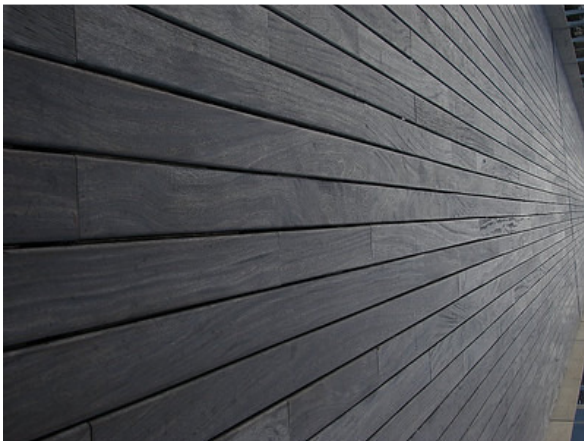


## Addressing the Challenges of a fast-changing IT Landscape

Industry Expert Group: Fabrizio Gagliardi, Microsoft Research  
Tutorials, Sergio Andreozzi, OGF-Europe  
OGF24

### *The Road to Standardisation – Many Paths, One Way*

The use of distributed computing is transforming the IT landscape in the shift towards an increasingly global, knowledge-based economy. Applied distributed computing is critical to developing new, innovative and scalable applications and infrastructures that advance commerce and science. OGF-Europe aims to address key challenges in relation to setting standards for grids, cloud computing, service oriented architecture, virtualisation, web 2.0 and other emerging technologies.



*Many Paths, One Way*

Image courtesy of Sergio Andreozzi, Barcelona 2007

OGF-Europe is aligned with OGF (Open Grid Forum), the global forum in which people in research, business and government work together to ensure that the infrastructure of the knowledge-based economy is open and barrier free. OGF & OGF-Europe champion the adoption and evolution of distributed computing technologies and are committed to connecting user groups to share best practices and transform them into standards.

Engagement with end-users, developers, and researchers in both the private and public sectors is key to bringing best practices into sharp focus and to pushing the drive towards global standardisation. By interacting with different sectors OGF-Europe ensures that the standards work within OGF is catered to real-world user problems.

To maximise outcomes, OGF-Europe co-ordinates an Industry Expert Group (IEG) comprising a distinguished panel of experts chartered with evaluating how the adoption of applied distributed computing is transforming commercial enterprise and in ensuring Europe plays a leading role in fostering best practices, interoperability and standardisation around the core work of OGF.

### ***Mobilising European Enterprises to Drive Best Practices & Standards, Fabrizio Gagliardi, Microsoft Research, Chair of OGF-Europe's Industry Expert Group***

The fast-changing world of distributed computing makes it hard to forecast future adoption trends & needs. 2007 was marked by virtualisation going mainstream in the data centre while in 2008 cloud computing is increasingly being hailed as one of the most significant new approaches. As the focus shifts towards cost effectiveness, lower environmental impact, on-demand facilities for final users & the virtualisation of resources, standardisation organisations need to continuously re-assess users' requirements and keep abreast of the challenges facing enterprises.

The pro-active Industry Expert Group set up within OGF-Europe is part of a strategic process that will ensure that specific actions are driven by these requirements. This innovative approach means that OGF-Europe can increase direct contact with EU businesses and analyse their specific needs within the overall standardisation process at the rate that industry would like.

OGF and OGF-Europe are in process of investigating the transition towards cloud computing and data services. To this end, input from industry will be

essential and it is on this that much of work of the IEG will focus. The shift towards cloud computing and data services will involve mobilising EU enterprises and ensure that the OGF-Europe agenda is consistent with their business needs and strategies.

OGF-Europe will be truly instrumental in bridging the gap between the process underway in OGF and the needs of industry. This is especially true for SMEs, which are probably the prime beneficiaries of the distributed computing model promoted by OGF. The new understanding of requirements across verticals will bring value-add to the adoption challenge reports and user requirement surveys delivered by OGF-Europe over the next two years. This insight will prove valuable in enabling policy-makers to wisely drive technology change and business players to innovate through their engagement with standards.

