

Taverna and ^{my}Grid



Open Workflow for Life Sciences Tom Oinn

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Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council



What, who, why?

- Taverna a workflow development and enactment environment
- Who part of myGrid, an EPSRC funded UK eScience Pilot project coordinated by Carole Goble at Manchester University
- Why because bioinformatics is hard enough without turning users into web spiders ⁽²⁾



"And that's why we need a computer."





Old approach

- Cut and paste, cgi, shell scripting, ftp, excel
- Time intensive
- Manual process, fails to scale sensibly
- Hard to document and reproduce
 - Good scientific discipline hard to maintain
- Boring, waste of highly trained scientists



Our approach

- Capture the scientific method as a formal process model
- Allow users to construct such models from libraries of available components in a graphical editing environment with semantic support
- Publish process definitions as scientific methods, enact and automatically scale to large data sets, multiple runs
- Automatically collect enactment metadata workflow provenance.

Tools and Workflow Invocation

What can we integrate?

- Web services defined by WSDL
 - Pathport, BIND, Gene Ontology, DBFetch, FASTA, InterproScan, NCBI eUtils...
- Complex analysis services conforming to Life Science Analysis Engine (LSAE) specification
 - EMBOSS, Jess, any arbitrary legacy C, PERL or Shell script
- BioMoby services (<u>www.biomoby.org</u>)
 - PlaNeT, IRI, Spanish Bioinformatics Network, Genome Prairie...
- Biomart Database Queries
 - Ensembl, DbSNP, VEGA...
- Local embedded scripts via Java, Perl, Python, Ruby etc.
- Seqhound Genomic data warehouse
 - Genbank, LocusLink, GO
- Styx Grid Service
 - Environmental eScience, ocean temperature analysis etc
- Arbitrary 3rd Party APIs i.e. BioJava, JUMBO, caBIG

Comparative Genomics

Functional Analysis Workflow...

CompareXandYFunctions.xml

Philosophy

- Open world approach for services
 - Do not require service providers to change
 - Maximize interoperability
 - Extend on demand
 - Minimalist functional core, declarative language, many plugin extension points
- Open development approach as well
 - LGPL License
 - Transparent, public development process
 - CVS, Mailing lists, website are all public at all times.
 - Avoid institutional 'ownership' of code to safeguard long term future development

Taverna network architecture

Implicit Iteration

- Allows services to consume collections of items without service modification
- Equivalent to higher order map functions
- Graphical configuration
- Intuitively understood by our user community
- Scares computer scientists [©]

Workflow summary views

- Diagram and HTML report of the structure of and resources used by the workflow
- Intended to be added to papers, websites etc.
- Can be used by portals, workflow repositories
- Supports reuse very important!

Semantic and Naïve Search

- Find services by name or...
- ...by function, input types, resources

👏 TavernaFetaGUI		
Query Result		
Query criteria	Value	
name contains 🔽 DNA		-
performs task	▼ retrieving	_
uses resource	SWISS-PF	TOT -
uses method	Smith \A(at	ermen sequence alignment algorithm
is function of	bioinformati	cs_application 📃 -
	bioinformati	cs_application
	primer3	+
	EMBOSS	
	Basic_Loca	al_Alignment_Search_Tool
	blastn	
	blastx	
	tblastn	
	tblast×	•
Query		

Successful?

- Over 1200 downloads of the workbench software for release 1.0
 - Averaging 10-15 downloads / day for release 1.1
 - Slightly scary 220 downloads in three days for 1.2 ⁽³⁾
- Over 100 active mailing list participants
- Over 1300 available services
- Used across the world in widely differing projects, mostly but not all in bioinformatics (some cheminformatics)
- Active external developer community!

Taverna User Support

- Taverna has a self supporting user community
- Access help from other users and from the project developers via our mailing lists
- All accessible from http://taverna.sf.net
- We have a user manual! Please use it ©

Where next?

• Funding

- Core myGrid project has completed (3 years)
- Follow-on platform grant for core team until 2008
- Associated consumer / helper projects
 - Comparagrid, EMBRACE, iSpider...
- Will be used to...
 - Enhance the scalability of the workflow core
 - Investigate new interfaces (Dalec, Data driven workbench...)

Schedule

- 1.3 Release in September
 - Final version 1 release
- Moving to 2.0 with new workflow core by end 2005

Acknowledgements

^{my}Grid is an EPSRC funded UK eScience Program Pilot Project

Particular thanks to the other members of the Taverna project, <u>http://taverna.sf.net</u>