CGCC ISSeG: Integrated Site Security for Grids





Grid computing is a reality. Emerging from a phase of technology development and test-beds, major Grid infrastructures are rapidly entering production and are used daily for a wide range of international scientific collaborations.

Many major Grid projects, such as Enabling Grids for E-sciencE (EGEE) and the LHC Computing Grid (LCG) in Europe, the Open Science Grid (OSG) in the United States and the National Research Grid Initiative (NAREGI) in Japan, are actively working to provide reliable secure Grid systems, necessary for shared access to massive computing resources. While this work is crucial to the success of Grid computing, it must be complemented by more fundamental, site-level security, to ensure users have the confidence to make Grid computing a part of their day-to-day work.

Vision

This project's vision is that Grid security, which focuses on inter-site security, middleware and authentication, needs to be complemented by a comprehensive Integrated Site Security (ISS) strategy for all participating Grid sites. Integrated Site Security for Grids (ISSeG) advocates a practical approach rather than the invention of a new paradigm: integrating technical, administrative and educational security solutions, and developing them in a consistent and coordinated way. This integration ensures policies, rules, awareness and training all evolve in step with technological developments.



The ISS approach – integrating security solutions

Drawing on existing best-practices, the project aims to provide a set of recommendations for the numerous scientific institutions that form the Grid community. Furthermore, these recommendations should be relevant not only to Grid sites but also to the many organisations and institutes that must balance the need for open collaboration, so fundamental to modern research, with the security of their computing resources.

Technical Approach

The ISSeG project will begin by deploying ISS at two Grid sites, tailoring the strategies and implementation tasks to the different users, resources and requirements. Through these two deployments, the project will develop generalised recommendations for scientific sites to improve their computer security measures.

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These recommendations will then be developed into training resources, which will provide advice on a number of levels, such as for general users, application developers and system administrators. These resources will be piloted and refined through a range of meetings, conferences, workshops and schools. The resulting site recommendations, guidelines and training resources will be spread throughout the Grid community, using the project's affiliation with several projects including EGEE, ICEAGE, and BELIEF.



The ISSeG Process

The ISSeG Consortium

The ISSeG consortium comprises three large scientific centres, all involved in major Grid projects, such as EGEE. The project is led by the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Switzerland, and includes Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe (FZK) in Germany, and the Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils (CCLRC) based in the United Kingdom. ISSeG is co-funded by the European Commission – project number 026745.

The EGEE Project

ISSeG is an EGEE related project. The second phase of the EGEE project is cofunded by the EU to build a 24/7 Grid Production Service for scientific research. Already serving many scientific disciplines, it aims to provide academic and industrial researchers with access to major computing resources, independent of their location. The EGEE project is led by CERN and involves over 90 partner institutions across Europe, Asia and the United States.

Contact Information

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