The launch of the IEG at OGF23 offers a real opportunity to build on the momentum of distributed computing in Europe, and ultimately globally. The IEG offers a forum for exchanges between high-level experts with a balanced mix of players from enterprise, policy-making bodies, the research community and members from other standardisation bodies to ensure all voices are heard.

Members will recommend effective ways of integrating trends and needs into the current and future applied distributed computing environment and will participate actively in the outreach seminars focusing on a range of user communities. OGF-Europe and the IEG will also play a key role in terms of integration challenges with business applications as well as with general IT operations management by educating the business community and bringing into sharp focus best practices across diverse sectors.

#### **Industry Expert Group:**

Fabrizio Gagliardi, Microsoft Research, Chair  
David Abramson, Monash University  
Avner Algom, IGT  
John Easton, IBM  
Vincent Franceschini, Hitachi Data  
Rhys Francis, Australian eResearch Infrastructure Council  
Joerg Freund, Siemens  
Andrea Manieri, Engineering  
Inder Monga, Nortel Networks  
Daniel Scheibli, SAP  
Bernhard Schott, Platform Computing  
Satoshi Sekiguchi, AIST  
Raffaele Sgherri, Avanade  
David Snelling, Fujitsu Labs Europe  
Paul Strong, eBay  
Martin Walker, formerly HP  
Gabriel Zaquine, BT France.

### ***OGF-Europe Tutorials, Sergio Andreozzi, OGF-Europe***

A key part of the process of delivering real solutions and tangible benefits for enterprise and science is developing skill sets needed to implement the specifications defined by OGF Working Groups. OGF-Europe Tutorials are aimed at honing skills to speed up this process.

As Mike Jackson from the OGSA-DAI Project Team points out, "it is rare that a single software product is used in isolation. Specifications provide the means by which products from different vendors can inter-operate and so permit the construction of solutions to address complex problems in science, industry or commerce".

Attended by over 60 people, the first series of tutorials within OGF23 in Barcelona last June demonstrated that they are an important component of the OGF agenda and a most rewarding experience for experts and attendants alike.



Mike Jackson, OGSA-DAI Project Team, at OGF23

As a developer of a product for data access and integration, Mike Jackson and the OGSA-DAI team view tutorials on Grid specifications as being of great importance. "Tutorials provide an avenue by which we can inform current and potential users about how we conform, or are working to conform, to

various Web and Grid specifications. This can assist users in making informed choices as to whether our software meets their requirements and will integrate well with other products they require", says Jackson.



Aleksandr Konstantinov, assisting trainees at OGF23

"These tutorials are valuable in allowing us to keep abreast of evolving specifications, contribute to their evolution, and determine which specifications are most relevant to us and our users", says Jackson.

Grid developers, users and newcomers can all benefit from gaining skills for the implementation of standard specifications and a hands-on approach to technologies that are crucial for innovation and for advancing enterprise and science. Both objectives are at the core of OGF-Europe's tutorials.

Feedback from attendants at OGF23 is helping to shape future tutorials, which will not just enhance the hands-on approach but also focus on future trends in Europe and globally, demonstrating where standards are still needed and how different standards relate and could be combined.

#### Sample of OGF-Europe Tutorials:

- ❖ Managing computational activities on the grid, exploring core OGF standards, such as OGSA-BES, JSDL, HPC-BP and the upcoming GLUE. As the gLite, UNICORE & ARC middleware are implementing these standards, it is important to try out the working systems and stimulate early feedback.
- ❖ The management of storage spaces and files in complex storage systems using the SRM (Storage Resource Manager) OGF specification also features in the tutorial agenda.
- ❖ Specific aspects of data access and integration with special reference to the OGSA-DAI software product. Attendants can gain experience of a large number of application scenarios and see how they relate to the WS-DAI specification.



