NORDUnet

3rd TERENA NREN and GRID workshop (Paris, 27-28 April 2006)

Brief report by Lars Fischer

On 27 & 28 April TERENA called for the third in their series of workshops for NREN and GRID people. The idea of these workshops is to bring together networking and grid people, to foster communication and collaboration, to identify joint issues, and to avoid repetitive work.

This 3rd workshop focused on security.

The workshop had a number of presentations on

- GGF and the Security Area (by Olle Mulmo of the GGF)
- Establishing a GRID CERT facility (by Gerti Foest of DFN)
- GRID software security (by Klaus Möller of the DFN CERT)
- GRID security incident handling (by Carlos Fuentes of RedIRIS)
- EGEE security (by Bob Jones, EGEE)
- The CERT view of Ownership and Responsibility (by Christoph Graf, SWITCH)
- Hardware support for GRID security (Dirk Schroetter, Cisco)

There were a number of common themes to the presentations

1. There is a need to understand and agree on how to handle GRID security incidents. Is this something that should be handled by existing CERTs or should there be special CERTs within the GRID infrastructure? How should communication flow between CERTs? How does communication flow between CERTs, GRID facility owners, and computations and storage resource owners?

2. Who is responsible for handling GRID security issues? Who owns the issue? How does the network respond to a vulnerability or an incident in a GRID facility? Is this different from traditional vulnerability and incident handling?

3. The security implications of GRID applications and GRID middleware are not always well understood, and the threats from vulnerability in middleware may be major. GRID middleware and applications need to be better analyzed for vulnerability. There is a need for collaboration between GRID developers and software owners and security people.

4. How do we ensure optimal flows of information, in particular in case of incidents and vulnerabilities? There is a need to establish communication lines between GRID resource owners, GRID facility operators, GRID developers, and CERT people. Ownership and responsibility should be fixed.

I identified a number of actions and issues for the NDGF:

- It was clear to me that we need to think more about security for the NDGF. We probably should appoint a NDGF Security Officer.

- We need to establish co-operation and lines of communication between NORDUnet and NREN CERTs and the NDGF and GRID resource owners

- We should look into the DFN GRID CERT project and possibly copy some of the ideas from there; One idea would be to set up a GRID taskforce within Nordic CERTs

- We should establish collaborations on GRID middleware and application security.

The presentations will be available at TERENA's website (http://www.terena.nl) shortly.

The 4th TERENA NREN and GRID workshop is expected to be in September.