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Enabling User Communities - Experience from Porting Applications and Services in the Biomedical Area

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Abstract

Biomedicine is a wide term that integrates many different disciplines related with health, life sciences and biochemistry. In a broad sense, it comprises the storage, management and processing of data related with the physiology of living beings. Therefore, this area ranges from the analysis of proteins up to epidemiology. This fact clearly reveals an enormous need for computing and storage resources. Consequently, biomedicine has been the most active non-high energy physics community in EGEE, despite of its complexity and heterogeneity, proven by the high number of members of the biomed VO and by the large usage of resources. Thus, this talk tries to outline the work from the whole community, and not only from Spain. Biomedical applications have influenced notably in the middleware and components developed around EGEE. The requirements on security from the biomedical applications for the development of the catalogue systems or the integration of key stores such as Hydra are clear examples. Another interesting example is the broad usage of AMGA in the biomedical field, which has been extended with many of these issues. With the use of the EGEE grid, many applications and frameworks have been developed for innovative medicine, bioinformatics and medical imaging. Several interesting results, especially in the area of bioinformatics, have been published in high-level scientific journals. The use of EGEE have enabled large-scale studies of current biomedical databases, revealing interesting trends and incorrect annotations which have contributed to increase the quality of such databases. The talk will describe some of these developments, stressing the technical tackled and the scientific results obtained.

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