

Press Release

Rutgers University Libraries install Inferno Data Grid

York, U.K., May 12th, 2004

Vita Nuova today announced that Rutgers University Libraries (NJ) have installed the Inferno Data Grid to help support the Center for Electronic Texts in the Humanities (CETH). The Inferno Data Grid will be used to support academics who wish to get access to large volumes of data relating to the classics and ancient philosophy.

CETH has a large number of original texts and translations relating to the works of Aristotle and other early philosophers. This data is located on a collection of Linux machines but is accessed by lecturers and researchers, for the main part, from Windows PCs. The Inferno Data Grid provides a single logical file system which can be explored by researchers. Files can be copied on to a researcher's local machine for offline study. The Grid also enables those with the right credentials to annotate existing files and add new files back into the data grid.

"On the surface what we wanted to accomplish at CETH was simple: the ability to access file resources distributed across multiple machines, securely and intuitively." says Brian Hancock, Digital Projects Librarian at CETH. "Until we discovered the Inferno Data Grid this was not a simple task. We are not Computer Scientists nor are the people we serve so it was important that the technology we chose would be simple and effective, we are very pleased with the outcome."

"It has been very satisfying to collaborate with the CETH at Rutgers University to solve this interesting problem." says Michael Jeffrey CEO of Vita Nuova. "Inferno's model of representing all resources as names in a file-like hierarchy is ideal for use in data grids. We can provide users with a single logical view of a collection of data irrespective of where the data resides or on what platform. Should CETH wish to move their data from a Linux to a UNIX or Windows platform there will be no recoding required."

Vita Nuova's Data and Computational Grid software is being used by a significant number of commercial organizations and universities. The Inferno Computational Grid software is being targeted at the Life Sciences and Financial sectors, whilst the Data Grid has applicability to anyone who has large amounts of distributed data.

A collection of Grid demonstrations is available on the Vita Nuova website at www.vitanuova.com/solutions/grid/index.html that illustrate how Inferno can be used to access resources as varied as computation, services, data and devices that are distributed around the network. Inferno itself is free to download from the Vita Nuova web site at www.vitanuova.com/inferno.

About Inferno

The Inferno system was originally created and developed at Lucent Technologies' Bell Labs within the Software Sciences Research Group; the same group that created the UNIX operating system and C programming language. The technology is now deployed and developed by Vita Nuova.

The operating system is highly portable running not just on top of existing operating systems but also on bare hardware and is uniquely effective for the construction of distributed systems involving heterogeneous collections of computers and environments. There is no need to replace the existing investment in hardware and operating systems.

About Vita Nuova

Founded March 1st, 2000, Vita Nuova is a privately held company with headquarters in York, England. Vita Nuova specialises in advanced technologies, including Inferno, for distributed application development on network devices.

About the Center for Electronic Texts in the Humanities, Rutgers University

CETH is located in the Alexander Library, the Social Sciences and Humanities Library, of the Rutgers University Libraries system. It is the research and development component for digital projects in the Humanities in the Scholarly Communication Center, <http://www.ceth.rutgers.edu>. The Rutgers University Libraries system encompasses twenty six libraries, centers, and reading rooms located on three campuses across New Jersey.

About Grid Computing

Grid Computing is about making distributed resources being made available in a uniform and seamless way. Grids can consist of computational nodes, data sets, instruments, devices and services. The Inferno Grid is a software infrastructure that makes this possible.

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