Les Robertson
19 February 2004

Concerns and Recommendations from the LHCC Comprehensive Review of LCG - 27 December 2003

Responses: Ian blue, Les green

This list has been prepared for the discussion at the PEB on 24 February. It is associated with a highlighted version of the LHCC draft report – attached to the PEB agenda page. It contains only items that are noted in the LHCC Report, and therefore for which a response must be given to the referees before the next LHCC meeting in March.

Management & General

- Concern over resources in Regional Centres - MoU should be developed over the next 12 months between the funding agencies and CERN.
    o This has now started, under the direction of the CSO.
- LHCC expressed some reservation on the role and composition of the new SC2 and these issues must be re-visited.
    o To be re-visited in the autumn after the new SC2 has been in operation for 6 months.
- Propose a new set of Level 1 milestones for the March meeting
    o Being prepared for the March LHCC – see agenda item this afternoon.

Middleware

- Concern that the existing middleware is generally too complex and under-developed, and from past experience the main risk appears to be the lack of product delivery.
    o GDA has taken over maintenance of the source code for all components of EDG that we are using. We now provide the first level support with a focus on ensuring the functionality is well adapted to the needs of the experiments.
- Concern over the difficulties in entering the analysis phase of the project – expecting the ARDA project to have been planned by end January.
    o ARDA project now agreed, initial planning not before the end of March.
- The LHCC considers it very important for the middleware project to ensure tight links and collaboration with the US part of the effort and to establish a close and better collaboration with all the Regional Centres.
    o Closer relationship established between the current middleware support team and VDT, with some funding coming from NSF. The aim is to provide support for VDT components in the LCG-2 distribution, and to investigate the integration of EDG components in VDT.
    o The EGEE middleware team includes Miron Livny, leader of the VDT project.
    o The GDB has initiated a working group to investigate the inter-operability issues (leader Vicky White, FNAL). This is due to report at the March GDB.
    o Strategy is to aim for compatibility between the Tier 1 centres. It is likely that the US OSG initiatives will use software different from that used by EGEE, and that we will have to live with these differences.

Fabric

- No concerns or recommendations

Grid Deployment

- Concern over resources and priorities in Regional Centres. The Committee recommends that the Regional Centres should be queried on how they believe funds will become available to achieve their required computing capacity.
    - o The GDB has agreed to collect information on planned resources in Regional Centres – two quarter forward look. The first results of this are due at the end of February.
    - o The MoU task force will deal with establishing the funding plans of the Tier 0, Tier 1 and large Tier 2 centres.
- The GDB should ensure that there is more detailed technical discussion.
    - o GDA weekly coordination meeting has been set up to enable these technical discussions between all the parties involved in deploying, operating and using the service. In addition there is a weekly phone conference between the core site (Tier 1) system managers and deployment team to address service and operational issues.
- Installation is too complex.
    - o In the LCG-2 release, the installation of the worker nodes of the batch farms is now much simpler and does not rely on any particular tool. The deployment team has taken over the maintenance of the codebase, and will work on reducing the dependencies within the software and the way in which it is packaged and delivered. As part of this work, the installation procedure for the service nodes will be simplified, taking into account the wide range of requirements of the Tier 1 and Tier 2 sites.

Applications

- Concern over the long-term continuity of personnel, and the long-term support of products, in particular the maths library.
- Requests further clarification of how proposals made in the Architect's Forum are to be incorporated in to the Applications Area.
- Stresses the importance to support the Monte Carlo generator codes required by the LHC experiments. Such support appears to fit the scope of the Simulation project.

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