European Grid Infrastructure

ROD Newsletter

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Introduction

This newsletter we have a number of topics for you, namely, the current middleware upgrade campaign that we are now in the middle of, a report of the COD face to face meeting in November last year, a review of the certification procedures and related structures in the GOCdb, the ROD Performance Index of the past few months and finally the upcoming community forum.

Input on the newsletter and Grid Oversight is very much welcomed by us. You can contact us by email at: central-operator-on-duty@mailman.egi.eu. Of course if there is anything unclear about operational procedures related to the Grid Oversight activity, you can always submit a GGUS ticket and assign it to the COD support unit. We are there to help you!!!

Retirement of obsolete middleware versions

In the beginning of October 2012 the process of retirement of gLite middleware has started. The tickets were created by COD directly to sites mainly to watch over CREAM and SBDII services. Then the new probes for WMS and dCache were added and tickets to sites not having such tickets yet were created. For technical reasons the VOMS services were not handled via security dashboard but via a master ticket in GGUS. Over 200 tickets have been created out of which only around 20 are still opened in the security dashboard (for 29.01.2012).

Since December 2012 there are also gLite WN/DPM/LFC alarms appearing in operational dashboard and they are handled by ROD teams according to the https://wiki.egi.eu/wiki/PROC16_Decommissioning_of_unsupported_software procedure. The deadline for retirement of gLite middleware is 31.01.2013.

The grid oversight team is now facing the EMI-1 retirement campaign. New probes are being developed. The new nagios instance for monitoring https://midmon.egi.eu/nagios/ is testing sites for obsolete EMI versions. The start of campaign is foreseen at 01.03.2013 and deadline for retirement of EMI-1 middleware is 30.04.2013. This process will be also followed up by the https://wiki.egi.eu/wiki/PROC16_Decommissioning_of_unsupported_software procedure.

Details of the middleware retirement calendar can be found at:
https://wiki.egi.eu/wiki/Software_Retirement_Calendar

COD face-to-face Meeting

On November 8th and 9th last year there was the COD face-to-face meeting in Krakow. A number of topics were discussed there, like middleware upgrade campaigns, status of the activity, the effectiveness of our follow-ups and COD internal matters.

Looking at the statistics since the beginning of the project it was apparent that the follow-up by means of GGUS tickets of the "unknowns", the ROD Performance Index and the Availability and Reliability had no effect, neither positive nor negative. The follow-up of the top-BDII availability had a positive effect initially but that has tapered off in the mean time. As a result we plan to stop a number of follow-ups by means of GGUS tickets but keep monitoring the appropriate metrics and approach the NGIs that have more structural problems and help this NGI to fulfill the OLA requirements rather than chasing NGIs that only incidentally do not make the OLA targets. We plan to become more of a support unit so to speak.

We have also discussed the review of site certification procedures, including test resources in the infrastructure and related structures in the GOCdb. This will be discussed in greater detail later on in this newsletter.

Another thing that we have discussed is a procedure for decommissioning obsolete middleware. These discussions have led to the procedure that we have now:
https://wiki.egi.eu/wiki/PROC16_Decommissioning_of_unsupported_software.

The minutes and presentations of the COD face-to-face meeting may be found at:
https://indico.egi.eu/indico/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=1243

Review of site certification procedures, test resources and the GOCdb

The last couple of months there have been extensive discussions between the GOCdb developers and COD about future developments of the GOCdb related to incorporating test resources, certification procedures etcetera.

Initially one resource could belong to only one site and one site could only belong to one target infrastructure. When different projects want to have different instances of the GOCdb and share resources at the same time, then downtimes need to be declared in multiple GOCdb instances.
The GOCdb developers came up with a very nice solution for this issue where sites are scoped to belong to different target infrastructures and resources that can be scoped to have multiple target infrastructures as defined by their parent site.

The proposal is to:

1. Site.scope will be used to identify the Target Infrastructure (i.e. Grid/Project) rather than 'Site.Production_Status value. The service endpoint scope, 'SE.scope', will be used to identify an SE's target infrastructure.
2. The scope value will be multi-selection, allowing a site or a service to be associated with more than one project.
3. The available option for 'SE.scope' will be limited to the values of its parent 'Site.scope'.
4. The 'Site.Production_Status' should be used to represent the sites over quality, i.e. production or test, and not its target infrastructure.
5. It will be possible to define a GIIS URL (site BDII) per target infrastructure.
6. The present certification statuses will remain.

The proposal has the following advantages:

1. If a site in "EGI Production" wants to test an experimental service in production. Then apart from "EGI Production", this site also scoped as "EGI Test". Its service endpoints are additionally scoped as "EGI Test" and the experimental service is ONLY scoped as EGI Test. Users that want to test the new service only need to look in the EGI Test BDII to find this sites service endpoints that are also used in EGI production as well as the experimental service. Since the experimental service is not in EGI Production it will have no effect on A/R in EGI Production. Users that do not want to see these experimental resources only need to look at the EGI Production BDII.

   This can also be an elegant solution for staged rollout.

2. Site certification. A site is scoped as "EGI Production" as well as "EGI Test". The same holds for all its resources. In EGI Production the site is uncertified while it is certified in EGI Test. If you would define the statuses as in the previous example above, certified in EGI production means monitoring, alarms, A/R and certified in EGI Test means just monitoring. Then the site is monitored and only part of the EGI Test BDII. If the site is OK for three days it can be certified in EGI Production. The good part is that the people running the NGI nagios do not have to do anything. The site has to register its resources in the GOCdb for EGI production and EGI_Test and configure the EGI test BDII on their Wns. That's all.

3. It is possible for resources to be shared by multiple target infrastructures. This means that a downtime of a resource has to be registered only once and all involved target infrastructures will know about it.

