

Minutes of Information System Task Force, 11th February 2016

Local: Maria Alandes (chair, minutes), Maarten Litmaath, Julia Andreeva, Alessandro di Girolamo, Andrea Sciaba.

Remote: Stephen Burke, Alessandra Forti, Andrew McNab, Rob Quick, Alessandro Paolini.

Agenda available in Indico

<https://indico.cern.ch/event/495182/>

1. Summary of WLCG workshop

Maria summarises the outcome of the Information System discussion at the WLCG workshop held on 1-3 February in Lisbon:

- During the workshop there was a general agreement that it would be desirable to become independent from the BDII, although in practice this needs to be understood. During the meeting Maria raises the issue of dynamic attributes. Since one of the possibilities to reduce BDII dependency is to move more information into GOCDB/OIM, the technical details for dynamic attributes need to be understood. Rob explains that in the case of OIM, some dynamic attributes are already published using a Condor collector. It's not clear how this could be done in GOCDB since no writeable API is available at the moment. Alessandra asks Rob to share the OIM scripts to collect this information. Rob provides this after the meeting:
 - GIP for EL6: <http://repo.grid.iu.edu/osg/3.3/el6/release/i386/gip-1.3.11-8.osg33.el6.noarch.rpm>
 - GIP for EL7: http://repo.grid.iu.edu/osg/3.3/el7/release/x86_64/gip-1.3.11-8.osg33.el7.noarch.rpm
 - Configuration document: <https://twiki.grid.iu.edu/bin/view/Documentation/Release3/GipConfiguration>

It is decided to explore the feasibility of moving more static information to GOCDB/OIM as a starting point. At least ATLAS is very much interested on this.

- During the workshop, there was no clear outcome about the new IS. There was a general feeling that a new IS is useful, but this needs in any case to be supported by the experiments. It was agreed to re-visit the experiment needs for this. In order to help in this re-discussion, a table of primary sources of information will be prepared and distributed. This should help to highlight problematic areas where information is reported to be

inconsistent or wrong because it's entered manually in several places, etc. The table should help to have a clear picture of the current way each experiment has to consume information from the information system.

- After the workshop, it was decided to move the discussion about definitions of some GLUE attributes into the benchmarking and MJT task forces. The Information System TF will gather any requirements coming from them to publish these attributes in the information system if this is what it's needed.

Action items:

- *Evaluate the feasibility of including static information in GOCDB/OIM (Maria)*
- *Prepare a table of primary information sources, distribute it in the TF and revisit the situation with the experiments once more time to understand whether there is still a need for a new IS (Maria)*

2. BDII in EGI

Alessandro Paolini presents EGI plans to continue using the BDII. After his presentation there is some discussion about client tools like lcg-infosites that would need to be re-written to be able to consume GLUE 2. Maria says that this shouldn't be a worry for WLCG if eventually the BDII is not going to be used. It is also mentioned that ginfo is already available but it is agreed that ginfo is not as useful as lcg-infosites. Alessandro di Girolamo says that ATLAS doesn't trust the information published in the BDII. Maria replies that it would be nice to see concrete examples of this unreliable information. Maarten also mentions that we have to be careful with adding more work to sites if the BDII is going to be around and some experiments are going to ask extra information to be added in GOCDB. As discussed in the previous item in the agenda, adding more information into GOCDB will be evaluated in any case. Hopefully the primary sources of information table will also help to clarify where experiments want to go.

3. AOB

Maria asks Andrew whether he could give more details about LHCb plans to re-write DIRAC. Andrew explains that Andrei Tsaregorodtsev is planning a rewrite of the way DIRAC collects information. The idea is to add "information source" as another resource type, in the way that DIRAC already talks to resources of type CE and SE. This will allow DIRAC to merge information from multiple sources in some configurable way, and requires writing a plugin for each information source type (GOCDB, resource BDII, resource JSON, site BDII, OIM, static files, ...) This extension that Andrei Tsaregorodtsev is proposing will involve modifying quite a small part of DIRAC. In particular, it wouldn't involve changing the DIRAC CS itself.

Maria asks whether there is any possibility to work together with other experiments on this, since these plugins that Andrew mentions seem very similar to AGIS collectors used by ATLAS. After some technical discussion, it is agreed that ATLAS and LHCb would follow up on this offline and see whether there is any room for collaboration.

Action items:

- *Follow up whether LHCb and ATLAS could collaborate together in the rewrite of DIRAC information collection.*

4. Next meeting

No meeting scheduled yet.