

Usage of virtualization in gLite certification

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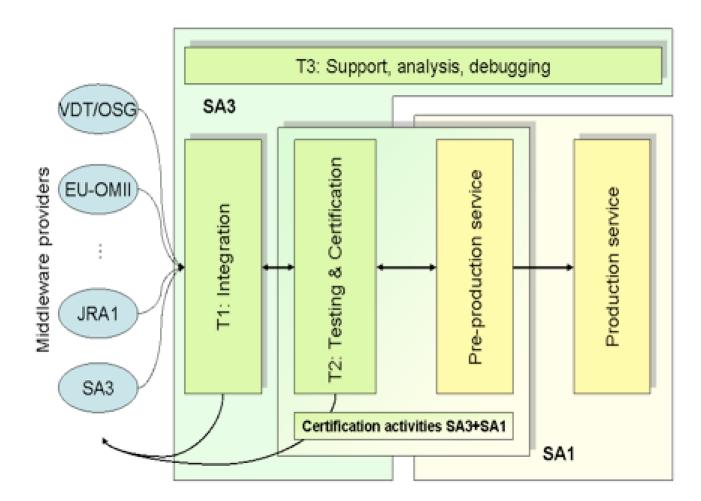




- **1.** gLite certification
- **2.** Virtualization with the CERN gLite certification team.
- **3. Image generation**
- 4. SmartDomains: Xen management with SmartFrog
- **5.** Our portal: vGrid
- 6. Screenshots
- 7. Final remarks

Enabling Grids for E-science







- Approx. 60 machines at CERN plus several external sites.
- All gLite services are present.
- Daily regression tests.
- Installation (rpm) and configuration of patches.
- Special tests for patches.

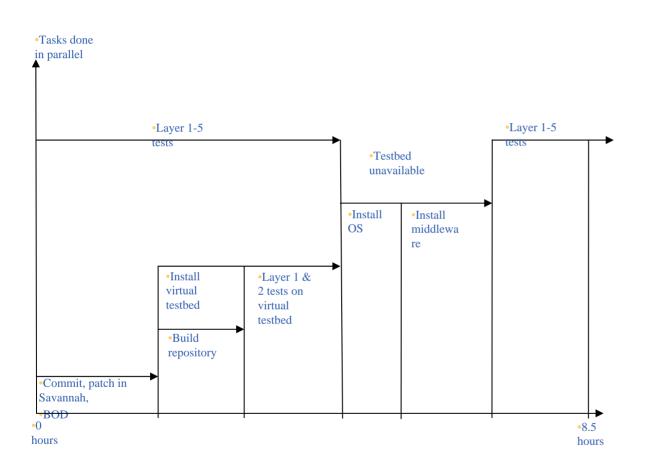


- Certification of several patches at the same time can cause conflicts but we have to certify patches in parallel.
- A non functional patch may spoil the whole testbed.
- Patches often fail already at an early stage.
 - Rpm installation fails.
 - Configuration fails.
- Failed patches can pollute a machine, a complete reinstallation might be necessary.
- For testing one might want to switch between different versions of a service quickly.

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Virtualization as a solution

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Usage of virtualization to prevent patches failing at installation or configuration step to stop the whole certification process



- OS: SLC3, SLC4 others to come according to needs (Debian).
- Virtualization tool: Xen.
- Need to generate images easily.
- Management of VMs: start/stop several machines (whole grid site) with one click.
- Management of images: save/retrieve images for later use.



- Custom image generation for SLC3, SLC4 and Debian on SL machines.
- Management of Xen virtual machines with SmartFrog (SmartDomains project).
- vGrid portal to manage the whole chain (image generation and storage, VMs).
- IT Linux support team provides Xen rpms.
- Done in collaboration with CERN openlab.





- How to make sure that some image boots under Xen ?
- Xen domU kernel must match the image.
- Image might start services that don't work in the guest environment.
- Networking might not work in the guest environment.
 For gLite services we need to know the hostnames in advance.
- Image generation should be possible without (re)installing a physical machine...



- Bash scripts that generate a complete SLC3, SLC4 or Debian distribution under some directory and produce a .tar.gz or .img.
- Support for yum/apt groups make it possible to produce special images easily (e.g. glite-UI on SLC4).
- Further customization:
 - Also install individual rpms.
 - Place files into the image (e.g. ssh keys).
 - Set a root password.
- Network is configured to take parameters from Xen.
- Produces all the necessary files to ensure that the image boots (/dev,/etc/fstab,...).



- Can be launched by the user on his/her machine (but you need to be root).
- Driven by command line options.
- Can be easily integrated into some portal.
- Can be run in a VM.



- Smart Framework for Object Groups
- Developed by HP Labs Bristol.
- Java, Open Source.
- Describes distributed software systems as collections of cooperating components and allows to activate and manage them.



