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GILDA activities in AFRICA

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Science researchers, educators, and students in Africa are not able to take advantage of the information revolution because the digital divide is growing and denying poor countries access to its benefits. They are becoming increasingly marginalized as the world of education and science becomes increasingly Internet-dependent. GILDA are disseminating the Grid technology and its results to a wider audience in the African area, training new communities and involving new institutes to provide resources.

Impact

The main objective of this oral contribution is to present the activities carried out in the last year in Africa. By studying the state of the art in African research institutions and universities (Malawi, South Africa, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, etc.), we have been able to collect ad-hoc information from users, application developers and new communities, thereby assisting the dissemination and training activities to formulate strategies:

- to develop the requirements analysis results for the given scientific or industry community;
- to identify specific target audience within Africa regions;
- to communicate the advantages of the adoption of the grid paradigm;
- to grow a rich dissemination contacts portfolio from scientific research.

URL for further information

<https://gilda.ct.infn.it>

Conclusions and Future Work

The knowledge dissemination process guided by the training activities is a key factor to ensure that all users can fully understand the characteristics of the offered Grid services. Gilda has offered and will offer support to African scientific communities to organize local training events on Grid computing (undergraduate courses, M.Sc courses, Grid Schools etc.), helping in the setup of GILDA locally to implement campus grids or even nation-wide e-infrastructures.

Keywords

Grid Computing, Training, Dissemination Activity, Digital divide, e-Inclusion.

Detailed analysis

Launched in 2004 by the Italian National Institute for Nuclear Physics, GILDA is a fully fledged e-Infrastructure completely devoted to training and dissemination activities. This infrastructure is adopted as the official training tool by several grid projects, transforming GILDA into the world most used training-Infrastructure for the dissemination of Grid Computing. The training courses are addressed to several types of audiences (users, developers, system administrators) with different levels and areas of grid knowledge, ranging from novice to advanced. The former are intended to address "novice" users and provide to them a comprehensive introduction on the usage of the entire infrastructure and all the steps required to actually make use of the system. The aim of the advanced training events will be to provide system administrators and application

developers with an adequate suitable knowledge to fulfill their respective tasks, for a full exploitation of the grid infrastructure.

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Track Classification: Planned or on-going scientific work using the grid