

Using Access Grid in an International Project

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- The HPC-Europa Project
- Why Access Grid?
- Usage Scenarios
 - Successes
 - Issues Arising
 - Solutions Sought
- The Meeting List Tool
- Please interrupt and ask questions!

- Large Europe-Wide Project
- Based around “Transnational Access” (TA)
- EC Funded, under the 6th Framework Programme
- Networking Activities and Research Activities support the TA
- A need for close collaboration



HPC-Europa

Pan-European Research Infrastructure on High Performance Computing

- Selection Meetings
- Status Meetings
- Technical Meetings
- Surgeries



- ✓ Allow frequent, transparent meetings
- ✓ Busy scientists can attend a site near them
- ✓ Meetings need not detract from ongoing support at centres
- ✓ Allows us to promote the technology to leading scientists
- ✦ Dynamic Partners – How do we cater for those without Access?
 - ✦ Issues with phone bridging
- ✦ Sound quality – still far from ideal despite “rehearsals”
- ✦ Sharing of Dynamic Information
 - ✦ The Meeting List Tool (later...)

- ✓ Access Grid makes *frequent* meetings possible
 - ✓ Groups feel closer
 - ✓ Keeps participants up-to-date
 - ✓ Encourages familiarisation

- ✓ Access Grid encourages *immersive* meetings
 - ✓ You can show things to each other as well as telling people about things
 - ✓ Pros and Cons of the technology become evident

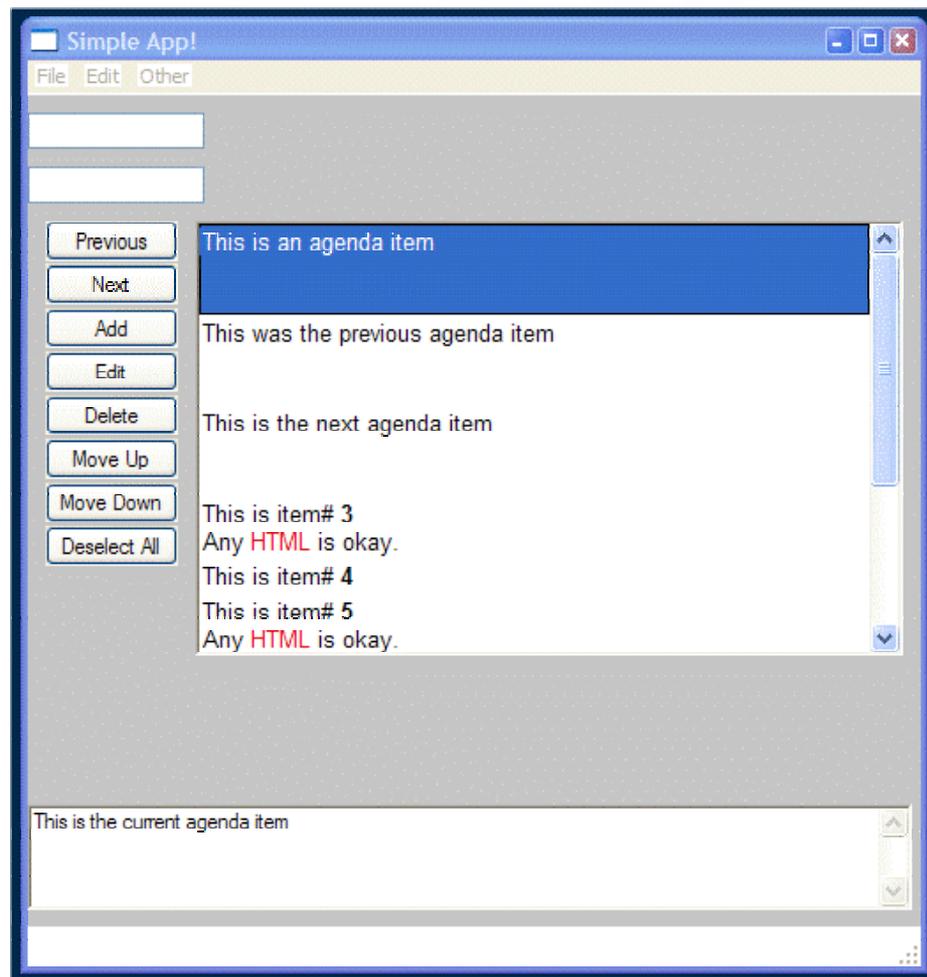
 Firewalls!

