

Paper	: <i>Grids: Top Ten Questions</i> . J.M. Schopf and B. Nitzberg
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Agnostic Questions

Question 1

In the introduction, the authors point out some differences between old distributed systems and today's Grids. Are these all the major differences? If not, can you suggest others grid distinctive characteristics?

Question 2 - "1. Why don't Grids have basic functionality yet?"

According to the authors, grids do not have basic functionality because to run a grid application one has to follow a sequence of intricate steps, like installing software, setting security, finding the appropriate resource and submitting a job, which look daunting and extremely complex. Do you think this is a fair description as for users running applications on the grid? How is the Service Oriented Architecture helping improve that scenario?

Question 3- "3. Where are the Grid software tools to aid application developers?"

Do you agree with the statement that the difficulty of developing useful tools for the grid is because there are not well defined use cases? Is it really a chicken and egg problem?

Question 4- "4. How do we make Grids secure?"

It is mentioned that the authorization issue has not been fully addressed, and typically imply using a local account to access a particular resource. This would difficult tasks like auditing the usage of a certain resource. Could you provide some information as for the advances in this matter?

Another aspect of grid security is reliance on the grid services. A service can mimic a real application and obtain sensitive information from the users. What work has been done in this respect?

Question 5- "5. How can we define standard interfaces and definitions for the Grid?"

It is mentioned during the introduction that none of the standards defined at the time of writing the paper (2002) were standing still. Is this assertion still true?

Could you briefly talk about the current status of the Global Grid Forum and the Enterprise Grid Alliance groups as for grid standards?

Question 6 - "8. Where are the benefits to encourage sharing on the Grid?"

Could you suggest some ways to enforce the user to "play nicely"? In particular, how to manage multiple user applications that can potentially exhaust the grid resources?

Also, can you think of good reasons to convince managers for sharing resources?

Question 7 – “10. Where are the performance metrics for success?”

The second success metric says that users are not given a choice of using or not the grid, but just use it. What is your view of this statement? Aren't the authors assuming that all problems are suitable to get solved in a grid environment?