



Access Grid Documentation Project

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Computational Science Alliance

AGDP Status Report

- ◆ Progress to-date
- ◆ Needs and upcoming questions
- ◆ How to join the AGDP





Progress To-date

January 2001 – March 2002

AGDP Year One

- ◆ Determined concepts and infrastructure
- ◆ Recruited review team
- ◆ Recruited document authors
 - Special nod to AGiB tutorials
- ◆ Published documents



Determined Concepts and Infrastructure

- ◆ Following model of the Linux Documentation Project (<http://www.linuxdoc.org/>)
 - Open source license
 - Peer-review for all new docs and revisions
 - SGML DocBook format for repository
 - CVS repository



Recruited Review Team

- ◆ Eleven people at 7 organizations
 - Led by Jim Miller, inSORS Integrated Communications
 - Other orgs represented: ANL, BU, NCSA, U. Maine, U. Montana, PNL
- ◆ Review process is highly iterative – it's important for both author and review team to be satisfied with final version



Recruited Authors

- ◆ Thirteen authors, with at least one AGDP doc published or currently in review, represent:
 - Argonne National Laboratory
 - Boston University
 - CalTech
 - University of Illinois at Chicago (EVL)
 - inSORS Integrated Communications
 - NCSA
 - OSC
 - University of Kentucky



Special Nod to AGiB Tutorials

- ◆ A substantial project in its own right
 - Four tutorials published, plus one currently in review
 - Additional tutorial in the works:
Troubleshooting
- ◆ AGDP review process integrated into larger public review process



Our Current Library

- ◆ 13 documents currently online, including:
 - AG Hardware Specification
 - Building an Access Grid Node
 - Guide to Distributed PowerPoint
 - How to Produce an AG Event (Tutorial)
 - Tips for Effective Communications
- ◆ Four additional docs in review



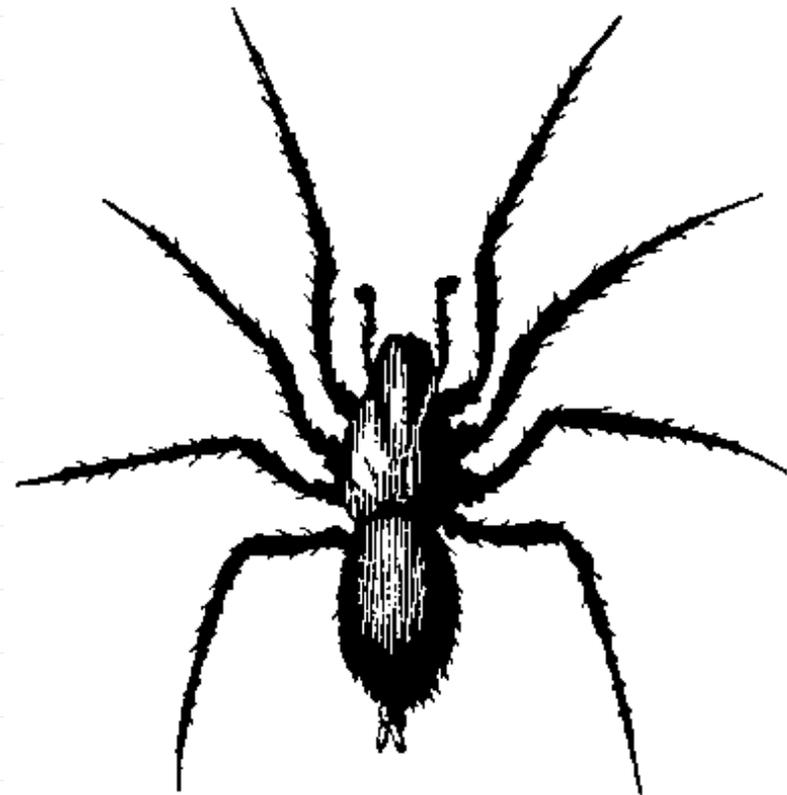
Alliance AGiB

- ◆ Contributed four documents to release 1.0:
 - Building an AG Node
 - Guide to Distributed PowerPoint
 - How to Start Up an AG Node with Virtual Venues
 - How to Use the Venues MOO



Web Site Usage

- ◆ June – December 2001: Averaged more than 9,100 page views/month
 - Take this with a grain of salt – it's not clear how well we've excluded spiders





Needs and Upcoming Questions

Meet More Users' Needs

- ◆ We have a lot of docs on our wish list!
- ◆ We are currently under-serving:
 - Intermediate and advanced users
 - Network, administrative, and managerial staff
 - [your name here?]



AG Reference Release 2.0

- ◆ Serve as documentation working group
 - Reference release docs may or may not be sufficiently polished for AGDP review approval and subsequent publication
- ◆ Our priority will be remaining flexible in supporting the development effort



AG 2.0 Derived Releases

- ◆ Publish supporting documentation online which can be bundled with any or all derived releases
 - Because of the licensing, you can develop and publish derivations of the docs as well, on the AGDP or in any way you choose



Conceptual Expansion?

- ◆ Current domain is tightly focused on what the AG is and how to implement and use it
- ◆ Is the AGDP the right place for other types of documents?
 - Papers about AG events
 - Analysis of AG use (stats? surveys?)
 - Studies of the AG



Change in Licensing?

- ◆ AG Packaging Initiative moving to BSD-style license; AGDP will likely follow
 - AGDP by definition will always be open source



Change in File Formats?

◆ SGML DocBook

- Publishing more difficult than anticipated, especially with regard to PDF
- Do the advantages outweigh the difficulties? (They may or may not)

[Your Topic Here]

- ◆ As new people get involved in the AGDP, new issues and questions will arise – which is good!





How to Join the AGDP

Many of You Already Have

◆ Show of hands:

- Wrote one or more documents?
- Reviewed or tested one or more documents?
- Participated in general AGDP discussion on agdp@accessgrid.org list?
- Contributed to the AGDP's work in another way?



If You're Developing Software

- ◆ Submit your user documentation to the AGDP
 - The AGDP is intended to include user documentation for software both within and outside of standard AG software releases



If You'd Like to Write

- ◆ Choose a topic
 - From our Wish List and list of works-in-progress, or come up with a topic of your own
- ◆ Read our Authors' Guide
- ◆ Send mail to agdp-coordinate@accessgrid.org to let us know what you're planning to do
 - A bit of discussion before you start writing can make the review process easier for everybody



Many Ways to Write

- ◆ Share your existing expertise
- ◆ Develop new skills: Research a topic in order to write on it
- ◆ If you would like to share your expertise but don't enjoy writing, we can try to match you up with a co-author
 - . . . So, we'd like to hear from confident writers to match up in this way 😊



If You'd Like to Review Docs

- ◆ We are always interested in new review team members who have one or more of:
 - Intermediate or advanced AG technical skills
 - Editorial and proofreading skills
 - Time and equipment available to test step-by-step instructions
- ◆ Please speak with Jim Miller or me



If You'd Like to Help Generally

- ◆ Join the general mailing list, for discussions of interest to the whole AGDP community
 - The discussion items I've noted today will be brought up on that list soon
- ◆ Send mail to majordomo@accessgrid.org, with "subscribe agdp" in body of message (omit quotes)



Contact Info

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