New Version 6 of the European grid software Unicore

Particularly grid-users from the science and research sector are likely to benefit from the new release, Unicore 6. The grid middleware, which is established in Europe and licenced under the terms of the BSD Licence, provides a software stack that has been cultivated for years, now with a series of new adaptations to accommodate new technologies.

Unicore provides services that are in compliance with today's Web standards: the new version complies with OASIS WSRF 1.2 and OGF JSDL 1.0. It supports the relevant OGSA ByteIO specification for data transfer per default. In addition, it uses XFire as a SOAP stack in communication with the Web server Jetty 6.

The authentication and security mechanisms are certified for X.509, and use the policies SAML and XAML 1.0. Plugin extensions for proxy certificates and VO management are included in the range of functions.

Unicore 6 is the result of a collaborative development among the Intel Software and Solution Group in Bruehl, the Fujitsu Laboratories of Europe in London, the Warsaw University, the ICM, CINECA in Bologna and the Research Centre Juelich. More than ten years ago, the present-day Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) initiated Unicore, to promote collaboration and the pooling of resources from HPC centres in Germany. (jk/c't)