Proposal for an RTAG

on Collaborative Tools

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on behalf of many others!

Background (1)

- All LHC experiments have the problem of interacting efficiently with people at several remote sites

- Practically all our meetings have remote participants: we need VC installations in ALL available meeting rooms

- Current installations in most CERN meeting rooms (VRVS and phone) are far from ideal
    - we all have to get familiar with every single room on site before being able to use the system correctly
    - to my knowledge there are no rooms at CERN with identical equipment!
    - non-VRVS meetings are difficult in meeting rooms
    - there is no Access Grid facility

Dario Barberis: RTAG Proposal

Background (2)

- A recent attempt to bid for EU funds for Collaborative Tools projects failed before starting for lack of identifiable existing coherent effort at CERN
  - The lack of a well-focussed effort on collaborative tools at CERN is a disadvantage in bidding for future resources.
  - In fact, this can be positively destructive, as the groups providing services on a best-effort basis are not strongly motivated to propose development activities, and may feel it inappropriate to their mission.
  - On the other hand, there are very useful activities and services coming from groups, mainly on a goodwill and best-effort basis.
  - It would be of great advantage for collaborative tools to be brought under a single entity at CERN; that single entity should have both a service and a development mandate in order to maximise its resource potential.
- The RTAG mechanism (although Collaborative Tools are not strictly within LCG scope) can be used to put in a single document our requirements and then stimulate a coherent CERN activity

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Proposed Mandate

- Mandate:
  - assess the needs for collaborative tools of all collaboration members, located at CERN, major labs or smaller institutes, including isolated ("laptop") users
  - survey the existing technologies and consider costs, performance, hardware and bandwidth requirements, interconnectivity
  - make concrete proposals about how CERN videoconferencing facilities and support organisation might be consolidated, improved and better supported in the immediate future, with strong emphasis on the performance as perceived by remote users
- In particular, the RTAG should address:
  - Working Venues (type of room, equipment, ease of use)
  - Integration (where possible) of existing infrastructure (e.g. audio/video transmission between auditoria, re-use of local audio/projection systems,...) where feasible
  - Which systems (VRVS, Access Grid, etc.)
  - Collaboration on Desktop (CERN LAN, general support)
  - Relationship to networking
  - Future integration into "grid-based analysis"?

Proposed composition and timescale

- Composition:
    - 2 people per experiment, possibly NOT from CERN
    - 1 or 2 people for LCG-AA
    - 1 or 2 people for LCG-GD
    - 2 people from regional centres
    - 1 or 2 people from the current CERN VC support teams
    - anyone from EGEE?

- Timescale:
    - 1 month