

NMI Integration Testbed
July 2002 Status Report
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General Update:

1) Formation of Core Testbed -

Four sponsored (funded) and four unsponsored sites have been selected to form the core of the NMI Integration Testbed. These sites were selected through a competitive Call for Participation (http://www.sura.org/info_tech/testbedcfp.pdf) announced on February 1, 2002. The CFP was open to any qualified institution and responses were evaluated by a review panel comprised of representatives from the NMI EDIT and GRIDS teams, a SURA IT Committee representative, and a representative from the NSF. The review process was completed March 29, 2002 with the selection of the following sites:

Sponsored Sites:

University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Florida, Texas Advanced Computing Consortium (University of Texas at Austin), University of Virginia

Unsponsored Sites:

University of Alabama at Huntsville, Florida State University, Georgia State University, University of Michigan

All institutions above have since signed contracts with SURA, committing to work towards NMI program objectives as noted in the CFP.

2) Initiation of Key Operational Activities -

Immediately following site selection, several operational activities to support the Testbed were initiated. These included the establishment of a listserv for internal testbed communication, formation of a Testbed Council (a subset of the NMI management team) to facilitate coordination with the broader NMI program, and scheduling of an in-person "kick-off" meeting focused on group introductions and planning.

3) In-person Testbed "Kickoff" Meeting -

The Testbed Kickoff meeting was held at Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA, June 10 - 12, 2002. Actions resulting from the meeting include:

- Component Testing Guidelines for NMI Release 1 were refined and finalized, enabling the start of for immediate verification of NMI Release 1. This document will be included on the Testbed section of the NMI Web site.
- The format, elements, and due date of individual site work plans were discussed and site plan development was begun.
- The overall integrated Testbed Plan was discussed/updated and will be finalized after submission of site plans so that that information may be considered.
- Several necessary communication channels and processes were defined: among testbed sites, to/from the Testbed Council, to/from the NMI management team, and to/from the NMI Outreach team.

4) Testbed Web Site Development -

Preliminary public and internal Testbed Web sites have been developed. The Testbed is currently collaborating on internal business via a Sharepoint environment supported by John McGee (USC/ISI, NMI Management team, NMI Testbed Council); access mechanisms have been distributed to all Testbed sites. As of the writing of this report, a draft Testbed Web section to be added to the primary NMI Web site (<http://www.nsf-middleware.org>) is being circulated for review and approval.

5) Testbed Work Plan Development -

All Testbed sites completed individual site plans in mid-July. These plans outline project integration, component evaluation and related activities taking place at each site for the first year of Testbed operation (June 2002 - 2003). The plans will be "living documents" and will be updated periodically throughout the year to support planning and track progress. Summary information, including a listing of the projects and applications that are active at each site, will be derived from these plans and included on the Testbed section of the NMI Web site. The overall Testbed Plan will be updated in consideration of the site plans and will be included on the Web site as well.

6) NMI Release 1 Evaluation Status -

NMI Release 1 evaluation is actively underway within the Testbed and expected to extend throughout the summer. The suggested deadline for completion of Release 1 software and objectclass evaluations is September 1; the suggested deadline for evaluation/review of documentation components is August 1, 2002. As of the writing of this report (August 7), 9 out of 47 anticipated documentation evaluations have been received.

7) Addition to Testbed Listserv -

The University of Southern California, a GRIDS community test site, has been added as a "courtesy cc" on Testbed communications (via the Testbed listserv) in order to assist with their ongoing awareness of NMI and as a mechanism for possible contribution to Release 1 testing. Two NMI-GRIDS representatives (Tom Garritano, John McGee) will work with USC to support their activities related to this.