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21/04/2003 07:12 PM

This document expires on
20/07/2003

To: Benjamin Khoo/Singapore/IBM@IBMSG, Michael
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cc:

From: Stacey Ann Phillips/Singapore/IBM@IBMSG

Subject: ComputerWorld - - S'pore outlines permanent grid plan

Hi Benjamin, Michael,

Just in case you haven't seen this.

   Singapore (Apr 18-24) ComputerWorld - - S'pore outlines permanent grid plan
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http://www.idg.com.sg/pcwsg.nsf/unidlookup/27479A2A7A25CC8248256D08000E9706?Op
enDocument
The National Grid Project Office is aiming to create a permanent inter-grid
between National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological
University (NTU), Institute of High Performance Computing (IHPC) and the
Singapore Massachusetts Institute of Technology Alliance.
By Louis Chua

The National Grid Project Office is aiming to create a permanent inter-grid
between National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological
University (NTU), Institute of High Performance Computing (IHPC) and the
Singapore Massachusetts Institute of Technology Alliance. The Pilot Platform
Grid project aims to create a more permanent grid. Targeted to be ready at the
third quarter of this year, the Pilot Platform Grid will be running live
applications on a more permanent basis.

"We hope to start small and build success stories," said Lee Hing Yan (left),
deputy director, National Grid Project Office. "When people find value in it,
we will expand on it." Lee was speaking at the first Physical Science and Grid
Computing Symposium which was held recently. The National Grid Project Office
was set up in 1 January 2003 to facilitate the long-term goal of transforming
the Singapore economy using grid computing.

Presently, there is an inter-grid between NTU, IHPC and NUS known as the
Science and Engineering Research grid (SER-grid). This is a test bed grid used
for experimental purposes such as trying out different middleware. "However,
this inter-grid is not always on," admitted Lee. According to Professor Teo
Yong Meng, the understanding of grid systems is already relatively well
developed and has leveraged on knowledge gathered in the past for distributed
computing. However, he said, the grid programming model still has some
limitations. For example, it is not clear how debugging of grid software
should be done.

Participants at the symposium agreed that there is a need to design better
middleware and tools for engineers to use, and to create a more powerful and
user friendly interface. More research and development is also needed in the
areas of collaborative visualisation and to develop new techniques to map
parallel applications in grids.

For grid computing to have a prominent role in the commercial world, it must
also first prove that it brings economic benefits, said IHPC professor Kurichi
Kumar.

"Sharing is a dirty word," said Teo. It gives the connotation of being free
which does not quite gel with the commercial world. Grid computing, according
to Teo, is meant to take advantage of under-utilised resources and not "free"

as in without costs.

Benjamin Khoo, IT Availability Specialist at IBM and co-author of an IBM Redbook on high performance computing, said one way to commercial viability is to have the grids exposed as services for which users will pay or earn, depending on whether they are providing the services or consuming the services.

The National Grid Project Office is at http://www.ngp.org.sg.

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