WLCG Management Board #303

Date/Time	**Tuesday, 20 December 2022 16:00 - 18:00 (ZOOM MEETING)**
Agenda	https://indico.cern.ch/event/1097694/ (Version 2.0 – 12.01.2023)
Participants	Julia Andreeva, Stefano Bagnasco, Douglas Benjamin, Concezio Bozzi, David Britton, Simone Campana, Daniele Cesini, Peter Clarke, Alessandro Di Girolamo, Dirk Duellmann, Katarzyna Maria Dziedziniewicz-Wojcik, Tiziana Ferrari, Josep Flix, Domenico Giordano, Takanori Hara, Eric Lançon, James Letts, Maarten Litmaath, Zach Marshall, David Mason, Alberto Pace, Andreas Petzold, Stefano Piano, Danilo Piparo, Andrea Sciabà (notes), Elizabeth Sexton-Kennedy, Oxana Smirnova, Randall Sobie, Graeme Stewart, Reda Tafirout, Ueda, Andrea Valassi, Romain Wartel, Arne Wiebalck, Eric Yen
Excused	Helge Meinhard
Action List	https://twiki.cern.ch/twiki/bin/view/LCG/MbActionList
Mailing List Archive	https://groups.cern.ch/group/worldwide-lcg-management-board/default.aspx
Next Meeting	**Tuesday, 17 January 2023 16:00 - 18:00**

1. Minutes and Matters arising (Minutes)

The minutes of the last MB meeting are approved.

Matters arising:
- New Tier-1 candidates
  - Simone Campana reports that two WLCG Sites, IHEP (China) and NCBJ (Poland) are undergoing the procedure to become Tier-1 sites, initially for LHCb. They presented their plans to the Overview Board, which endorsed them as "proto-T1" sites. The MB will set up a series of milestones together with the sites and the experiments and monitor the progress, starting early next year. *Simone proposes that the MB recommends to the OB to grant full Tier-1 status when all milestones have been achieved.* Congratulations to the sites for completing the first step.

2. Action List Review (List of actions)

The review did not take place due to time constraints.

3. WLCG Service Report

Summary of status and progress of WLCG Operations. This report covers highlights of WLCG Operations Coordination and details of WLCG activities in the five weeks since the date of the cancelled MB November meeting. The summaries of all operations meetings are always available here: https://twiki.cern.ch/twiki/bin/view/LCG/WLCGOperationsMeetings.

Maria Dziedziniewicz-Wojcik presents the slides attached to the agenda. The following comments are noted:
- Answering to a question from Simone Campana, Maarten Litmaath clarifies that the CERN top BDII (lcg-bdii.cern.ch) will be shut down for good early 2023, as none of the LHC experiments needs it. The top BDII provided by EGII will serve as "catch-all" BDII for other Virtual Organisations. All the communities concerned with the change will be informed. Simone thanks again EGI for providing the new top BDII service.

4. WLCG Flat Budget Discussion

Simone Campana reports on the progress from the study group on the redefinition of the flat budget model. David Britton presented the matter and the goals of this activity at the OB meeting on 8 December, where the following next steps were agreed:

- Get a better estimate of what a flat budget can buy. This requires input from every Tier-1 site (the case of the UK Tier-1 site is provided as an example in the slides). Contributions from large Tier-2 sites are also welcome, while countries could provide estimates for the cost of energy. It was agreed that estimating manpower cost is not required, being deemed too difficult in general, but it can be looked into if desired. As a first step, the cost of hardware will be addressed.
- A WLCG "currency" should be defined to be able to compare the cost of disk, tape and CPU resources, without reference to real, absolute costs.
- A meeting will be set up early next year to discuss how to collect this information.

At this stage, all the main countries are represented in the group apart from the Netherlands.

The following comments are noted:
- Oxana Smirnova mentions that the Northern infrastructure started a similar project, but it did not make progress due to taxation issues. Still, the work done might be of interest for the study group. Simone agrees that it would be useful.

5. Future of Linux at CERN and Fermilab

Arne Wiebalck reports on the recent developments concerning the choice of Linux distributions to be supported as production platforms by CERN and Fermilab for the coming years. The initial recommendation for CentOS Stream has been reconsidered in view of the negative experience accumulated with that distribution, of a new RedHat academic site license valid until 2029 and of the maturity achieved by some EL rebuilds. The new recommendation is to support both RHEL (covered by the site license) and one of the EL rebuilds, for which, after careful examination, AlmaLinux has been chosen. The recommendation will be made official at the Linux Future Committee meeting on 16 January.