SmartFrog elements

- Language
 - templates / descriptions
- Engine
 - interprets descriptions to activate running services
- Components
 - make up the running service
 - deployed, configured & activated by the engine
- Language sequenced? Engine activates managed, monitored running through lifecycle components
- which service components?
 - running where?
 - how is each component initialised
 - how are components related?
 - how are the component lifecycles

Slide taken from SmartFrog Overview Presentation on http://www.smartfrog.org



- SmartFrog components to manage Xen VMs.
- Developed at CERN openlab.
- Two main components
 - StorageBackend (LVM or loopback): contains image, creates/deletes images, possibility to save image.
 - XenDomain: manages domU (start, stop).

sfConfig extends Compound { sfProcessHost "host2.cern.ch"; myShell extends BashShell; lvm extends LVMStorageBackend { shell LAZY ATTRIB myShell; baseImage "/data/slc3.tar.gz"; volumeSize "1G"; swapSize "512M"; volumeBaseName "xen-domain"; usingExistingVolumes false; keepVolumes "false"; saveImage true; saveImagePath "/tmp"; saveImageExtension "tgz";}

Vm1 extends XenDomain { shell LAZY ATTRIB myShell; storageBackend LAZY ATTRIB lvm; domainName "vm1"; hostname "vml.cern.ch"; ip "111.222.333.444"; netmask "255.255.0.0"; kernel "/boot/vmliuz-xen"; ramdisk "/boot/initrd-xen"; memory 512; extra "fastboot" domainLivenessDelay 2000; domainLivenessFactor 3; domainLivenessCheck true; } }

Commandline: sfStart host1.cern.ch myVM textfile.sf

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- Manages the lifecycle of one VM session: put image in place, start VM, stop VM, delete/leave/save image.
- Error handling: if start of Xen domU fails, the image is also being deleted.
- Leverages several SmartFrog features:
 - Include directives and overriding of attributes allows for easy to read configuration files. Default values can be grouped in common include files.
 - Start/stop several VMs on different physical machines with one click. Other workflows also possible.
 - Management console allows to view and change the status of the deployed VMs.
 - SmartFrog security features.



- 10 SLC4 machines with Xen 3.0.1, LVM and SmartFrog.
- 28 hostnames/IP numbers for use with virtual machines. For gLite services we need known hostnames.
- vGrid portal to
 - Generate SmartFrog configuration files.
 - See which hostnames are currently in use.
 - View log files on Xen servers.
 - On demand image generation (under development).
 - Start VMs (under development).



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SmartFrog management console



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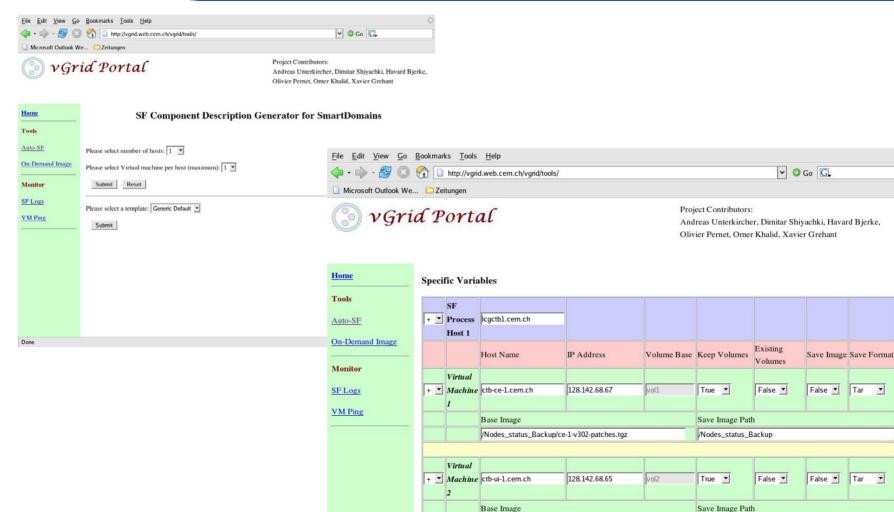
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Termination of a VM.



vGrid portal

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vGrid portal

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- The system is in heavy use since October 2006.
- We have basic SLC3/4 images on every Xen server. Users install gLite services on top of them.
- About 10 users.
- SmartFrog is easy to install and runs on all platforms.
- We have no scheduler. Users have to decide which hostname they use on which Xen server.
- Some use cases
 - Creation and testing of tarball UI and WN.
 - Yaim development.
 - A full testbed for WMS patch certification.
 - Testing apt-get dist upgrade.



- Upgrade to Xen 3.0.2 using rpms provided by CERN Linux Team. Enables us to have AFS enabled VMs.
- SmartDomains and vGrid are under constant development.
- Image storage.
- On demand image generation.
- Scheduler for VM creation.



SmartFrog: http://www.smartfrog.org/ SmartDomains: http://sourceforge.net/projects/smartdomains/ vGrid: http://vgrid.web.cern.ch Image creation scripts: http://isscvs.cern.ch/cgibin/cvsweb.cgi/vgrid/ch/cern/osfarm/scripts/?cvsroot=vgrid CERN Linux Support Xen HowTo: https://twiki.cern.ch/twiki/bin/view/LinuxSupport/XenHowTo CERN openIab: http://cern.ch/openIab

People involved:

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Discussion

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