4. Things become much more clear and straightforward. "Visible to EGI" for sites and resources and Project Data like, Production Level, Beta and Monitored are not needed. However, something like Site.Production_Status can be retained if projects behind the target infrastructure desire to be able to indicate a quality level for a resource or if consistency between what is in the GOCdb and the Glue

schema is desired. Another reason to keep Site.Production_Status at least for the time being is that it is used by nagios and we will probably need this in the transition phase.

This proposal has been discussed in the December OMB (https://indico.egi.eu/indico/getFile.py/access?contribId=4&resId=0&materialId=slides&confId=1100).

ROD Performance Index

In this edition of ROD Newsletter we are presenting ROD performance index reports for October, November and December 2012.

For October the reasons for low performance reported by RODs were related to: issues after SAM upgrade, which prevented to clear alarms (2 NGIs), issues with Regional Dashboard, which made NGI_BY migrate to the central instance, manpower issues during the migration of sites out of ROC_IGALC related to the NGI decommissioning process, as well as ROD teams coordination issues. In November a bug was identified causing NGI_PL regional VO alarms being counted to RPI. This will hopefully be taken care of in the next dashboard version. In December the reasons for lower performance were not a revelation – lower support during Christmas holidays and New Year's Eve period has made the RPI high. A detail to notice – in December there is no longer NGI_IE on the NGI list.

More details for each month you can find in GGUS tickets where COD collects the data: https://wiki.egi.eu/wiki/Grid_operations_oversight/CODOD_actions#Monthly_Actions

2012-10

Ngi	Alarms	Tickets	Total
ROC_LA	0	53	53
NGI_BG	16	36	52
NGI_PL	15	6	21
NGI_MARGI	0	16	16
NGI_BY	9	1	10
NGI_DE	0	10	10
NGI_IT	0	10	10
NGI_NDGF	0	9	9
NGI_FRANCE	0	8	8
NGI_NL	3	5	8
NGI_HR	0	7	7
NGI_IL	0	6	6
NGI_UK	0	5	5
ROC_IGALC	0	5	5
AsiaPacific	0	5	5
NGI_IBERGRID	2	3	5
NGI_CH	4	0	4
NGI_RO	1	2	3
CERN	0	2	2
Russia	0	1	1
NGI_SK	0	0	0
NGI_TR	0	0	0
NGI_UA	0	0	0
ROC_Canada	0	0	0
EGI.eu	0	0	0
NGI_AEGIS	0	0	0
NGI_ARMGRID	0	0	0
NGI_BA	0	0	0
NGI_CYGRID	0	0	0
NGI_CZ	0	0	0
NGI_FI	0	0	0
NGI_GE	0	0	0
NGI_GRNET	0	0	0
NGI_HU	0	0	0
NGI_IE	0	0	0
NGI_MD	0	0	0
NGI_ME	0	0	0
NGI_SI	0	0	0

2012-11

Ngi	Alarms	Tickets	Total
NGI_DE	50	14	64
ROC_LA	6	24	30
NGI_ME	0	18	18
NGI_BG	13	0	13
NGI_IL	5	6	11
ROC_IGALC	4	7	11
NGI_HU	0	10	10
NGI_CH	9	0	9
NGI_HR	0	8	8
NGI_NDGF	0	8	8
NGI_NL	4	4	8
NGI_FRANCE	0	5	5
NGI_MARGI	3	2	5
AsiaPacific	0	4	4
NGI_UK	0	4	4
NGI_IBERGRID	0	3	3
NGI_RO	3	0	3
Russia	0	3	3
NGI_IT	0	2	2
NGI_TR	2	0	2
NGI_BY	0	1	1
NGI_PL	0	1	1
ROC_Canada	0	1	1
CERN	0	0	0
EGI.eu	0	0	0
NGI_AEGIS	0	0	0
NGI_ARMGRID	0	0	0
NGI_BA	0	0	0
NGI_CYGRID	0	0	0
NGI_CZ	0	0	0
NGI_FI	0	0	0
NGI_GE	0	0	0
NGI_GRNET	0	0	0
NGI_IE	0	0	0
NGI_MD	0	0	0
NGI_SI	0	0	0
NGI_SK	0	0	0
NGI_UA	0	0	0

2012-12

Ngi	Alarms	Tickets	Total
NGI_DE	86	52	138
NGI_NL	2	48	50
CERN	46	0	46
ROC_LA	0	42	42
NGI_TR	0	36	36
NGI_BG	23	8	31
ROC_Canada	2	24	26
NGI_CH	9	8	17
NGI_AEGIS	0	15	15
Russia	0	13	13
NGI_CYGRID	11	0	11
NGI_IT	0	11	11
NGI_RO	10	1	11
AsiaPacific	0	9	9
NGI_FRANCE	5	4	9
NGI_BY	0	8	8
ROC_IGALC	4	2	6
NGI_SI	0	5	5
NGI_UA	0	4	4
NGI_GRNET	1	2	3
NGI_PL	0	1	1
NGI_UK	0	1	1
EGI.eu	0	0	0
NGI_ARMGRID	0	0	0
NGI_BA	0	0	0
NGI_CZ	0	0	0
NGI_FI	0	0	0
NGI_GE	0	0	0
NGI_HR	0	0	0
NGI_HU	0	0	0
NGI_IBERGRID	0	0	0
NGI_IL	0	0	0
NGI_MARGI	0	0	0
NGI_MD	0	0	0
NGI_ME	0	0	0
NGI_NDGF	0	0	0
NGI_SK	0	0	0

Community Forum

As you all probably know, the community forum this year will be held in Manchester. The COD will organize a 1.5 hour session there. The programme is not finalised yet but the topics will be related to COD activities and operational tools. So come to the community forum!!!!!