Press Release

SURA Workshop Encourages Collaboration for Effective Deployment of Grid Applications

AUSTIN, TX – The 2nd SURA Cyberinfrastructure workshop, Grid Application Planning & Implementation, was held December 6-9 at the Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC) in Austin. The workshop was open to those wishing to learn how to apply grid technology to advance scientific as well as other applications, with an emphasis on collaborative grid development and deployment. Participants included grid and application developers, users from various communities, grid technology implementers, and industry partners. Industry sponsors included Cisco Systems, IBM, Sun Microsystems and United Devices.

The workshop was designed to raise awareness of the diverse set of projects and initiatives that are helping to mature grid technologies while encouraging collaboration across areas of grid and application deployment. Presenters described the efforts of major grid implementations (Open Science Grid, DOSAR (Distributed Organization of Scientific and Academic Research, UT Austin's UTGrid; University of Michigan's MGRID), provided insight into grid-enabling specific applications, and identified resources for building and operating a grid including a preview of the Grid Technology Cookbook, currently under development by SURA, the Open Science Grid, and IT consultant Mary Trauner.

Highlights included the Ask-A-Grid-Expert panel, and an update on formation of the National Science Foundation Office of Cyberinfrastructure (OCI). The Ask-A-Grid-Expert panel included industry and academic experts in a wide ranging, extended exchange with the audience on a variety of grid related topics. Frank Scioli, on detail at the NSF OCI from the Directorate of Social and Behavioral Sciences, provided a fresh viewpoint on the development and support of cyberinfrastructure, emphasizing the cultural and social aspects of grid building as critical elements for success.

Copies of presentations from this workshop are available at:
http://www1.sura.org/6000/gridagendaDec05.html. SURA has developed the SURA Cyberinfrastructure Workshop Series to disseminate best practices for effective grid deployment, to align grid development with the needs of research applications, and to enable e-Science participation at local, regional and national levels. A first Grid Application Planning and Implementation event was held in January 2005 at Georgia State University. A third workshop on Life Sciences and the Grid will be held January 9-11 at Virginia Commonwealth University.

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