

Connecting Video Collaboration systems to facilitate inter-organisation communication.

Jason Bell¹, Phillippe Galvez²

¹ARCS, Rockhampton, Australia, Jason.Bell@arcs.org.au

²Phillippe Galvez, California Institute of Technology, USA, philippe.galvez@caltech.edu

INTRODUCTION

It is generally agreed that video conferencing helps reduce travel costs, wasted time and carbon emissions when working with a geographically dispersed group of people. However, there are many different opinions on which video conferencing system is the best one to use.

The Australian Research Collaboration Service (ARCS) currently supports two video conferencing systems for collaboration within the Australian research community. These are Enabling Virtual Organisations (EVO) and Access Grid (AG). However, there are actually many other tools available in the market place, and more often than not, two people using different tools will generally be unable to talk to one other.

ARCS have been investigating how EVO and AG can communicate with one another and what support is necessary to make this happen. This presentation will provide a brief overview of communication tools that is currently available, and what is necessary to bring different video conferencing systems and collaboration tools together. We will also detail our experiences and highlight some of the issues we have encountered and provide workable solutions to the problems faced.

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

Jason Bell is the main developer and tester of the AG global Quality Assurance program and runs a weekly AG test session for the Asia Pacific region. Jason has provided code for the AG toolkit that is now part of the released packages and has been successfully building and implementing Access Grid for over 7 years. He has also developed numerous guides, including Linux installation, AG improvements and other miscellaneous documents as well as helped to develop and implement the global node listing. He holds a Bachelor of Information Technology (with honours) from CQ University Australia. Jason is based at CQ University Australia and is a member of the ARCS Collaboration Services Team.

Phillippe Galvez has worked for the California Institute of Technology since April 1995. He represents one of the partners responsible for the management of high speed transatlantic network in support of high energy physics research. His videoconferencing and networking developments include the international web-based videoconferencing system EVO, which allow thousands of scientists worldwide to collaborate. This system is currently running in more than 60 countries and has become a standard part of the toolset used daily by a large sector of HENP, and it is used increasingly for other DoE/NSF-supported programs. These developments, on behalf of the high-energy physics community in support of international research, have led to his work as project leader and chief developer for these new forms of videoconferencing at Caltech and CERN in Geneva,

REFERENCES