

DataSynapse, Globus Push Grid Computing Advances

New York - Conferences on Linux and Grid computing were underway on both U.S. coasts last week, and the advances on display could impact firms that have deployed or are adopting these cutting-edge technologies.

As predicted earlier this year by *TTW*, grid computing, the method of linking multiple back-office servers to perform intensive computing tasks, is finding its way to Web Services (*TTW*, Jan 5).

At the GlobusWorld conference in San Francisco last week, DataSynapse officials emphasized that its flagship offering, the GridServer software, is moving away from its proprietary API approach to Web services and onto an embrace of standards and widely used technologies such as Java, Microsoft's .Net and the C++ language.

The updated GridServer offers three management components for application services, which governs application workloads within a hosted application services environment: operations, which covers service provisioning in an autonomic, or "self-healing" operating environment; and grid resources, which encompass policy management at the system level to ensure resources are leveraged across a firm as needed.

Not missing a beat, Akamai, the Globus Alliance, Hewlett Packard (HP), IBM, Sonic Software and Tibco Software debuted at GlobusWorld specifications for grafting Web services to grid computing. Dubbed the WS-Notification and WS-Resource Framework, they are targeted at business applications, grid resources and systems management, officials say. They will provide a scalable publish and subscribe messaging model and the ability to model "stateful resources." This is the process of creating models for Web services actions, such as ascribing servers to logical constructs like business agreements and contracts, officials say. These models help users with grid-based workload balancing. The WS-Notification specification triggers actions in an IT infrastructure, based upon preset criteria. The specification and framework form the foundation for the Open Grid Services Architecture.

Members of the Globus Alliance conduct research and development to formulate the basic, open source technologies behind grid computing.

On the other side of the country, at the LinuxWorld Conference and Expo in New York last week, Red Hat debuted its Provisioning Module for the Red Hat Network, an online, Linux systems management service. Officials say the module will allow Red Hat Enterprise Linux customers to deploy, configure and manage multiple new or existing Linux systems.