

NGC 2017 Closing Session Notes

These notes are based on the slides from Sigve, the discussion and the notes from Florido.

1. Sigve summarised the conference contributions in the context of an ecosystem from data fabrics to insight as a service.

2. Lessons from the Open Board Session

- Work as well as funding wise the collaboration exists with the divide between maintenance and R&D, respectively sustained institution contributions and projects to funding. Developers don't see maintenance as attractive work and project funding is not often applicable for maintenance costs.
- NG needs both maintenance and R&D
- Both maintenance and R&D should be performed together with user communities. ARC is not a product that fits all per se, but as a solid core open for adaptations and further development.

3. What should be the key focus of the Nordugrid (NG) collaboration regarding its main product ARC in future ? There was a survey on this, receiving six answers that were discussed.

1. Improving Stability.

This has been taking in the 5.3 to 5.3.1 transition and will be a continuous focus. Stability also about testing before releasing. Code review itself will not make sure that the code is better but leads to that direction (has been reinforced). Most important: address long standing issues that are unresolved in ARC.

2. Pushing ARC to get a position as the most popular grid/cloud middleware for scientific computing.

Nowadays ARC is among the top 3-5 in LHC computing. An additional community should be targeted.

3. Try further to make it a general tool for distributed computing.

Related to 2.

4. Expanding resources to connect to (container support ...)

With hacks ARC is already used with container support. Build-in support is coming next.

5. Get ARC installing as “normal” software (like some clicks)

Much work has been put into a default/eased configuration and coming soon in release. Should further aim for a minimal working self configuration.

6. Easy accessible and available resources for small scale users

Currently ARC has a focus on the server side. Client side is handled by user community, making the end-user interfaces themselves.

4. Further discussion notes

- Florido: focus on selling points and target users. ARC as an infrastructure tool, the customer should be datacenters and not just end users. For end users we need a team of people caring about them
- Publications: now there is a place where to put those, James mentioned it, maybe contact him for links
- ARC as an enabling software for integration of HPC centers (see Florido comment), Andrei suggests to PRACE. PRACE replies: might be considered but PRACE is not in the position to push it now as it's more political than technical. The other issue is that at the moment datacenters have the final word on what to install. Agreement between member states can also be a blocker sometimes.
- Farid: it is important the we follow both the maintenance tasks and R&D in parallel
- Martin: worries about manpower, it is required to have good strategy for project funding
- Contributions from outside, we need a way of making them valuable, hopefully the current move to git and tools like those suggested by coderefinery will boost that

Announcements by Farid

- Brainstorming camp in September
- Technical workshop in UK foreseen
- Candidates to join the collaboration in UK and Germany and also elsewhere
- Conference 2018 target is Munich

2017-07-10, S. Haug