

OGF – Open Forum : Open Standards

by Mark Linesch, President, OGF

GridWorld/GGF18 marks another milestone on our journey over the last year and provides a great opportunity to discuss our future potential together.



Our dedicated and hard working groups have stayed focused on accelerating the pace of their

work – publishing nearly 20 documents since January. The merger integration teams have worked long hours throughout the summer months to establish our new board of directors and operational leadership team, fine-tune our plans, and integrate our back-office functions, including our new website at www.ogf.org.

With the merger now starting to recede in our rear-view mirror, we now turn our attention to the road ahead. Some things have stayed the same over the last year but much has also changed – and change can be disruptive to the senses. So let's take a moment to reflect on who we are and where we are going as we formally introduce the Open Grid Forum to our community during GGF18.

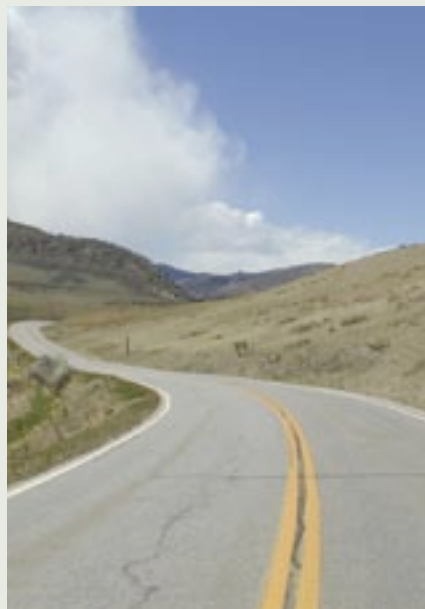
Industry Perspectives

“There is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success, than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things.” Niccolo Machiavelli

While grids continue to enable scientific discovery and business value for more and more organizations worldwide, it also seems that the progression from specialized solution to broadly adopted practice is evolving in “fits and starts.” First grids are “hot and then they’re not.” Then grids are “hot in some areas and not in others” and the casual observer is sometimes left with a “lukewarm” impression. I guess that’s why research firms like Gartner have a hype cycle, which helps explain technology diffusion within our industry.

The model starts out with wild exuberance but then takes a downturn to disillusionment as the technology moves from early adopters to the mainstream. Then, just about the time everybody feels like the technology is nothing but hype, evidence to the contrary starts to build and the technology and solu-

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**OGF MISSION:
OGF ACCELERATES
GRID ADOPTION
BY PROVIDING AN
OPEN FORUM FOR
GRID INNOVATION
AND DEVELOPING
GRID STANDARDS
FOR GRID SOFTWARE
INTEROPERABILITY.**

OGF Operational Leadership and Functions

eScience Function

The eScience function is responsible for working with scientific, engineering and education communities to enable productive forums and workshops in applications, research and grid deployment. These capture the state of the art and identify gaps, integrating with the Enterprise and Standards functions to further the broad adoption of Grids.

Geoffrey Fox is director of the Community Grids Laboratory of the Pervasive Technology Laboratories at Indiana University. *"The scientific, engineering and educational communities continue to be critical to our success. I am pleased to be working with these communities and helping to represent their interests within OGF. Grid Interoperability and the organization of a series of high quality workshops are key objectives over the next year."*



Geoffrey Fox

Enterprise Function

The Enterprise function focuses on accelerating the adoption of Grid in the enterprise. We do this by working with IT & line of business professionals to capture requirements and best practices; also, by working with vendors & developers to adopt OGF standards. As stated by Robert Fogel, who directs world-wide Grid strategy and business development for the Intel Corporation and is vice-president of the OGF Enterprise Function, *"Grid technology has already established significant momentum in the enterprise across many segments including financial services, pharmaceutical, telco, EDA, government, manufacturing and others. OGF provides a means for these organizations to collaborate on solving real business problems using Grid technology."*



Robert Fogel

Standards function

The Standards function is responsible for development of architectures, specifications, roadmaps, glossaries and related activities such as "interop fests" associated with the standardization and interoperability of grid software. The Standards function includes the management of technical liaisons with other Standards Development Organizations (SDOs) and the hosting of the Technical Strategy Committee (TSC) on behalf of the new organization. Dr. David Snelling research project manager in computer architecture and object oriented systems for Fujitsu. *"I am honored to be leading the OGF Standards council and supporting the work of our many hard working group members. Combined with our many partnerships with other standards development organizations and the establishment of our Technical Strategy Committee (TSC), we will continue to make measured progress on the specifications that lead to broadly adopted standards and grid software interoperability."*



Dr. David Snelling

Marketing Function

The Marketing function is responsible for working across the organization to develop key messages and marketing-related content to promote the value and progress of the organization and grid solutions. Hanoch Eiron is a marketing manager at Hewlett-Packard Company where he is managing partners' strategy for HP Services. *"This is an exciting but challenging time for grids and clear messages and communication can cut through the noise that prevents organizations from engaging with grids. As a former EGA leader and marketing professional, I look forward to working throughout the community to communicate the value of OGF and grids to our key stakeholder and the industry at large."*
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Hanoch Eiron

"...business users, IT professionals and vendors are increasingly discovering the power of grids..."

