

# NMI Integration Testbed Status Report

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## General Update:

- 1) Formal announcement of Testbed press release and Web site -

The Testbed press release and Web site were announced on 9/4/02. See <http://www.nsf-middleware.org/testbed>. A news highlight with a quick link to this information was also featured on the main page of the SURA Web site.

- 2) Second in-person Testbed Site meeting -

The Testbed held its second in-person meeting at the Internet2 Members' meeting in Los Angeles, October 27, 2002. Actions resulting from the meeting include:

- Changes will be made to the process and materials that are provided to Testbed sites as they prepare for and begin evaluation of an NMI release. The Component Testing Guidelines will be developed earlier in the cycle and the deadlines for sites to confirm their test commitments and provide updated site plans will be staggered. Levels of testing will also be defined per component to accommodate a wider range of evaluation, from verification of documentation and installation procedures through full integration with user applications.
- NMI Outreach provided an update on current Outreach plans and presented the results of the survey to Testbed sites regarding their interest and objectives for outreach. In follow-up discussion it was noted that the Testbed sites' needs for NMI awareness and training support are essentially the same as others who are "evangelizing" middleware within the broader community. This further emphasizes the importance of Outreach and the Testbed working together to identify and address these needs.
- Though several NMI middleware developers attended the meeting, the agenda ran short on time for component-specific discussions. Instead, two "hot topic" components - Globus and Shibboleth - were scheduled as topics for the next monthly Testbed site teleconference. This later discussion furthered both understanding and interest in integrating these components into projects and applications at Testbed sites. Future component discussions will be scheduled based on interest and need as indicated by the Testbed sites.

- 3) Testbed "stepping out" in NMI Outreach activities -

The NMI Testbed Manager and the Testbed sites have actively participated in NMI presentations and sessions at key R&E conferences. This is important for raising awareness of NMI integration activities but also for leveraging the natural synergy between evaluation and outreach, disseminating the experience so others may benefit. Participation has included:

EDUCAUSE 2002, <http://www.educause.edu/conference/e2002>

- Yafchak in panel presentation on 10/2/02, "NSF Middleware Initiative: New Features, New Opportunities"

Internet2 Members' Meeting, <http://events.internet2.edu/2002/Fall02-index.html>

- FSU & GSU in pre-conference tutorial on 10/28/02, "The Other Side of Middleware: Working with Policy Makers, Data Owners, and Campus Constituents"
- Yafchak in panel presentation on 10/29/02, "NMI: Update and Overview of Release 2"
- Open NMI Integration Testbed BoF (Yafchak & sites) on 10/30/02

SuperComputing 2002, <http://www.sc-2002.org>

- NMI Users' Breakfast on 11/19/02 (Yafchak & sites).
- Contribution of case studies to print materials: UAB, GSU, USC

#### 4) New communication channels developed -

At the request of Testbed sites, two new listservs have been created to support specific internal communication. The Testbed-tech listserv provides a "focused safe haven" for Testbed sites to share and compare evaluation results, ask and answer technical questions about NMI components, and engage in direct discussion with NMI developers. The Testbed-PR list ensures coordination and efficient communication when the Testbed and NMI are collaborating on materials development.

#### 5) Planning begun for first Testbed Site results workshop -

The first annual NMI Integration Testbed results workshop will take place on April 8, a day prior to the start of the Internet2 Members' meeting in Arlington, VA and at the same location. The workshop is being planned as an all day event, open to the R&E community, featuring NMI Integration Testbed sites presenting their implementation and evaluation experiences. It is intended to be in-depth and interactive, providing "implementation education" for those actively deploying or planning to deploy NMI middleware.

#### 6) Year 1 reporting -

The NMI Integration Testbed report for Year 1 is now available on the NMI Testbed Web site: <http://www.nsf-middleware.org/testbed>. This report summarizes the activities and performance of the NMI Integration Testbed program from September 1, 2001 through August 31, 2002.

#### 7) Testbed evaluation status -

The NMI Testbed sites have completed their evaluation of NMI Release 1 and are actively evaluating NMI Release 2. More information on the processes and projects involved in R2 evaluation is available under "Component Evaluation".on the NMI Testbed Web site at: [http://www.nsf-middleware.org/testbed/testbed\\_status.asp](http://www.nsf-middleware.org/testbed/testbed_status.asp).