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Use of Cfengine for deploying LCG/gLite middle-ware

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Cfengine is a middle to high level policy language and autonomous agent for building expert systems to administrate and configure large computer clusters. It is ideal for large-scale cluster management and is highly portable across varying computer platforms, allowing the management of multiple architectures and node types within the same farm.

As well as being a highly capable configuration manager, Cfengine can also augment a network based service manager by providing an alerting mechanism which can monitor the system for abnormal behaviour, eg. watching and maintaining the permissions on files and directories, to monitoring available file-system space.

A number of sites within the GridPP collaboration and across the wider EGEE project are using Cfengine for the deployment and maintenance of their clusters and LCG/gLite middle-ware installations. This paper will collect together the experiences of these sites with both the initial setup and the ongoing maintenance of their Cfengine installations. This paper will also discuss some of the common implementation scenarios that may be encountered. This paper will also provide some solutions to common issues that the various sites have faced.

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