Proposed Charter for the
Application Contents Service (ACS)
Working Group

Definition
The Application Contents Service (ACS) Working Group (WG) will focus on two main topics: a) Application Contents Repository service and its interfaces; and b) Application Contents Archive Format to be exchanged between Application Contents Repositories. Contents may include real entities or location pointers to, deployable contents such as program binaries and configuration data, descriptions of the hardware resources typically required by each component, and also various elements such as descriptions of procedures for lifecycle management and management policies typically applied to the running system.

Structure
Chairs: Keisuke Fukui kfukui@labs.fujitsu.com et al. (TBD)
Mailing List: acs-wg@gridforum.org
Web Site: TBD
Secretary: TBD

Charter
Focus/Purpose

In order to install and operate complex systems such as three-tier systems more efficiently and automatically, it is necessary to specify and manage as a unit a lot of different application related information. The Application Contents Service provides central management of such application information.

Contents may include real entities or location pointer to, deployable contents such as program binaries and configuration data, descriptions of the hardware resources typically required by each component, and also various elements such as descriptions of procedures for lifecycle management and management policies typically applied to the running system. Systems may already have a history of correct operation, including performance validation. Such information should also be included as part of the application information since it can be used by the Grid system to provide more predictable operation.
Hence, the proposed WG (ACS) will address how to: create an exchangeable Application Contents and enable its management operation over the Application Contents repositories.

Scope

There are many proprietary and open source systems that partially overlap ACS, but there is no consistent and standardized system or method which interoperates across various platforms, languages, and services/applications in a secure and reliable way. As examples, an ideal ACS would enable: exchange of the Application Contents deployable and executable among the conformant grid systems and to implement unified management operations of it on such systems.

Within group there exists extensive experience gained with one such system, called Business Grid project. The intent to promote its technologies as an open standard and/or to present its core part as an open source is expressed in a project goals.

Goals and Milestones

This group is chartered with the creation of the ACS specifications and it encourages companies and individuals to develop at least two reference implementations. We hope to accomplish the following specifications:

1. Application Contents Service Specification, which consists of two sub parts;
   a) Application Repository Interface (ARI), and
   b) Application Archive Format (AAF).

We hope to accomplish the following milestones:
- September 2004, GGF12:
  1. ACS charter discussion BOF is held
  2. Present initial intent as a draft ACS draft version 0.
- March 2005, GGF13:
  1. ACS WG fully formed and core charter members established;
  2. Completion of draft versions of the documents above.
- June 2005, GGF14
  1. Final drafts of documents.
- September 2005, GGF15
  1. preliminary reference implementations
- March 2006, GGF16:
1. Two interoperable reference implementations complete