

# Software Licensing for Grids

An OGF Birds-of-a-Feather Session

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  - the ADCOM, or any member thereof on behalf of the ADCOM,
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# Agenda

- Review slides and notes from SC06 session
- Overview of OGF chartering process
- Discussion re: whether or not to charter
- Decision re: next steps

## **Desired Outcome:**

Decide if the topic of Software Licensing is sufficiently important and engaging to follow through with chartering a working/research/community group in OGF

Supercomputing 2006  
Roundtable Discussion Slides  
Presented at the UK e-Science Booth

# How to License Software for Grid Environments

*An OGF Roundtable Discussion*

Supercomputing 2006

Tampa, FL

November 14, 2006

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  - the IETF, any member thereof or member of the AD-CON,
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# What are the users' issues?

“I can't use grid computing because the software I need isn't licensed on those resources.”

# What are the users' issues?

- Licensing models
- License/access management
- Site licenses, especially in virtual organizations
- Flexibility of licensing, i.e. how can currently held licenses be used within Grids?
- Software installation on federated systems or virtual organizations
- Pay-as-you-go licensing doesn't encourage experimentation and the learning (i.e. make mistakes) process

# User & Organization Scenarios

- Multiple virtual organizations on a single physical system
- Multiple physical systems (geographically distributed) in a single VO
- Federated virtual organizations
- Site licenses and institutionally collaborative projects

# What are the vendors' issues?

- How do we make our software available and still be profitable?
- Longitudinal growth in the HPC community – allowing extensions developed by researchers to be distributed to colleagues without license issues becoming a barrier
- What can less agile companies learn from their more agile colleagues?
- Can we develop new license technologies that will help mitigate the risks and increase flexible profitability? E.g. user loads
- R&D, support, innovation

# What are the vendors' issues?

- Who are we licensing our product to? An individual, a traditional organization, etc. – what are the users' preferences?
- Usage-based licensing, pay-as-you-go – sounds like a good idea, but it's really hard to estimate revenue (or cost) streams
- Where is the growth in the market coming from? How can we address their needs?
- Cycle-scavenging grid model is a separate issue. This discussion is geared toward resource-sharing ('deliberate') grid organizations
- Metric usage – how to we collect it? What can we do with it? Let's use it to help refine our licensing models

# Can/will vendors make license models available as reference materials?

- Need to match the models with the use cases
- Open licenses (GPL, etc) are not the only answer
- Define the set of valid/viable user attributes
- Talk to business schools

# Contact info

- Research Group Home Page:  
[www.psc.edu/~lfm/Grid/PGS-RG](http://www.psc.edu/~lfm/Grid/PGS-RG)
- Research Group Mailing List:  
[pgs-rg@ogf.org](mailto:pgs-rg@ogf.org)
- Laura McGinnis:  
[lfm@psc.edu](mailto:lfm@psc.edu)
- David Wallom:  
[david.wallom@oerc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:david.wallom@oerc.ox.ac.uk)

# Next steps

- OGF mailing list
  - B'cards from SC06 + DW & LM
- Draft charter for working group
  - Outcome is whitepaper on licensing in grids
  - E-Science Function, Grid Operations Area
- Face-to-face in Manchester, UK (OGF20, May, 2007)?

# OGF Chartering

## Overview of Required Materials

**(text in blue has been agreed to by consensus or already exists)**

**(text in green is open for further discussion or will be determined at a later date)**

# OGF Chartering Process

- [www.ggf.org/documents/GFD.34.pdf](http://www.ggf.org/documents/GFD.34.pdf)
- **The Charter**
  - 1.1 Informational Section
  - 1.2 Charter
  - 1.3 Management Issues
  - 1.4 Pre-existing Document(s) (if any)
  - 1.5 Exit Strategy
  - 1.6 Any other relevant information