NOMCOM: Our Open Process for OGF Leaders

By **Sven van den Berghe**,
Principal Researcher, Fujitsu Labs

While some things have changed during this transition period to a new organization, one thing remains the same: OGF remains an open, community-driven organization with leadership that represents the priorities and interests of its participants. One of the many ways this is preserved is through our Nominations Committee (NOMCOM). This committee manages the transparent and open process of identifying and selecting operational leadership for OGF including its At-Large Board members, Vice Presidents and Area Directors. This process results in selected leaders who have a community mandate.



NOMCOM is first and foremost a team of ten volunteers charged with soliciting, vetting, and recommending candidates to serve on the leadership councils (i.e., Standards, Enterprise, eScience, Marketing, Operations, Regional) that comprise the Grid Forum Steering Group (GFSG). The ten voting members were selected – by a verifiable, random process – from the set of

volunteers received during an open call for participation following our fall of 2005 event (GGF15). In addition to the voting members, the OGF president appoints three additional non-voting members: a chairperson who manages the process, an advisor from the previous NOMCOM, and a liaison to current OGF leadership. The NOMCOM seated after GGF15 was put on hold until the merger was completed. So, this year we begin with a fully populated committee, ready to take action. Sven van den Berghe from Fujitsu Laboratories of Europe is this year's NOMCOM chair.

The NOMCOM team will start to solicit nominations for leadership positions that are vacant or will become vacant in the coming year (see www.ogf.org/nomcom for a list of vacancies at OGF18). These nominations are collected via email, may include self-nominations, and are kept strictly confidential. Once nominees commit to the time and travel requirements of an OGF leader, they become one of a set of candidates to be interviewed for an open position. To this end, questionnaires are completed by the candidates,

and telephone or face to face interviews are conducted by the NOMCOM team. All discussions with NOMCOM and their deliberation are strictly confidential without influences by the incumbent OGF leaders. Based on the written statements from the candidates, their responses during the interviews, the voting members decide which of the nominees will be proposed as a candidate for a given position. The NOMCOM chairperson submits the list of candidates to the OGF President for confirmation by Board of Directors. The confirmed candidates will be announced at the mid-year event of the year (OGF20 in May 2007).

The NOMCOM invites you to visit its page at www.ogf.org/nomcom, view the current list of vacancies and take a moment to nominate individuals (including yourself) whom you believe will lead OGF toward a more productive future.

“OGF remains an open, community-driven organization with leadership that represents the priorities and interests of its participants.”

OGF – Open Forum : Open Standards

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tions mature. The next 12 months look to be a continuation of the process we have been experiencing of climbing out of the “trough of disillusionment” and continuing to build credibility for the value of grids one grid at a time. GGF18 at Grid-World offers us yet another opportunity to measure the state of maturity and adoption of grids and related technologies such as virtualization and service orientation within our diverse community. We may experience a few “wildly exuberant” moments and a couple of low points of “disillusionment” during the week as we gather together in forum to “lead in the introduction of a new order of things” as the quote by Machiavelli suggests. But we will now do this together as one organization – the Open Grid Forum.

Open Grid Forum Perspectives

I wonder if I've been changed in the night. Let me think. Was I the same when I got up this morning? I almost think I can remember feeling a little different. But if I'm not the same, the next question is 'Who in the world am I?' Ah, that's the great puzzle! Alice: Alice in Wonderland

What has changed and who in the world is the Open Grid Forum? On the surface, OGF's mission looks suspiciously like the old missions of either GGF or EGA – accelerating pervasive adoption. However we are “feeling a little different.” We have a new name, a new logo, and a new opportunity to bring more of the grid community together around the same table. Our new name and logo is a combination of two simple but synergistic concepts: Open Forum: Open Standards. As an

“open forum” OGF brings the grid community together – to identify and align requirements; workshop solutions; and communicate progress. As an “open standards” organization, OGF aligns with broadly adopted industry standards while developing new specifications to enable grid software interoperability.”

During the remainder of 2006 and 2007, we have outlined two strategic goals to focus on the “Open Forum” and “Open Standards” aspects of our organization:

Open Forum – creating a forum where organizations and individuals can do good work is critical to our overall success. Over the next 18 months we will focus on enabling a more productive environment for grid innovation and outreach. This will include improvements to OGF events, workshops, and our IT infrastructure along with clarifying the positioning and value proposition for grids and OGF within the context of the broader distributed computing landscape.