The following comments are noted:
- Maarten Litmaath suggests having this presentation at the January GDB meeting even if it is before the LFC meeting, to give sites the chance to give their opinion. Simone adds that this would also be a way to learn about the impact for other communities, supported by WLCG sites but not represented in the LFC. On the other hand, there would not be enough time for the sites to provide their point of view already in January. *It is finally agreed to give a presentation like this one at the January GDB, providing a pointer to the public LFC meeting a few days later. WLCG Operations Coordination are preparing a site survey whose results are to be presented at the February GDB for a more in-depth discussion.*

6. Proposal of Suspension Implementation Plan Affecting ITEP and IHEP

Tiziana Ferrari provides an update on the decisions of the EGI Foundation regarding the suspension of services for ITEP and IHEP and its implementation. The proposed implementation consists in the "removal" of the two sites from GOCDB, which has several implications, affecting the discoverability of the site resources, the accounting, the security monitoring, the availability in the BDII of the site information and the ability to receive helpdesk tickets. Other measures, like revoking roles of key personnel from GOCDB and removing IdPs from AAI proxy services, were deemed out of scope. The suspension would start from 1 February, after consulting with the WLCG Operations team and if approved also at this meeting. Sites could be re-certified in the future should the sanctions be lifted. It should be noted that ITEP had been already suspended in August for security reasons.

The following comments are noted:
- Reda Tafirout asks if it might be better not to restrict the security monitoring. Tiziana explains that the monitoring itself will stop working, as it would not be able to discover the site services, but the security advisories and patches advertised by the EGI CSIRT would still be accessible, as it is public information. Maarten adds that early access to the CSIRT information is in fact restricted and being an EGI service it would unfortunately have to be denied to ITEP and IHEP.
- Simone points out that some experiments might still decide to use these sites in an "opportunistic" capacity, also considering that the resources might disappear at any point in time. He agrees on moving on with the proposed plan and the experiments should be aware of its impact and of the security implications should they decide to use these resources. Tiziana adds that the experiments are not legal entities and thus not directly bound by EU law, and that resources provided by the sites are out of the scope of the sanctions anyway.

It is agreed that EGI can move forward with the implementation proposed by EGI from 1 February and that the suspension may be reversed if the sanctions are lifted in the future.

7. CERN Annual Closure

Dirk Duellmann describes the document linked to the agenda detailing the availability of CERN IT and WLCG services during the annual closure. The second linked document illustrates the process to preserve and restore essential services in the unlikely case of a complete electricity supply outage.

8. WLCG/HSF Workshop

Simone Campana describes the plan for the pre-CHEP HSF/WLCG workshop on 6-7 May in Norfolk. The proposal is to have two half days and only two topics: analysis facilities and non-x86 heterogeneous hardware architectures. The feedback collected so far was positive. Graeme Stewart will coordinate the HSF part of the agenda, while for WLCG an expert still needs to be identified. The agenda should be ready by the end of January.

9. Plans for HEPScore

Domenico Giordano summarises the plans for the adoption of the new HEPScore benchmark in WLCG. The workloads considered for the first official version (HS23) are from ATLAS, ALICE, CMS, LHCb and Belle II and the score will be normalised to be the same as HS06 on the reference server, to make the transition easier for the accounting system. The supported architectures are x86 and ARM and the score has been shown to be reproducible at the per-mille level. The goal is to have HS23 in production by 1 April. ARM support will be included in the first version only if all the workloads will be ready by 14 February. Sites will not be required to re-benchmark already deployed hardware, but they may choose to do it.

The following comments are noted:
- James Letts asks for more details about the procedure to update a workload. Domenico explains that a change should be requested by the experiment contact in the HEPScore Task Force and Simone adds that updates in HEPScore should not happen too frequently, to be manageable for the infrastructure. *Simone proposes that, whenever an experiment believes that an update to HEPScore is needed, they should submit the request to the MB, which will then task the relevant experts with understanding costs and benefits. Simone's proposal is accepted by the MB.*
- Elizabeth Sexton-Kennedy asks if HEPScore might be used also to pledge fractions of HPC facilities using ARM rather than only for traditional Tier-1/2 sites. Simone replies that today we do not have a model to pledge a fraction of an HPC, but this might happen in the future and HEPScore should then be re-evaluated to accommodate this case.

The Management Board gives its green light for the plan outlined by Domenico.

10. Virgo as WLCG Observer

Simone Campana and Stefano Bagnasco introduce the request from the Virgo collaboration to join WLCG as an observer. The main motivation stems from the fact that Virgo and LIGO, and partially KAGRA, are building a computing infrastructure using many components developed by the HEP community and using several computing sites which are also part of WLCG. The observer status would enhance the collaboration with such sites and other experiments. Being an observer grants the right to participate in the MB and GDB meetings, but without voting rights.

The following comments are noted:
- Peter Clarke asks if the request includes LIGO as well and Stefano replies that this is not the case, as LIGO already has a similar relationship with OSG.

Simone notes that there are no objections and welcomes the Virgo collaboration as an observer in WLCG, inviting them to the future MB and GDB meetings and to contribute to future events.

11. AOB

Simone Campana notes that the next meeting is scheduled for 17 January, but it will likely be cancelled.