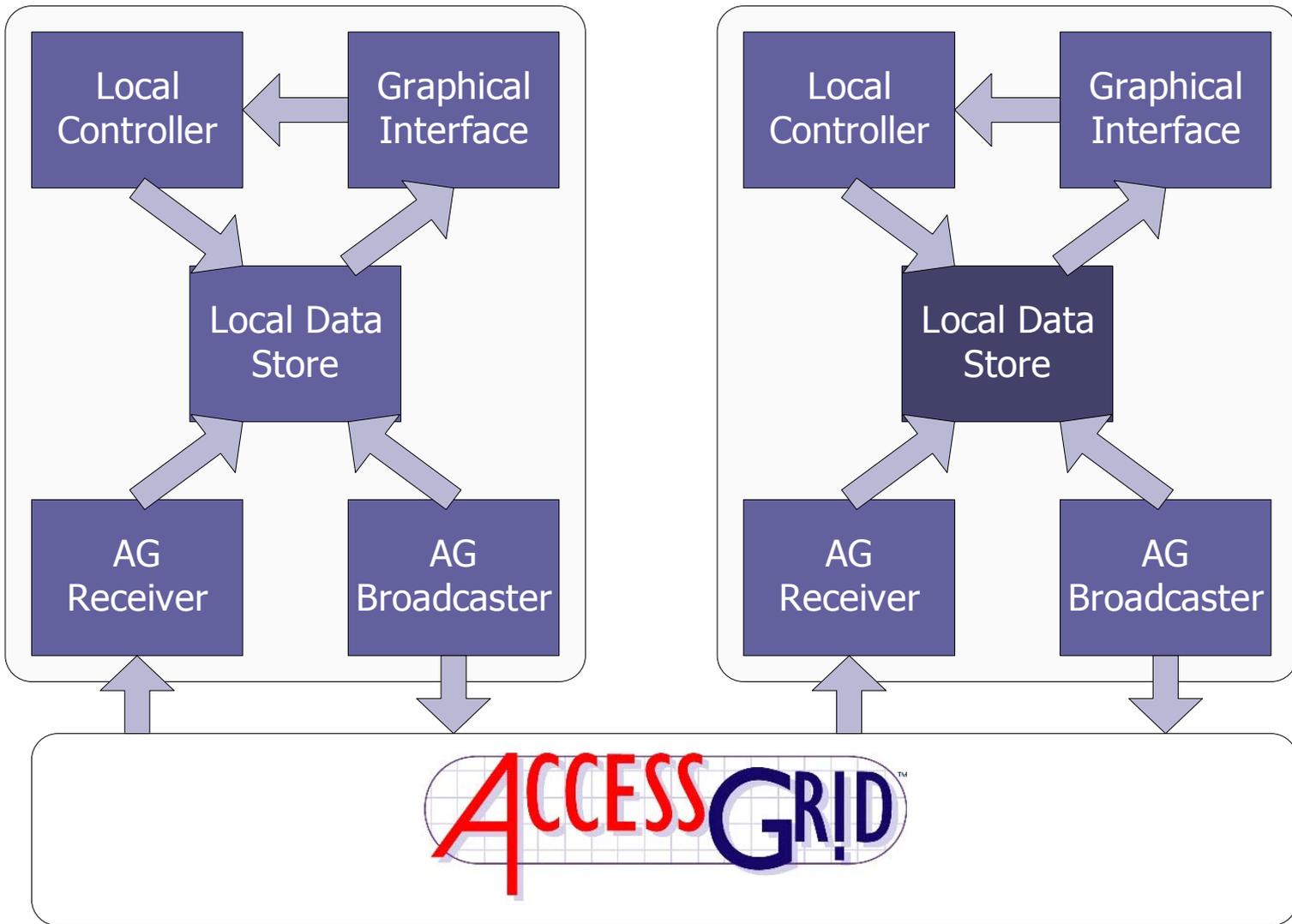
- JRA1 Performance Analysis Tools
 - Uniform tools across all sites for the performance analysis of applications.
 - Supported by NA2 – Infrastructure and Tools in Access Grid
 - Complex tools
- ✓ Distributed Meetings
- ✓ *Show as well as tell*
- ✓ Working at the computer
- ✦ Interaction with HPC machines

- ✓ Share expertise amongst centres
- ✓ Makes surgeries interactive despite small groups at some sites
- ✓ Promotes interaction between visitors to different sites
- ✓ Promotes technology to visitors
- ✳ Speaker positioning for multiple audiences
- ✳ Shared whiteboards
- ✳ Scalability?

