

Resources Allocation within France-Grilles

Bases for discussion in preparation of a dedicated meeting on the topic (CC-IN2P3, 20/01/2011)

Goal/vision

France-Grilles needs to define the way to interact with its resource users (RUs) and resource providers (RPs), and a way for them to interact with one another, in order to ensure a high quality of services delivered by RPs to RUs, and to allow relevant bodies to be involved in the supervision of the process.

So what?

There is a strategy to define so that this can be achieved. Our initial proposal is to evaluate such a strategy based on a process of resource allocation and Service Level Agreements (SLAs). This strategy would be to put in place:

- A mechanism allowing RUs/RPs to define what they expect/can deliver
- the establishment of agreements on the above between RUs and RPs (SLAs)
- a clear view of what falls under the scope of such agreements
- a measurement and reporting process so that quality can be assessed and results presented to higher bodies, possibly through a “cartography of resource usage”

Open questions in the definition of the strategy

- What are the entities that need to be involved in the definition of a SLA?
- What do SLAs apply on? What are the “fields” and units?
- Is SLA the right legal term/do we talk about agreements instead?
- How do those SLAs apply in an international context, e.g. between NGIs?
- What are the implications of implementing such a strategy on the organization of operations in France-Grilles?
- Does that strategy pay off, with regards to achieving quality of service?

Expected result at the end of the day

- Clear statement about why we are doing this: validation of the overall vision
- Assessment of the model implemented by PL-Grid, and its applicability to France-Grilles
- Assessment of the model used by the HPC community, and its applicability to France-Grilles
- Substantial answer to the 5 open questions defined above, as a first definition of France-Grilles resource allocation strategy
- Propositions on the means and structure to put in place in order to implement this strategy (working groups, collaborations, available resources)
- Propositions on timelines about this implementation, and definition of a “what’s next”
- Wider vision on other benefits such as possible collaborations, establishment of best practices, better organization, quality and methodology