Morris Riedl, Jülich Supercomputing Centre, delivering a Tutorial

#### OGF-Europe In-depth Tutorials:

For more information on OGF-Europe Tutorials, visit the dedicated section on the website:

<http://www.ogfeurope.eu/index.php/home/in-depth-tutorials>

#### *OGF On the Road - OGF24, 15-19 September 2008, Biopolis Industrial Park, Singapore*

Building on a series of successful events in the USA and Europe, OGF returns to Asia-Pacific in beautiful Singapore for OGF24, co-located with the GridAsia 2008 event, and hosted by Singapore Grid Forum.

OGF24 will connect distributed computing experts, developers, and users with OGF's global community to discuss emerging trends, showcase best practices

and success stories, and push forward standardisation.

OGF24 features high-level keynotes, sessions by chartered groups and Birds of a Feather (BoF), as well as sessions dedicated to distributed computing technology and its adoption. OGF24 is a multi-faceted event that explores diverse themes of interest to the global community.

### OGF24 Key Features:

- Case studies of distributed computing environments in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Cloud computing and virtualisation and other emerging technologies.
- Data management in distributed environments.
- Application development & deployment in a distributed environment.
- Distributed computing usage in scientific domains and commercial sectors.
- OGF Specification Adoption sessions demonstrating the impact of OGF's specifications and best practices in science and commerce.
- Enterprise Adoption and Case studies of business uses of distributed computing technologies.
- Best practice development sessions focusing on key challenges and possible solutions.
- International Co-operation.

Deadline for Advanced Registration &  
Submission of Session Proposals:  
**8 August 2008**  
<http://www.ogf.org/OGF24/>

### *OGF-Europe: Looking Back, Looking Forward*

1<sup>st</sup> International Event, OGF23, 2-6 June 2008,  
Barcelona, Spain.

**Community Outreach Seminar** on Digital Repositories. The Seminar brought together over 70 people from business, government and research to share best practices, showcase success stories and discuss how the community can drive forward standardisation through a new, dedicated Working Group. Presentations were delivered by Krystyna Marek, GÉANT & e-Infrastructures Unit, INFOSO, European Commission; Fabrizio Gagliardi, Microsoft Research; Andreas Aschenbrenner, Goettingen University; Mark Hedges, Arts & Humanities e-Support Centre, Centre for e-Research, London (UK); and Hans Pfeiffenberger, Alfred Wegener Institut, as well as five EC-funded projects: GENESI-DR; DEGREE; Euro-AIDA; D4Science; and EGEE.

Future Seminars will focus on issues important to the European business community. Five more seminars are planned between autumn 2008 and early 2010.

A first series of **In-depth Tutorials** on specifications for computational activities, storage management and OGSA-DAI software, with the planning of more tutorials in progress.

**GIN Workshop** – an important area of co-operation with technical experts and EGEE is the ongoing work of the GIN group within OGF. The Workshop at OGF23 has helped GIN to evolve into a result-driven group to accelerate standardisation adoption. GIN is now planning to support more proactive workshops on integrating OGF standards for Job Management in Production Scenarios.

**Student Scholarship Programme** - five scholars actively participated at OGF23. Reports on their experiences of distributed computing will be published on the OGF-Europe website in coming weeks.

### *OGF25, 2-6 March 2009, Le Ciminiere, Catania, Italy*

OGF-Europe's 2nd International Event is co-located with the EGEE User Forum & hosted by INFN. OGF-Europe & EGEE will spearhead efforts to broaden discussion on interoperability and standardisation in Europe.

OGF25 aims to showcase EU achievements and bring distributed computing technologies to the attention of organisations in the private and public sectors that have not yet looked at these

technologies for their innovation. More information to come soon on respective websites.



Catania, Italy – Backdrop for OGF25