



Open Science Grid News

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Upcoming OSG Events

[Tuskegee Grid School](#)

Tuskegee, Alabama
February 6-8, 2008

[Open Grid Forum](#)

Cambridge, Massachusetts
February 25-29, 2008

[All Hands OSG Consortium Meeting](#)

Renaissance Computing Institute, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
March 3-7, 2008

[PRAGMA14 \(More Information\)](#)

March 11-12, 2008
Taichung, Taiwan

[International Symposium on Grid Computing](#)

Taipei, Taiwan
April 7-11, 2008

[OSG CALENDAR](#)

[EVENTS OUTSIDE OF OSG](#)

Identity vetting a focus at meeting



Members of the three regional policy management authorities, the Asia Pacific Grid PMA, the European Grid PMA and The Americas Grid PMA, met at Nikhef January 14-16.

Image courtesy David Groep, NIKHEF.
[Click for larger image](#)

Together with Mike Helm, who runs the [DOEGrids CA](#) that many OSG users and resource owners get their certificates from, I attended the recent [EUGridPMA meeting](#), where we were told about the results of audits of a number of CAs.

Mike reported on an extensive internal audit of the DOEGrids CA performed last fall which culminated in a day-long event with five auditors examining the practices and compliance of DOEGrids. Since I run the OSG registration authority, this was a useful meeting for me to attend.

One important issue for OSG is that our identity vetting process does not require face-to-face presentation of a photo ID. Most EUGridPMA accredited CAs do.

I gave a presentation about U.S. procedures for scientists to apply for remote access to our computing facilities,

From the Executive Director

What a busy month! I got back from the new year in England to a surprisingly warm few January days in Chicago (of course, it did not last). Then, three weeks in a row with three days of travel each – to Washington to the “Building Effective Virtual Organizations” (BEVO) NSF workshop, then our agency Joint Oversight Team external review on 22nd, and now for meetings with EGEE and WLCG at CERN. It's a good thing Stephen likes to cook and we have, at least for the moment, two of our grown up kids local in Chicago.



Ruth Pordes

The [BEVO site](#) gives you a web cast of all the talks and plenary discussions.

It was really useful to explore different views of what VOs are, are not, and could be. OSG input about why a VO is not an “O,” for your consideration: a VO delegates establishing the identity of each person through “Os”. Also, VO delegates to “Os” the purchase and identity of physical hardware.

Thank you Brad, Jim, Lothar, Patrick and Ana, for coming to Washington to offer testimonials about your scientific use of the OSG to the external review panel. Thank you to all the OSG area coordinators who worked so hard to prepare the material and presentations. Thank you to the reviewers for their comments and discussions and for responding especially well to the results of our engagement and education efforts that John presented.

Now at CERN, we face the reality of the Common Computing Readiness Challenge 2008 while having thinking time with our EGEE colleagues on technology and architectures for now and for the future: A lot of security issues at the joint security policy group and plans for changes to the EGEE end-to-end authorization infrastructures; operations issues related to site functional testing and availability calculations, our federated interoperation testbeds, and storage services deployments for the data part of our infrastructure.

Finally, **please upgrade your resource to OSG 0.8.0 and continue to accept jobs and data from OSG VOs!** This collaboration -- sharing and working together -- is what makes us unique.

~Ruth

New Research Highlight

OSG publishes research highlights describing significant research and scientific results that benefited from OSG. The latest one is about [FermiGrid](#), which describes how our OSG model of multiple interfaced common infrastructures can be usefully applied with local as well as national scope.

[Read Research Highlight...](#)

OSG in ISGTW

Florida International Grid School lives up to its name

We have just completed the [first grid school](#) of 2008 and we're off to a good start for the new year.



The FIGS'08 school included about 35 participants from more than 10 universities worldwide, ranging from undergraduate students to researchers and faculty.
[\(Click for larger image\)](#)

More than 40 students attended the school -- most of them already working or starting to work on grid computing under the guidance of Dr. Jorge Rodriguez from the FIU Physics department and Dr. Masoud Sadjadi from the FIU School of Computing and Information Sciences.

The syllabus included three new modules: build-a-grid, conducted by Sridhartha Eluppai Srivatsan of UFL; Storage Resource Manager, presented by Alex Sim from LBNL, which focused on dCache and BeSTMan practices; and the Rosetta biology project case study, presented by RENC1's Mats Rynge, a member of the OSG Engagement activity. This was the first school with Engagement represented. Says Mats:

“The school is obviously an opportunity for Engagement to find new users, but it's also important to listen to potential users. Even if we can't help directly, discussing issues with them helps us understand what we can improve. The grid school is the best community-building event I've been to.”

We came away with a list of more than five students who will be joining the OSGEDU VO and will continue to use OSG resources for their work.

Three researchers from Brazil attended, representing Universidade Estadual Paulista and IFT-UNESP. They are in charge of one of the two CMS Tier 2 sites in Brazil and are already using the OSG infrastructure. We will help them organize the first Brazilian grid school for later this year, in keeping with our principles of helping people establish their own in infrastructures locally.

One student came from the



Image courtesy Reidar Hahn, Fermilab


where people known as "agents" who are well known to the facility operators approve access to members of their project, who are usually not well-known by the facility operators. This is handled by secure remote communications.

There was agreement that this type of identity vetting model should be described and included in the profile description by which CAs are accredited by the EU as well as US. I will be helping develop a common description to be included in the approved profile document.

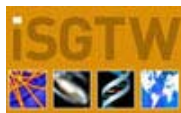
~ Doug Olson

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Universidad de los Andes, Bogota where we are helping several researchers and faculty to establish their own GridColombia cyberinfrastructure, and two doctoral students came from Canada -- both of whom have already experience with OSG.

Once again, we received positive comments and feedback from the attendees. We would like to acknowledge CIARA and the SC07 Education program for sponsoring the event.

Now onward to Tuskegee on 6th February!

~ Alina Bejan, OSG Education Coordinator