



Middleware in EGI-InSPIRE

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MU and MCB

EGI Blueprint mentions:

- Middleware Coordination Board (MCB)
 - representatives of users, operations, and middleware providers
 - advisory body to EGI director (formally)
 - assumed to make most strategic decisions on middleware (in practice)
- Middleware Unit (MU)
 - part of EGI.eu, fulfilling the central middleware tasks
 - lead by EGI CTO
 - perform the everyday work (8 FTE)
- expected middleware effort 70 FTE
 - maintenance and convergence towards interoperability
 - no “brand new” development

Middleware workpackages

- SA2: Software infrastructure provision – 9 FTE
 - define and maintain UMD roadmap and criteria
 - verify contributed middleware components
 - provide necessary services and tools
 - implements Middleware unit
- SA3: Support of Deployed Middleware – 8 FTE
 - investigate and resolve middleware issues in collaboration with providers
 - provide emergency fixes if path via provider fails
- remaining MW effort “outsourced” to external providers

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 - investigate and resolve middleware issues in collaboration with providers
 - provide emergency fixes if path via provider fails
- remaining MW effort “outsourced” to external providers
- merge of SA2 and SA3 considered
 - avoid overlap and/or tight interaction
 - reduce bureaucracy and effort
 - solve managerial problems (CTO vs. two WP leaders)

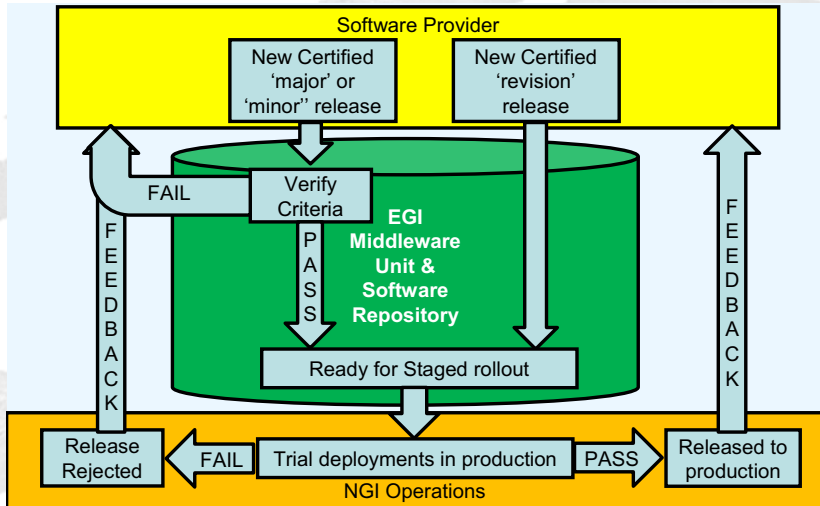
UMD roadmap

- principal evolving specification of UMD content and releases
- source of information for
 - operations and users to be aware of new functionality and phase-outs
 - software providers to know about desired functionality
- each entry contains
 - functionality description
 - acceptance criteria
 - expected release date
 - required level of maintenance
- possible conflicts resolved through repeated analysis
- updates submitted to MCB for approval and published twice a year
- complemented with generic criteria
 - e.g. interoperability, platform support, SDK availability, ...

Acceptance of components

- new components and major/minor releases of existing ones
 - SA2 works with providers, users, and operation in pre-release testing
 - final tests by SA2 are lightweight, based on results of previous ones
 - result summarized in acceptance report
 - if tests fail, provider is requested to provide fixed version
 - support SLA (contract) is negotiated
- revision releases
 - no specific tests done by SA2
 - provider's QA process is trusted
 - repeatedly failing provider may not get support contract next time

Acceptance of components



Component integration

- software element – set of components required to deliver given functionality
 - “node types” in EGEE: Worker node, UI, WMS, ...
- components from multiple providers required typically
- SA2 involved in software element definition
 - what components of what versions are taken
 - follows UMD roadmap
- actual assembly of software element delegated to one provider
- non-trivial problems to resolve
 - which versions to build against
 - what to test when

Software repository

- provided and maintained by SA2
 - EGI.eu, replicas considered
- physical location of components
 - links to established repositories (SF) possible
- component categories
 - fully supported (EGI responsibility)
 - community supported
 - associated (RESPECT-like)
- state of component
 - contributed, released, in-production

Summary

- user wishes and provider offers meet at MCB
- EGI SA2 defines and follows UMD roadmap
- software repository and tools provided by EGI
- most development and support work on external providers