Managed GridFTP

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GridFTP

- High-performance, secure data transfer protocol optimized for high-bandwidth wide-area networks
- Based on FTP protocol - defines extensions for high-performance operation and security
- Multiple independent implementations can interoperate
  - Fermi Lab and U. Virginia have home grown servers that work with ours
GridFTP

• **Two channel protocol like FTP**

• **Control Channel**
  – Communication link (TCP) over which commands and responses flow
  – Low bandwidth; encrypted and integrity protected by default

• **Data Channel**
  – Communication link(s) over which the actual data of interest flows
  – High Bandwidth; authenticated by default; encryption and integrity protection optional
Globus GridFTP

- Parallel TCP streams, optimal TCP buffer
- Non TCP protocol such as UDT
- Cluster-to-cluster data movement

- SSH, Grid Security Infrastructure (GSI)
- Transfer checkpointing
GridFTP Servers Around the World

GridFTP Usage

Monthly Totals* of GridFTP File Transfers

*for those "reporting"
GridFTP: On Demand Service

- Transfer requests happen immediately
  - We do not queue, or delay transfers
  - An established session means an active transfer
- Transfer data as fast as possible
- Resources are limited
  - Data transfers are heavy weight operations
  - Sometimes hardware is too busy
    - Adding another transfer can cause thrashing
    - Collective system throughput goes down
Why Doesn’t GridFTP Queue

- Backward compatibility with legacy FTP
- Even for an idle session
  - Active TCP control channel
    - Part of the 959 protocol.
    - A session is defined by a TCP connection
  - Fork/setuid process
    - Robustness
    - File system/OS permissions
  - OS buffer space
    - Data channels require large TCP OS buffers
If GridFTP Always Said Yes

- **OOM**: the out of memory handle
  - OS optimistic provision of TCP buffers
  - Random processes will be killed
  - Meltdown

- **Shared FS overuse**
  - Pushing the I/O throughput beyond optimal
  - Causing OOM on IOD machines

- **Shares of bandwidth too small**
  - 1 Million transfers at 500b/s each?
  - OR 10 transfers at 100Mb/s each
Simultaneous Sessions

- **Goal: Collective throughput**
  - Entire servers bytes transferred / time
    - Not the number of transfers at once

- **Only reasons for more than 1 connection**
  - Provide an interactive service for many
  - One session does not use all of the local resource
    - The remote side is the bottleneck
  - Hide control messaging overhead in another sessions data transfer payload
Resource Protection

- **GridFTP**
  - Connection rejection is a feature
  - It **SHOULD** say no
  - Intended to scale to system transfer rates
  - To scale up add more data nodes

- **Limits need to be in place to protect**
  - Knowing it is ok to say ‘no’ is step 1
Connection Caps

● As a function of system memory
  ● $\text{Cap} = \frac{|\text{mem}|}{2\text{MB} + \text{avg}(\text{BWDP})}$
  ● Never more than $\frac{|\text{mem}|}{4\text{MB}}$

● As a function of system bandwidth
  ● $\text{Cap} = \frac{\min(\text{FS.BW, Net.BW})}{\text{(Target average transfer rate)}}$

```
service gsiftp
{
  instances = 20
  socket_type = stream
  wait = no
  env += GLOBUS_LOCATION=...
  env += LD_LIBRARY_PATH=...
  server = /usr/local/globus-5.0.3/
  service gsiftp-server
    server_args = -i -p 2811
    disable = no
}
```

```
% globus-gridftp-server --connection-max 20
```
Resource Control

- To access the server
  - A user must be authenticated
  - Have read and write permissions and
  - Respect the total connection limit

- But beyond these requirements, there is no management or control
  - A user can hold a connection open indefinitely
  - Move an unlimited number of files (barring disk space or system quota constraints).

- A more flexible management is needed limit, prioritize and control
Inetd/Xinted

Server Host

Inetd/Xinted

GridFTP Server Instance

Client

Control Channel Connections

Inherited Links

Fork

Client

Client

Client
Globus Fork (GFork)
Gfork Memory Manager

- **Dynamically rations memory**
  - 10% of the allowed connections get 90% of the memory
  - Remaining session get half of available memory
- **Allows for high connection limits**
  - $|\text{mem}| / 2\text{MB}$
- **This limitation is different from the original connection limitation**
  - Based on amount of used memory, not a static value based on total system memory.
Memory Management

Performance without Memory Management

64 client, 128 MB RAM, 110.32 Mbps Total Throughput

Performance with Memory Management

64 client, 128 MB RAM, 418.76 Mbps Total Throughput
Dynamic Data Movers

Control node
- GFork Server
- GridFTP Plugin

Frontend Instance
- Lookup available backend
- Control Connection

Data Mover
- GridFTP Plugin
- GFork Server

Backend Instance
- Registration
- Fork
Future work

- This is a start
- More sophisticated resource management capabilities are needed
- Better than best-effort service
- Service guarantees
Questions?