



EGI releases the first Unified Middleware Distribution

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Press release – *for immediate release*

The software provisioning team at the European Grid Infrastructure (EGI) has released the first version of the Unified Middleware Distribution. This is a major milestone in providing a consistent platform for all researchers in the European Research Area to gain access to suitable and integrated computing resources.

For many years the European grid has been offering researchers a distributed computing system across different middleware solutions and in that time has provided almost 2.5 billion CPU hours to scientists across Europe. EGI has been working with external technology providers to offer a set of well-defined, stable and general-purpose software components to meet their needs. The chosen components are collectively known as the Unified Middleware Distribution (UMD) and have been verified to work in the environment used within EGI. The first version of the UMD that successfully passed all testing procedures was released last week, with further versions anticipated in the near future.

Every research community has different goals and requirements for their computing and data needs and many have developed and maintained their own solutions, which work for them. The goal of the UMD is to provide a system that the community's existing solutions can easily plug in to, not replace, so that these solutions can be deployed at scale across Europe. So for the last year EGI and its partners have been working with technology providers and users to work out what they need to offer as a sustainable base on which users can build.

Leading the work has been Michel Drescher, EGI's Technical Manager, he is excited by what they have achieved. "Just getting this far has been a mammoth task. We have consulted a huge range of stakeholders, reviewed every software package on the grid and come up with what we believe provides the best support structure we can. This is however only a first step, we will learn a lot from this initial deployment to improve future releases".

Technical Description

UMD 1.0.0 is the first release of UMD-1 (Unified Middleware Distribution) made available for the European Grid Infrastructure. This initial release will contain only the most critical products from EGI's Technology Providers as agreed by the TCB (Technology Coordination Board) on behalf of the EGI community.

Contact Info

For further information about the UMD, its goals and surrounding processes, and more information about how to engage as a Technology Provider with EGI, please send an Email to: [cto \(at\) egi.eu](mailto:cto@egi.eu).

Further links

<http://www.egi.eu/deployed-technology/technology-roadmap/>
<http://repository.egi.eu/2011/07/11/release-umd-1-0-0/>



Notes for Editors

European Grid Infrastructure (EGI) is a federation of resource providers set-up to deliver sustainable, integrated and secure computing services to European researchers and their international partners.

EGI.eu is a foundation established under Dutch law to create and maintain a pan-European Grid Infrastructure (EGI) in collaboration with National Grid Initiatives (NGIs) and European International Research Organisations (EIROs), to guarantee the long-term availability of a generic e-infrastructure for all European research communities and their international collaborators. Its mission is to enable access to computing resources for European researchers from all fields of science, from High Energy Physics to Humanities.

EGI-InSPIRE (European Grid Infrastructure – Integrated Sustainable Pan-European Infrastructure for Researchers in Europe) is a collaborative effort involving more than 50 institutions in over 40 countries. The associated European Grid Infrastructure (EGI) includes in excess of 300 sites across 50 countries, offering around 240,000 processor cores, and more than 100 petabytes of tape and disk storage. The infrastructure is available to users around the clock achieving a sustained workload of half a million computer tasks, or jobs, every day.

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