

Requests for Non-Grid Access to UK Tier 1 Centre

INTRODUCTION

A staged approach was agreed by GridPP for migration of the UK Tier 1 Centre to Grid-only access as follows:

- 1) Experiments first need to establish that Castor is a stable Grid storage solution for their needs and they were therefore requested to test Castor and to be in a position to make a statement about its adoption by *December 2007*.
- 2) Experiments start to test Grid User Interfaces (UI) on other computing clusters besides the Tier 1 centre and were in a position to report by *December 2007* on any outstanding issues or problems in adopting this approach. Any use cases for special treatment (production management, VO hardship, etc) to be identified at this point.
- 3) The PBS "qsub" command is withdrawn from *11 January 2008*, obliging experiments to use Grid submission (e.g. "edg-job submit"). Any further special cases are identified.
- 4) Direct logon to the Tier 1 is disabled (except for special cases) from *February 2008*. Access to the UI on the Tier 1 is restricted (except for special cases) from *February 2008*. This obliges experiments to submit work via the Grid from an external UI.
- 5) The "classic" User Registration Service on the Tier 1 is finally terminated (except for special cases) at the *end of March 2008*.

The final termination of the dCache storage system is also now scheduled (6 month notice given by Andrew on 26.11.07) to happen by *end May 2008*.

SPECIAL CASES

1) LHC Experiments

The LHC experiments submitted the following cases prior to the UB meeting on 4.12.2007.

LHC Experiments				
Experiment	Submitter	Scope	UI - Direct Logon	qsub access
ATLAS	B. Davies	Individual	Yes	Yes
CMS	J. Jackson	Individual+2 others	Yes	Yes
LHCb	R. Nandakumar	Two IDS for experiment	Yes	Yes

At the actual meeting, it was also noted that it would be useful for the experiments to have generic production identifiers which could be shared by individuals (subject to the usual security caveats).

Recommendation 1: For each LHC experiment, of the order of 6 identifiers should be allowed continued non-Grid access to the Tier 1 Centre, including logon to the User Interface and the ability to use the "qsub" command for batch submission. Generic identifiers should be allowed where this helps with management of experiment production. Experiments to confirm the identifiers.

2) BaBar

The outstanding BaBar requirements were discussed at a meeting on 18.12.07 and the non-Grid aspects are summarised in the table below.

BaBar			
Activity	UI	qsub	AFS
4 production identifiers for bookkeeping, s/w maintenance, MC production and Objectivity.	Yes	Yes	Yes
6 individual identifiers and home directories.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Merging of skim jobs – qsub access for 10 jobs/time until March 2008.	-	Yes	-

Recommendation 2: *The above exceptions are allowed for BaBar (the AFS service having previously been agreed).*

3) MINOS

A comprehensive document (<http://www.gridpp.ac.uk/eb/041207/nongrid-MINOS.htm>) was received from MINOS.

MINOS		
Activity	UI	qsub
VO Support: 2 identifiers	Yes	Yes
MC Production: 2 identifiers	Yes	Yes
UK Analysis: ~20 identifiers until full migration to Castor (assume end May)	Yes	Yes

MINOS has clearly suffered from the overall delays to Castor 2.1.4 and a lack of dedicated disk in Castor. The problems of how to efficiently handle “small” experiments in the generic Castor instance were highlighted at the weekly Castor meeting held on 19 December. This needs to be progressed before the non-LHC experiments can really adopt the non-Grid model.

Recommendation 3: *MINOS is allowed 4 identifiers (VO support and MC production) for continued non-Grid access (UI and qsub). Another 20 identifiers are allowed to continue for UK analysis until full migration to Castor has been achieved – no later than end of May.*

4) CALICE

One identifier (Manuel Stanitzski) for setting up and testing of software (UI and qsub).
Paul Dauncey - for access to CALICE DAQ machines behind RAL firewall (doesn't need Tier 1 access).

Recommendation 4: *Both of these to be allowed to continue. For the firewall issue, another route needs to be established beside the Tier 1 front-end machines. Access to the Bastion Host machine (and identifiers) for non-RAL staff should be pursued.*