Summary – GIS 2003
Grid Information Services Workshop

NeSC – Edinburgh
Thu 24 Apr – Fri 25 Apr
Organiser: Rob Allan, Mark Baker

- Aim
  - –Bring together people active in developing and deploying Information and Monitoring Systems and Services for Grids.

Talks – day 1

- Data modeling in Grid Information Services (Peter Gietz - DAASI)
- Monitoring and Discovery in GT3 (Ben Clifford – USC/Information Sciences Institute)
- The status of the EU Datagrid R-GMA system (Steve Fisher - RAL)
- Towards a Streaming Relational Grid Information Service/Registry (Beth Plale – Indiana University)
- R-GMA: Architecture and Query Mediation(Werner Nutt – Heriot-Watt University)
- ** panel session ** (Mark Baker – University of Portsmouth)

Talks – day 2

- (Jeniffer M. Schopf – Argonne National Lab) The Changing Landscape of Grid Monitoring
- (John Colgrave - IBM) UDDI and OGSI
- (Luc Moreau – University of Southamptom) An Integrative Approach for attaching Semantic Annotations to Service Descriptions
- (Omer Rana – Cardiff University) Does UDDI work for Grid Services?
- (Matthew Dovey – Oxford University) UDDI, ebXML, WSIL, XRI and the Grid

- Some of the topics discussed

  - Existing information providers and extensions
  - Form of information held by a service, including schema and content
  - The mechanism for service discovery, e.g. via registries
  - The dynamic abilities of a service, including Grid and network monitoring
  - Comparing various aspects of performance, including search and update
  - The benefits and difficulties of maintaining a scalable information service
  - Federating (aggregating) services
  - Security, establishing trust
  - Emerging of tools
  - Management and maintenance issues

Panel Session (Mark Baker)
The Current Information Services roadmap for the Grid

Questions Addressed

- What is the roadmap, and is it clearly defined!
- Is the roadmap adequate? (what is good/bad/ugly!)
- What are the crucial issues that need addressing?
- Is there a real convergence between the current generation Grid and the emerging OGSA?
- Are we chasing a technology wave or opting for proven technologies and standards?
- Are we reinventing the wheel and should be using something else?
- What about security… are we side stepping this matter?
- Should we be concentrating on API definitions rather than implementations?

"My impression was that the meeting went well. I think there were around 50 delegates. Our aims were to exchange information on services to access information about Grid resources (mainly day 1) and also information services which use the Grid (focus of day 2). There was a lot of interesting discussion and the overseas speakers made important contributions to this and also indicated how the Globus MDS system and related services in GT3 are going to evolve. It is clear that the UK is in a very strong position to contribute in all the areas we discussed. We identified a number of services required for applications and issues around using them in a large-scale Grid, such as the UK e-Science Grid. There is no follow up meeting planned yet on this topic, but we will write up a more formal report based on our notes."

Dr Rob Allan
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