Open Standards – producing specifications that our stakeholders need and will adopt is the “raison d'être” of OGF. Over the

“Together we can make the new Open Grid Forum a results-oriented organization and community that collaborates together...”

next 18 months we will redouble our efforts to align OGF technical strategy and priorities with requirements from our software and user communities to deliver timely specifications that enable software interoperability.

We also have a new and different organization designed to support our mission and insure alignment between stakeholder requirements and OGF directions and priorities. An in-depth overview document of the organization (Open Grid Forum – Overview) is available for download at www.ogf.org/ogf_overview.

The new OGF organization is designed to be community-driven, open organization that balances the requirements of organizational and individual members. The intent is to enable a result-oriented environment with broad participation and mandate from the key stakeholders and the international grid community at large.

As indicated by the **Figure 1**, OGF has established a Board of Directors to provide strategic and policy guidance while helping to insure the ongoing health of the organization. Our new board members are highlighted later in this newsletter.

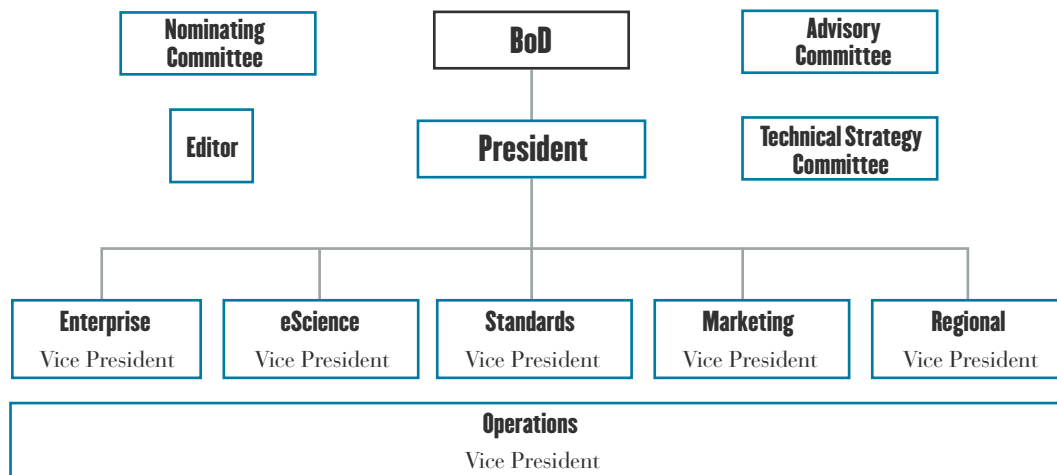
Our Nominations Committee (NOMCOM), Advisory and Technical Strategy Committees will continue to play critical roles in the new OGF organization. The NOMCOM process for 2007 is being “kicked off” during GGF18 at GridWorld and is being discussed in an article in this newsletter.

The day-to-day leadership and management of the Open Grid Forum activities are the responsibility of the President, functional Vice Presidents, Area Directors and Group Chairs. Each of the OGF

functions and V.P. leaders is profiled in this newsletter. All have a passion for grids and have volunteered their time and energy to help us achieve our mission. I am excited about our new organization, our new board and operational leaders and I hope you are too.

Please take the opportunity to interact with these and others within the community during GGF18 at GridWorld. As always, I want to thank our volunteers for their continued hard work and focused efforts. The Open Grid Forum is about you and enabling you to make a difference, do good work, and contribute to our mission. Together we can make the new Open Grid Forum a results-oriented organization and community that collaborates to accelerate grid adoption and open new doors to scientific discovery and business value worldwide.

Figure 1: Open Grid Forum Organization



New Board of Directors Announced

One of the many projects completed as part of the merger transition period was the establishment of OGF's first Board of Directors. OGF has established a Board of Directors to provide strategic and policy guidance while helping to ensure the ongoing health of the organization.

The members of the Board include organizations that have joined at the Platinum level. The following is a list of these organizations and their representatives.

EMC Corporation, *Ian Baird*
Fujitsu-Siemens, *Bernd Kosch*
Hewlett Packard, *Martin Walker*
IBM, *Ken King*
Intel, *Tom Gibbs*
Microsoft, *Tony Hey*
Network Appliance, *Mike Szelong*
Oracle, *Bob Thome*
Platform Computing, *Chris Purpura*
UK eScience, *Malcolm Atkinson*

In addition to these ten members, five at-large board members were nominated by the OGF membership and elected by vote of OGF's Platinum and Gold organizational members. The at-large members of the board include:

Jason Carolan, *Sun Microsystems*
Charlie Catlett, *TeraGrid, University of Chicago/Argonne National Lab*
Hiro Kishimoto, *Fujitsu*
Bill Nitzberg, *Altair Engineering*
Paul Strong, *eBay*

The Board held their first meeting in Cupertino, Calif., on Aug. 24, where OGF's formation documents were adopted and the operational leadership was approved.

