



Contribution ID: 436

Type: poster

Modular grid middleware configuration system

Wednesday 5 September 2007 08:00 (20 minutes)

Configuration is an essential part of the deployment process of any software product. In the case of Grid middleware the variety and complexity of grid services coupled with multiple deployment scenarios make the provision of a coherent configuration both more important and more difficult. The configuration system must provide a simple interface which strikes a balance between the requirements of small university laboratories and those of large computing centers. It should also be simple to maintain alongside rapid developments in the software it is intended to configure.

This paper describes the evolution of a modular configuration system (YAIM) which is used to configure different Grid middleware products. It summarizes the lessons learned during several years of LCG/gLite middleware production use and presents a new approach chosen to face the forthcoming challenges. Along with the main design considerations and implementations decisions, an example of a fully integrated third party grid service (dCache) is also discussed.

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Session Classification: Poster 2

Track Classification: Grid middleware and tools