/material/slides/1.pdf>
and another about ALICE's monitoring of CVMFS
<https://indico.cern.ch/event/321470/contribution/4/material/slides/1.pdf>
by installing some monitoring tools on the CVMFS infrastructure - this is an idea that they're intending to pilot, then maybe take forward to a general proposal at the WLCG workshop.

DC also announced his intention to write up his notes from the good monitoring discussions at last weeks HepSysMan, which he will then blog.

Rollout

Jeremy talked about various sites that had previously been involved in the EMI2 staged rollout work, and that there seems to be much less formal commitment to the EMI3 equivalent. He queried whether there was a tracking page, which was then found ([link](#)), though he noted that most of the updates date are from 2013. It was noted that (for example) Oxford is on the list for torque/Cream; JC requested that sites get this page up to date, then he can send it off to the EGI rollout folks.

HepSysMan/Security

Jeremy asked about responses to the security training at HepSysMan; feedback was strongly positive ('very useful', 'interesting' 'helpful').

There was a brief update on the security team; a meeting had been skipped because of HepSysMan, but the team members present had met for long enough to agree that there were no urgent issues to discuss. Ewan noted the recent OpenSSL bug announcement, and Leif Nixon's preliminary advice that it wasn't of major specific concern to us ("vulnerabilities are not critical for the EGI infrastructure; that is, no emergency patching seems to be called for with regard to EGI related systems").

Services

Jeremy asked about the upgrade plan for the GridPP VOMS service; Robert Frank reported that there was a co-ordinated plan for this, with some downtimes advertised, but no major impact expected.

Ticket Review

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The ILC ticket to the NGI (GGUS #101502) that started off being about CVMFS support is getting a bit messy, but it appears that there are issues with the VO attempting to use glite-ce-job-submit (i.e. a cream client tool) to submit to Durham, when Durham's CEs are to be all ARC.

A ticket about CMVFS support for Cern@School at Glasgow, though it was never actually assigned to the site (GGUS #105989). The original issue has been solved, but there was some discussion about the mechanics of closing the ticket itself. It was agreed that Sam would 'solve' it, which should allow TomW to 'verify' it.

There was some discussion of the three Sussex tickets (GGUS 105937, 102810, and 105618). These are mostly all bound up with the EMI3 upgrade; MattRB is making progress, support was offered, and he said that he'd send mailing lists posts as he hits specific issues.

A CERN@School ticket to Birmingham (GGUS #106020) – Tom is finding that using Ganga is allowing him to submit more jobs, but that he's then having increased failures actually getting them to run successfully at the site. MattW at BHAM is investigating, TomW offered to send further test jobs as required.

ECDF's perfSonar box died due to bad memory (GGUS #105996). The box is back up and running, but with less RAM for now, the hardware is still covered by warranty (it was noted that the central specification for these boxes called for a 5year warranty).

Lancaster were ticketed by Biomed asking for access to the gridftp server on their DPM head node (GGUS #105939). Lancaster opened it up on the advice of the storage group that it was a generally safe and inoffensive thing to do, but the VO's reasoning behind the request (that SRM limits the number of files that it will return in one namespace query) raised concerns from Sam, who noted that there's a reason that SRM has that limit, and that it's very possible to overload an SE with large metadata operations. There was then a general discussion about the oddities, historical, organisational and otherwise about biomed.

The Tier 1 have a ticket open regarding firewall requirements for a Vidyo router (GGUS #105405). Matt suggested that it may not be of much

wider
interest, but Gareth added that while the specifics may not be, it
is
potentially useful for people haveing Vidyo problems to let the Tier
1
know.

HepSysMan actions

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No single list of actions exists; there was a brief discussion
centred
around the meeting's agenda items to try to jog everyone's memories:

Local Monitoring

DC noted the useful discussion on the use of github for sharing
monitoring
scripts etc., but also that the discussion then moved on to one of
using
github for sharing more generally. TomW reported that the GridPP
github
organisation how now been upgraded to 'educational' status which
allows us
the potential of turning to the dark side and using private repos,
though
it was suggested EwanM that we shouldn't. It was reported that we
have
something of an outline plan for use of github, whivh involves each
site
having their own repositories with 'no implied warranty' copies of
their
stuff so that it may be freely perused by other sites, with selected
things found to be more widely useful having a copy maintained
within the
project repos. Github's workflows have been found to work well for
this,
with it being very easy to make local modifications to a shared
repo, and
potentially merge changes back in afterwards.

Pilot job monitoring

The key action, to outline the conclusions so far from the HepSysMan
discussion is already being followed up, with a summary being
prepared by
ChrisW.

Dirac

There is a general request for testers to join the GridPP V0 so that
they
can try using the Imperial Dirac instance.

There is a specific action between JeremyC, Andrew McNab, and Janusz to make contact with the appropriate LHCb people to investigate potential for automatically syncing the dirac user database from the GridPP VOMS.

It was queried whether the data management features are enabled on the Imperial instance for the GridPP V0; JeremyC will find out, though we do know that these are enabled and working for some other UK V0s.

