
Subject: Re: distributed IDL or IDL on a Grid
Posted by [rkombiyil](#) on Sat, 30 Jun 2007 02:48:20 GMT
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On Jun 30, 6:35 am, s...@txcorp.com wrote:

> Hi,
> We just concluded a little project which explored how one can make IDL
> work in a distributed environment. In particular, we investigated
> ways to create IDL clients for Web Services (examples dealt with
> accessing remote astronomical data and visualizing it locally via
> IDL).
</snip>

I don't know the specifics of globus. I am wondering what is the upside of using IDL in such circumstances as opposed to using say, MySQL/postgreSQL dbase + php graphing lib for accessing data and visualizing? What is the effect on memory in your large simulations? Are there any benchmarks available?

<snip>
> Do you have scenarios when grid-IDL makes sense?
</snip>

As opposed to what? I am still confused what would IDL be offering in terms of speed/memory etc. when compared to other opensource viz tools. Besides, may be a stupid question, but is there a parallel IDL?? I mean can you parallelize it like, say using MPICH? Please show us bench marks :-). Besides, how would these play out for someone with telephone connection? :D
Cheers,
/rk

Subject: Re: distributed IDL or IDL on a Grid
Posted by [Robbie](#) on Sun, 01 Jul 2007 02:19:55 GMT
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> Do you have scenarios when grid-IDL makes sense?
Any scenario where transactions between nodes must be piped through HTTP.
This implies that the clients are somehow remote, in which case you would need to rely on the free IDL-VM license. AFAIK administration of licensing for remote clients is not feasible.

IDL does not offer useful levels of abstraction for dealing with distributed data.
For example, there is no way to do array processing without loading the entire array.
This isn't a show stopper, but it does force the programmer to do some

bookkeeping
and less inclined to be quick, tidy and interactive.

> Do you have suggestions for us?
Provide the ability to bootstrap the IDL virtual machine. (Send the VM
to the client and run the process)

Robbie
