

Notes of the EGI session at the WLCG workshop on 24-4-08

L Perini, J. Knobloch

Dieter Kranzmueller gave a summary of the European Grid Initiative Design Study (EGI_DS). He explained how the series of EU funded EGEE projects have led to a production quality grid on which a number of application domains depend. The European Commission has stated that this project-oriented funding has to come to an end and that the countries interested have to collaborate towards a sustainable European Grid infrastructure. The EGI_DS aims to define and implement this based on (still to be established) National Grid Infrastructures (NGIs). Dieter presented the current understanding on the required functions and the respective roles of the NGIs and the EGI organization.

After the presentation by Dieter, Ian points out that the costs of the service is largely fixed proportional to the number of VOs supported and not proportional to the CPU usage (shown in slide 48). No real disagreement on Ian's point, the message however has to be conveyed to the NGI's and accepted by them.

The advantages of Grids for international collaborations need to be described and conveyed to the NGIs.

Ian Bird summarized the requirements of WLCG after the end of EGEE-III. It cannot be tolerated for LHC to have any interruption in the production grid. He sees a mapping of the current ROCs to (groups of) NGIs. The central coordination would be taken up by the EGI organization. Ian expects that the work plan of EGEE-III contains the required transition to the more distributed model of EGI/NGI. On middleware Ian sees the main effort going into supporting the foundation services – there would be little effort available for new developments.

After the presentation of Ian, Claudio Grandi commented that the bug-fixing procedure for middleware is now slow and complex, such that a fix that is produced in 2 days may require 3 weeks before being ready for use. Dieter stressed the importance of the last sentence of Ian's talk encouraging WLCG people to engage in their respective NGI's; Ian stressed that EGI_DS has also to speak with the people in the countries having more experience, like to ones involved today in the ROC's

David Kelsey points out the need of tackling the scalability problem of VO's, finding a mechanism that allow a VO to have 1 NGI as entry point and then the other recognize it; only the subset of the very international VO's may have EGI as entry point.

Erwin comments that for convincing the NGI's and funding agencies we need the support of other applications different from the WLCG ones. Ian raised the important question of who is doing that now.

Maite Barroso explained how operations would evolve in EGEE-III. The boundary conditions are a substantial manpower reduction on one hand and the need for a smooth transition to EGI within two years on the other. Like Ian she advocated to transfer more tasks from a central body to the ROCs (=NGIs). The manpower reduction would be partly compensated by a higher level of automation. The transition will also require Service Level Agreements (SLA) between EGI and NGIs to allow measuring the provided service level.

After the presentation of Maite, Jeff noted that SLAs are proper between ROC's, while is not probably the correct terminology for sites, which in the end could just put themselves outside BDII if they do not want to comply.