It was also noted that the Tier 1 has plans to install an instance to investigate it as a replacement for the WMS, but for now the Imperial one remains the UK's principle instance.

A0B
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Pete Gronbech asked for feedback on the structure of HepSysMan meetings, particularly whether the focus should remain 'issue driven' or whether a return to regular site reports would be useful. It was generally felt that the current approach was better, and that having slots for short 'flash' talks allows sites that have done something particularly interesting to talk about it outside of the main themes, but without needing a return to site reports as such.

Vidyo chat log:
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Ewan Mac Mahon: (10/06/2014 11:03:21)
Hello

raul: (11:04 AM)
just fixed

Ewan Mac Mahon: (11:04 AM)
Do we have a ticket number for that?

raul: (11:04 AM)
it's savannah. let me find it

Daniela Bauer: (11:04 AM)
<https://savannah.cern.ch/support/?143490>
If there's a solution, I am wondering if this would fix Glasgow,
where I think in the end we gave up

raul: (11:05 AM)
yes. daniela is fast.

Daniela Bauer: (11:05 AM)
no I came in late, so it's still open in a tab wfrom when I went
through my inbox :-D

Alessandra Forti: (11:05 AM)
https://ggus.eu/index.php?mode=ticket_info&ticket_id=106011

raul: (11:06 AM)
I'll post in the ticket what fixed it, if I can understand

Jeremy Coles: (11:10 AM)
Others on EMI-2: <http://goc-accounting.grid-support.ac.uk/consumer/>

wahid: (11:17 AM)
side question. This morning voms-proxy-init doesn't work for me
Credentials couldn't be loaded [/Home/wbhimji/.globus/userkey.pem, /
Home/wbhimji/.globus/usercert.pem]: Can not load the PEM private
key: org.bouncycastle.openssl.PEMException: problem parsing
ENCRYPTED PRIVATE KEY: java.lang.SecurityException: JCE cannot
authenticate the provider BC
I presume thats because the version in cvmfs from atlas has changed.
if anyone seen that error knows the workaround great.
we will aim to be the last ones holding out in the anti-glexec
camp !

Daniela Bauer: (11:22 AM)
My Vidyo just coraked, sigh

raul: (11:26 AM)
Neither me. I'll have to look.

Ewan Mac Mahon: (11:26 AM)
The web pages do have a timestamp, it's just not hugely obvious.
And (at least some of) the pages are highly misleading.
Some of them should probably just be killed.
Or from Google.
Which was how I hit one.

raul: (11:33 AM)
I have no recent news.
Just volunteered and...

Jeremy Coles: (11:33 AM)
http://www.hep.ph.ic.ac.uk/~dbauer/grid/staged_rollout_emi2.html
https://www.gridpp.ac.uk/wiki/Staged_rollout_emi3

Daniela Bauer: (11:35 AM)
<https://www.egi.eu/earlyAdopters/table>
That should be the list that EGI has

David Crooks: (11:36 AM)
Yeah - I think it was confirmation that they're looking for

raul: (11:37 AM)
Yes. Daniela's link was presented in the last meeting.
Jones, Steve: (11:37 AM)
It was pretty good. Lots of topics covered. Learned something.

Ewan Mac Mahon: (11:38 AM)
In principle; but it helps to have more time in practice.
Indeed - the key thing is to NOT be running EMI2 :-)

wahid: (11:51 AM)
we are too lazy to talk to Dell
I had that great way of ordering parts without speaking to them
but the "training" only lasted a year - not worth getting going
through exams again

raul: (11:53 AM)
Found my Apel problem. broken script. fixed. I never really started
monitoring EMI-3 Apel. I've got to.

Jeremy Coles: (11:53 AM)
Thanks.

wahid: (11:53 AM)
close it
he's more interested that I am in it
please don't bother matt
are atlas using it then
if we install it it won't be use

Jeremy Coles: (11:54 AM)
They will be.

wahid: (11:54 AM)
when?

Jeremy Coles: (11:54 AM)
I'll check at lunch.

Elena Korolkova: (11:55 AM)
I'll fix it today

wahid: (11:55 AM)
don't express any desire for it when you ask jeremy ...

Ewan Mac Mahon: (11:57 AM)
Or just DOS it.
It's really easy to do from a single client.

Just drop the Vo and run more atlas jobs.

Matt Doidge: (12:01 PM)

Trouble is there aren't always the atlas jobs to run – and noone likes idle CPUs

Tom Whyntie: (12:10 PM)

<https://github.com/GridPP>

If you need a private repo, let me know

We have 20 to play with

Ewan Mac Mahon: (12:11 PM)

Also, private repos are evil – secrets shouldn't be uploaded; everything else should be public.

Jeremy Coles: (12:16 PM)

<https://dirac.grid.hep.ph.ic.ac.uk:8443/DIRAC/>

<https://voms.gridpp.ac.uk:8443/voms/gridpp/>

Ewan Mac Mahon: (12:21 PM)

Maybe we should have a workshop one at either UCL or Jet....

Alessandra Forti: (12:21 PM)

relevant topics

Ewan Mac Mahon: (12:22 PM)

What David said.

Gareth Douglas Roy: (12:23 PM)

Thanks!