# 1.1 Information Section

- WGROUP Working Group **to be determined**
- Global Grid Forum, [AREA NAME] Area **to be determined**
- Administrative Information:
  - Name and Acronym: An acronym of 3-8 characters should be selected as an abbreviation for the working group in websites and mailing lists. The acronym should be unique within GGF **to be determined**
  - Chairs:
    - Name One, email **David Wallom**
    - Name Two, email **need a vendor here**
  - Secretary(s)/Webmaster(s) (both optional): **to be determined**
    - Name One, email
    - Name Two, email
  - Email list: **pgs-licensing@ogf.org**
    - wgroup-bof@ggf.org
    - [upon formation the group will have a mailing list acronym-wg@ggf.org, however an interim mailing list is often useful. ADs may also elect to request that a mailing list be provided to assist in group formation prior to approval.]
  - Web page: **to be established**
    - <http://forge.ggf.org/projects/wgroup-wg>
    - [upon formation the group website will be at <http://forge.ggf.org> however an interim web page is often useful.]

# 1.2 Charter

- Focus/Purpose – **to provide a forum for vendors and users to discuss licensing issues for software in grid environments**
- Scope –
  - **This group will...**
    - **Identify current and best practices for licensing software in grid environments**
      - This activity acknowledges that “current practices” are not always “best practices”. The distinction is significant for this topic and will be addressed appropriately
    - **Include users, vendors, license software vendors, and other interested stakeholders in the discussions**
    - **Support dissemination of functional and proof-of-concept implementations of software licensing models**
    - **Build critical community mass to influence vendors and license managers to mutual benefit**
  - **This group will not...**
    - **Develop a standard for licensing software**
- Goals - Deliverables, Milestones:
  - **Complete charter for OGF21 – via mailing list**
  - **Use Cases document – date TBD**
  - **Best/Current Practices document – date TBD**
  - **Gap Analysis – date TBD**

# 1.3 Management Issues

This Section shows evidence of commitments from the proposed working group chair(s) to carry out WG tasks

- The WG Chair is fundamentally a management role
  - excellent communication and organizational skills
  - in depth understanding of the topic area.
  - It is often a good strategy to have co-chairs including a topic expert and a strong manager.
- Time investment
  - Is the chairs' management supportive of the time commitment?
  - The group should make progress between and during GGF meetings, via concalls and mailing lists
  - Travel expectations, esp. for OGF meetings.
- Can the chair, commit to at least 4 hours per week to run this group?

## 1.4 Pre-existing Documents

- If there are background documents these are often useful to the Steering Group when evaluating whether a working group should form.
  - **Slide set from SC06 Roundtable**
  - **Summary document from SC06 Roundtable**
- In some cases the organizers may have already made progress on a draft document and wish to form a working group to involve the community in the work.

## 1.5 Exit Strategy

- A working group should normally have a lifetime of between 6 – 24 months.
- How will you know when you are finished?

**To be determined**

# 1.6 Other Relevant Information



- Include anything else that will help the GFSG decide if the group should be chartered
  - **Include mailing list members and their organizations, to show broad-based commitment to activity**

# GFSG Decision Criteria

1. Is the scope of the proposed group sufficiently focused?
2. Are the topics that the group plans to address clear and relevant for the Grid research, development, industrial, implementation, and/or application user community?
3. Will the formation of the group foster (consensus-based) work that would not be done otherwise?
4. Do the group's activities overlap inappropriately with those of another OGF group or to a group active in another organization such as IETF or W3C?
5. Are there sufficient interest and expertise in the group's topic, with at least several people willing to expend the effort that is likely to produce significant results over time?
6. Does a base of interested consumers (e.g., application developers, Grid system implementers, industry partners, end-users) appear to exist for the planned work?
7. Does the OGF have a reasonable role to play in the determination of the technology?

# Agenda - Outcome

- Review slides and notes from SC06 session - **done**
- Overview of OGF chartering process - **done**
- Discussion re: whether or not to charter - **yes**
- Decision re: next steps – **complete charter via mailing list**

Desired Outcome:

**Yes!**  
Decide if the topic of Software Licensing is sufficiently important and engaging enough to follow through with chartering a working/research/community group in OGF

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