Grid Interoperabilty Now meeting
Feb 13-14, 2006
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At GGF 16 in Athens there were two half-day meetings of the Grid Interop Now (GIN) group that first met at SuperComputing. The goal of this group is to enable basic functional interoperation for a large set of Grid projects in four areas: security, data transfer, job management, and information services.

The original document describing this effort can be found at
https://forge.gridforum.org/projects/mgi/document/MultiGrid_Interoperation_Planning/en/1

Discussion is taking place on a series of mailing lists according to topic:
gin@ggf.org – general information
mgi-jobs@ggf.org – job submission
mgi-data@ggf.org – data management
mgi-info@ggf.org – information services
mgi-auth@ggf.org – security discussions
And documents and such are being kept on a grid forge project site
https://forge.gridforum.org/projects/mgi

One of the motivating factors behind this work was the fact that many Grids are currently coming up with pair-wise agreements to allow interoperation, and the thought was if some basic functions could be enabled between a larger set of grids this would be easier for everyone. A large number (more than 15) of grid projects were present at the GGF discussions and volunteered effort to help further this functionality.

This group was defined to look at *interoperation* – specifically defined as what needs to be done to get grids to work together, the low hanging fruit and not full solutions. This is different than *interoperability*, which was defined as the ability of software and hardware on multiple machines from multiple vendors to communicate. This group was also defined to have a very pragmatic approach, and to use existing software and tools only.

Each of the four areas agreed on simple first steps, with the goal of having an interoperation demonstration for SuperComputing in November 2006. The specific work that was identified were
Security:
- Security underpins the other services, so basic functionality needed quickly, and the goal was GGF in Tokyo for the basics
- VOMS: Recommendation that a VOMS service for GIN early adopters get stood up in order to identify the pathbreakers without having to sort out the broad array of VOs first (though this is needed not long after May).
- AuthZ attributes: There was a plea to settle on a small set of common capabilities on a resource that we could map attributes to.

- AuthZ authorities: How are we going to identify these (securely)? Is some sort of registry/namespace administration needed ? Suggestion is "yes" (and discussion has started already).

Data Management
- Goal of GridFTP transfers between sites in short order
- Discussion about getting SRM and SRB islands to interoperate

Job Management
- Get interoperation between common software islands
    - Globus pre-ws, Globus ws, unicore
- Look at using JSDL to have common submission language between islands

Information services
- Suggestion to get all sites to advertise a common set of attributes in their local systems using either GLUE of CIM mapping of this data
    - Suggestion to use recent TG MDS4 deployment as a starting point for this data
- Second step of having a simple GUI to display these results across different Grids

Discussions of these plans are continuing on the various mailing lists, and additional notes and slides are available at the Grid Forge site. Some of the groups plan to have telecoms as well, it's recommended that if you're interested in participating you join the mailing lists.