“OGF has established a Board of Directors to provide strategic and policy guidance...”

Operational Leadership, from page 2

Regional Function

The Regional Functions for EMEA and Asia-Pacific (including Japan) are responsible for collaborating and communicating with OGF members who have specific interests in these regions and with regionally based OGF Affiliates. The Regional Function will facilitate OGF's outreach activities to these regions. Dr. Bernd Kosch is the Vice President Alliances of Fujitsu Siemens Computers. His area of responsibility is the cooperation with technology – and service-partners at the corporate level. Toshihiro Suzuki is currently Senior Director, Standards Strategy and Architecture for Oracle Corporation Japan, overseeing Oracle's standardization activities in Japan. *“OGF is an organization that must align globally but also communicate and collaborate locally. We are pleased to be working on behalf of our regions and regional affiliates to create a stronger and more vibrant worldwide effort for grid adoption.”*



Dr. Bernd Kosch



Toshihiro Suzuki

Operations Function

The Operations function is responsible for providing program management and administrative support to all OGF functions and managing OGF event operations and back office functions such as membership, finance, legal, web and IT infrastructure. Steve Crumb is the Executive Director and VP of Operations for OGF. *“The Operations team will continue to improve our core IT and web infrastructure while enhancing the planning and execution of our events. We hope these improvements will result in a highly productive, collaborative environment where quality work can be done.”*



Steve Crumb

The Future of OGF Events

As grid technologies continue to be adopted in a broadening number of organizations, OGF events become an increasingly important arena for networking, idea exchange, and productive work for members and non-members alike. OGF events bring the grid and broader distributed computing community together in open forum to: (1) workshop requirements; (2) develop specifications; (3) interact and align on priorities; (4) outreach, educate, and showcase. OGF events also enable our organization to develop value by providing a cadence and productive environment to progress our work; and communicate the value of grid and OGF to our target audiences.

Moving forward, OGF will hold several major events per year in addition to participating in various industry and research events. Major events will be scheduled in approximately 4 month intervals. These events will transition from a branding of GGFxx to OGFxx to reflect our new organization. In 2007, the following events are being planned:

OGF19/ January 29–February 2 Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA

This event will be a focused time where groups engage in productive sessions to advance specifications and other chartered work. The event will also include a program of content provided by our eScience and Enterprise functions.

OGF20/ May 7–11, Manchester, UK

This event will have a broader set of program offerings including an enterprise-focused track on grid adoption, a separate track exploring the uses of grids in eScience disciplines, and an opportunity for groups to engage in productive work and outreach to a broader set of stakeholders.

Plans for the remainder of 2007 will be finalized prior to the end of 2006. It is expected that at least one and possibly two events will be held in the second half of 2007 including a focused event like OGF19 and a repeat of this year's GridWorld event. Stay tuned for more information regarding the details of future OGF events.

Group Updates

New Groups:

OGSA Data Movement Interface Working Group (OGSA-DMI-WG)
Chairs: William E. Allcock, Michel Drescher
Email: ogsa-dmi-wg@ogf.org
GridForge: <http://forge.gridforum.org/sf/projects/ogsa-dmi-wg>

OGSA High Performance Computing Profile Working Group (OGSA-HPCP-WG)
Chairs: Marvin Theimer, Marty Humphrey
Email: ogsa-hpcp-wg@ogf.org
GridForge: <http://forge.gridforum.org/sf/projects/ogsa-hpcp-wg>

Storage Networking Community Group (SN-CG)
Chairs: Vincent Franceschini, Alan Yoder
Email: sn-cg@ogf.org
GridForge: <http://forge.gridforum.org/sf/projects/sn-cg>

Education & Training Research Group (TOE-RG)
Chairs: David Fergusson, Rosa Badia
Email: toe-rg@ogf.org
GridForge: <http://forge.gridforum.org/sf/projects/toe-rg>

Reliability and Robustness Research Group (GridRel-RG)
Chairs: Chris Dabrowski, Geoffrey Fox
Email: gridrel-rg@ogf.org
GridForge: <http://forge.gridforum.org/sf/projects/gridrel-rg>

New Published Documents

GFD.70

A Collection of Use Cases for a Simple API for Grid Applications

S. Jha, A. Merzky

OGF NEWS

Get involved in the open grid forum community

- 1 **Attend an Event**
OGF19: Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA
January 29-February 2, 2007
OGF20: Manchester, UK
May 7-11, 2007
- 2 **Join a group**
- 3 **Become a member**
- 4 **Contribute grid requirements**
For more information, visit www.ogf.org.

OGF People...who's who in the open grid forum

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