

Process for Retiring Grid Middleware

N.B.: The processes described below can also apply for the clients (WN and UI).

3 cases need to be considered:

- I. **Service end-of-life:** A service type reaches the end of its life (it may or may not be replaced by an equivalent service). An example is the LCG RB.
- II. **Major version change:** There is a major version change to a service; for example, a service moves from gLite 3.0 to gLite 3.1.
- III. **Minor version change:** There is a minor version change to a service; for example, a service moves from version 1.2.x to 1.2.y.

Case I. Middleware service end-of-life

The proposed procedure is as follows:

- i. Someone (usually SA1 or SA3) proposes that a particular service has reached the end of its useful life and should be permanently retired.
- ii. As any discussion needs input from the VOs (NA4), SA1, SA3 and possibly also JRA1, the proposal should be discussed at the next available TMB meeting.
- iii. The TMB will request feedback from all interested parties and sets a deadline for the feedback.
- iv. After the deadline has passed, the proposal is discussed again at the TMB meeting. During this discussion, the following dates need to be agreed:
 - a. The end of standard updates to the service (that is, no more bug fixes or new functionality). Security updates will still be provided.
 - b. The end of inclusion of this service in certification and PPS testing.
 - c. The end of official support of the service in production by SA1 (including both user support and operational support).
After this date, if any GGUS tickets are raised concerning this service, the tickets will be forwarded to the ROC responsible for the site running the service. The ROC can then decide how to handle the ticket, including closing the ticket indicating that the service is no longer supported.
 - d. The end of security updates.
(N.B.: This needs further discussion as it may require active monitoring and removal of any instances of the service left in the production infrastructure.)
- v. Once these dates are agreed, the proposed plan for making the service obsolete will be broadcast to all sites, ROCs and VOs. It will also be announced at the next Grid Operations meeting. The plan will also be added to a suitable, public web page ([gLite releases web page?](#)), a link to which will be included in the broadcast announcement. In addition, a reminder will be broadcast and also announced at the Grid Operations meeting for each step of the plan (steps *a* to *d* above). The reminder will be made 1 week before the due date.

Case II. Major version change

This deals with how to remove support for a gLite 3.X based service when a gLite 3.Y version of the service becomes available.

N.B.: How this is handled will depend on whether the new version is backward compatible with the old version.

a. New version is ***NOT*** backward compatible

Follow the procedure as in case I.

b. New version is backward compatible

The proposed procedure is as follows:

- i. When the new version of the service is in production and no significant problems are seen for 1 calendar month, then SA1 or SA3 can propose that the old version of the service is a candidate for being made obsolete.
- ii. The proposal to make the old version of the service obsolete will be discussed at the next Grid Operations Meeting (all potentially interested parties will be contacted in advance [*broadcast?*]). All interested parties will have 2 weeks to give feedback on the proposal. If there are objections, then the matter will be discussed at the Grid Operations Meeting again. If there are no objections, then the following dates need to be agreed (*maybe need a default timeline which can then be modified as required*) :
 - a. The end of standard updates to this version of the service. Security updates will still be provided.
 - b. The end of inclusion of this version of the service in certification and PPS testing.
 - c. The end of support of this version of the service in production by SA1 (including both user support and operational support).
After this date, if any GGUS tickets are raised concerning this version of the service, the tickets will be forwarded to the ROC responsible for the site running the service. The ROC can then decide how to handle the ticket, including closing the ticket indicating that this version of the service is no longer supported.
 - d. The end of security updates for this version of the service.
(N.B.: This needs further discussion as it may require active monitoring and removal of any instances of the service left in the production infrastructure.)
- iii. Once these dates are agreed, the proposed plan for making the old version of the service obsolete will be broadcast to all sites, ROCs and VOs. It will also be announced at the next Grid Operations meeting. The plan will also be added to a suitable, public web page (*gLite releases web page?*), a link to which will be included in the broadcast announcement.
In addition, a reminder will be broadcast and also announced at the Grid Operations meeting for each step of the plan (steps *a* to *d* above). The reminder will be made 1 week before the due date.

Case III. Minor version change

This deals with how to remove support for version a.b.w of a service when a version a.b.z of the service becomes available.

SA1 will maintain (on a publicly available web page, or similar) a list of all middleware services and all versions of those services that are officially supported in production. Usually, the supported versions of a particular middleware service will be from some agreed version, up to the latest version released in production (i.e. a span of versions will be supported).

If problems are seen with a particular version of a service, then that version may be explicitly removed from the list.

The content of the list of supported service versions will be updated as follows:

- Whenever new versions of services are released into production, they will always be automatically added to the list.
- Periodically (*timescale to be agreed*), a review will be made of the supported versions of all middleware services. All those which are felt to be suitable for removing from the list will be brought up at the next Grid Operations meeting (all potentially interested parties will be contacted in advance [*how do we make sure we contact all parties: broadcast?*]). All interested parties will have 1 week to give feedback on the proposed changes to the list. If there are objections, then these will be treated on a case-by-case basis. Where there are no objections, then the list of supported service versions will be updated and this will be communicated through a broadcast message.