

HEPiX Report

Michel Jouvin

LAL, Orsay

jouvin@lal.in2p3.fr

<http://grif.fr>

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GDB, CERN



- 15+ years old informal forum of people involved in “fabric management” in HEP
 - No mandate from any other body
 - More sysadmins than IT managers
 - Open to anybody interested
- Main activity is a 1-week meeting twice a year
 - Spring in Europe, Fall in US
 - 60-100 attendees per meeting, “stable” core
 - Focused on exchange of experience and technology review
- Mix of large and small sites
 - Better understanding of each others
 - Each one benefit of the others
 - Most of the sites involved in grid computing
- “On-demand” working groups

- Held in Genomic Sequencing Center
 - Non HEP place
- Main topics (between ½ and 1 day per topic)
 - Site reports : very valuable part, update on changes, give a « picture » of what happening around the world
 - Windows : VISTA support
 - Storage : convened by File System WG
 - Presentation on LUSTRE, GPFS, Infiniband, dCache/Chimera...
 - Data Centers : cooling, power consumption, ...
 - Virtualization : the new and growing topic
 - Virtualization for high availability
 - Benchmarking : what is the right benchmark ?
 - Monitoring : Grid monitoring, App monitoring (dashboard)
 - Security

- The « hot » offline debate...
- St Louis : first meeting in a non HEP place
 - Now in GSC IT 1 person who worked at FNAL
- Several genomics centers attended
 - St Louis, MIT, Sanders Institute (UK)
 - Sanders heard about the meeting thanks to Google !
- A lot of interest from non HEP to attend
 - In fact, already 1 from CEA Tera10 (19 + 26 in Top500)
- General agreement opening HEPiX to non-HEP is a good move
 - Lots of common problems, different experiences
 - E.g. global file systems (LUSTRE, GPFS...)
 - Many HEPiX sites involved in collaboration with other communities
 - Support received from IHEPCCC

- HEPIX has a very light organization... No power/mandate to decide anything
 - Board with 1 representative per country and/or large site
 - 2 co-chairmen (1 Europe + 1 US) in charge of animation between meeting
 - Mainly coordinating/helping meeting organization
 - Relationship with IHEPCC or other bodies
- New European chairman : Michel Jouvin
 - Previous : Wojcek Wojcik, retiring next summer
 - US Chairman : Chuck Boeheim (SLAC)

- HEPiX is very « useful » forum opened to any site interested
 - Complementary to GDB, focused on fabric management rather than grid services
 - No formal membership : just register to the meeting..
 - We'd like to enroll of asian sites and ready to organize a meeting there
- Next meeting at CERN, May 5-9
 - Look for announcement at <http://www.hepix.org>
 - Ask to be registered on HEPiX mailing list (low volume...)
- Usefulness to be shared with other communities with similar problems (e.g. large volume of data)
 - How to still in discussion...