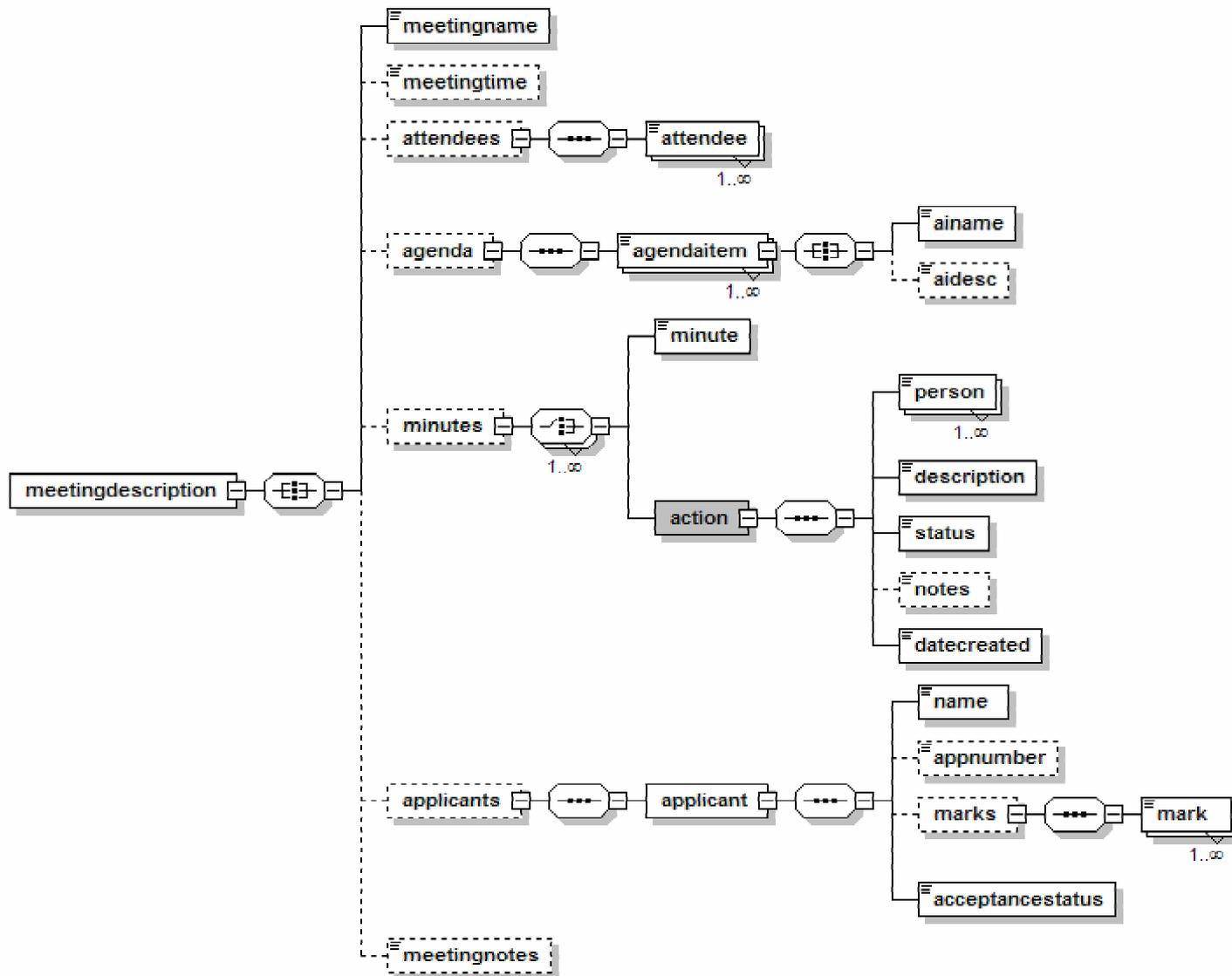


- Need to share information in real time during meetings.
 - Equal access to all participants
 - Easy to use – must be useable without interrupting flow of meeting
- A list of items that can be
 - Selected, added, deleted, updated, re-ordered
- Closest existing tool:
 - Shared question tool?
 - Not designed for this purpose
- Simple concept, but not completely trivial to implement!





- Need not know about the purpose of its communication
Broadcasts and receives changes in an XML document
 - Changes are either accepted or rejected
- Typical message:
 - UPDATE *<xpath>* = *value*



- HPC-Europa project continues until end of 2007
- Access Grid's development will be tracked and exploited as much as possible by the project
- (Hopefully useful!) contributions will be made by the project in the form of new Services and/or Shared Applications

www.hpc-europa.org

