

# Pegasus on Virtual Grid: A Case Study of Workflow Planning over Captive Resources

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## Abstract

*As scientific applications in a variety of disciplines are being actively studied and computing environments become more complicated and dynamic, a challenge is how to leverage existing cyber-infrastructures and achieve robust and efficient computing. This paper presents a case study on planning and executing application workflows over provisioned resources. This work integrates the Pegasus workflow framework with the Virtual Grid resource provisioning system. Through this preliminary study, we have identified two key issues that need to be addressed: 1) resource capacity estimate which synthesizes efficient resource descriptions for Virtual Grid from application workflows and 2) execution site information publication which generates resource configurations for Pegasus through the devirtualization of provisioned resources. In addition, we discuss the challenges and research opportunities that we need to explore in order to exploit the advanced features of the systems.*

## 1. Introduction

The advance of cyber-infrastructures has enabled scientists to explore complicated natural phenomena and many success stories inspire them to challenge more complex problems in a variety of disciplines [1-5]. One of key challenges in this exploration is how to

transition their knowledge and legacy software to new computing environments. A solution gaining its popularity is to use the high-level application descriptions such as workflow which can specify the structure and overall behavior of applications in a platform-independent manner. Typically, a workflow is represented as a Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG) that consists of nodes, which represent tasks, and edges, which denote data/control dependencies between tasks. When an application is specified via workflow, workflow management systems such as Pegasus [6], Askalon [7], Triana [8], and others can deal with the complexity of application management and execute the application workflows on distributed resources.

In the meantime, the coordination and management of distributed resources have been challenging issues for a number of communities in computer science. The noticeable achievements in distributed computing are the state-of-art resource virtualization technologies such as Virtual Grid [9], virtual cluster [10], and compute clouds [11], which take into account of a variety of factors such as availability, performance, cost, etc and enable on-demand resource provisioning. Regardless of the base technology that implements virtualization, these technologies commonly encapsulate the complexity of resource management and provide the uniform interfaces to resources.

The workflow management systems can potentially benefit from these resource provisioning technologies. First, the workflow management systems can be insu-

lated from the resource management complexity, which subsequently reduces the design complexity of workflow management systems. Second, the workflow management systems can take advantage of the benefits of efficient resource management of provisioning systems since the provisioning systems can optimize resource allocations and assure the quality of resources in terms of computing and communication performance, reliability, availability, and so on. Finally, the workflow management systems can exploit an extended resource universe with minimal efforts through resource provisioning. On the other hand, the provisioning systems can have well-defined interfaces to applications via the workflow management systems. In addition, the provisioning systems can experience a variety of structural and behavioral characteristics of applications via the workflow management systems which can contribute to improving the provisioning systems themselves. Finally, the provisioning systems can extensively evaluate their performance and the quality of provisioning techniques in real settings against the applications already supported by the workflow management systems.

Specifically, we are interested in two representative achievements for workflow management and resource provisioning. Pegasus [6] is a workflow management framework which conducts workflow planning with the detailed information about computation and data against given resource sets. Virtual Grid (VG) [9] is a programmable resource provisioning framework, which enables the users to instantiate resources of quality on demand. We believe that the integration of Pegasus with Virtual Grid can not only deliver the aforementioned benefits but also have significant synergistic effects on scientific computing. As a result, Pegasus can conduct more efficient workflow planning in terms of cost, performance, quality with the resources provisioned by Virtual Grid.

As a preliminary study, however, this paper focuses only on a basic integration and discusses two critical issues to be solved. We have identified two core interfaces for the interactions between Pegasus and Virtual Grid: resource capacity estimate and execution site information publication. We implement these interfaces in a proxy system named Pegasus-VG proxy which orchestrates Pegasus and Virtual Grid and enables workflow execution over provisioned resources. Finally, we present several challenges and the new research opportunities identified through this study.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we give a brief overview of Pegasus and Virtual Grid. Then, we discuss a simple working scenario and the integration issues in Section 3. We summarize the related studies in Section 4 and finally con-

clude this paper, discussing the future research directions in Section 5 and 6.

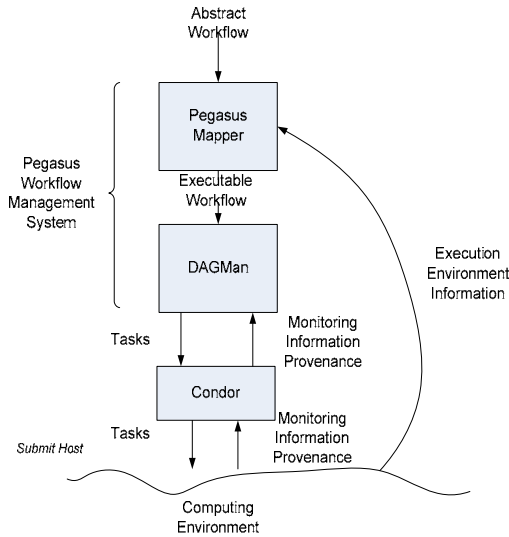
## 2. Background

The common design philosophy of Pegasus and Virtual Grid is that separation of concerns can simplify complex problems and can provide feasible or even better solutions. Specifically, Pegasus pursues that an application can be developed and executed independently of target execution systems using a high-level representation (i.e., application workflow) while Virtual Grid aims for that resource management can be encapsulated from application and be virtualized via a resource abstraction (i.e., Virtual Grid). Since these two systems are complimentary to each other, the integration of the two systems can simplify the overall design complexity of scientific computing, make applications portable, and achieve high performance. In the following subsections, we give a brief overview of Pegasus and Virtual Grid.

### 2.1. Pegasus

Pegasus [6] is a workflow management framework which maps abstract workflows, which describe the logical topology and functionality of applications, onto distributed resources through workflow planning, and executes workflow tasks using Condor's DAGMan [12]. In essence, Pegasus itself automates the process of mapping from an abstract workflow to an executable workflow. Figure 1 illustrates a typical lifecycle of application workflow in the Pegasus framework. Pegasus takes an abstract workflow, maps it onto the available resources, and invokes DAGMan to execute the workflow. DAGMan then walks through the workflow and releases the workflow tasks to Condor-G [12] which subsequently submits them to the remote resources (via Globus [13]) for execution.

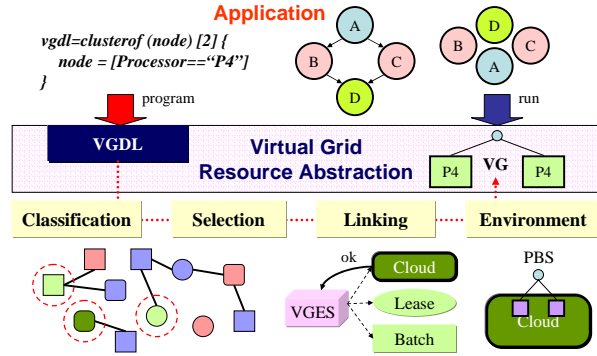
**2.1.1. Creation.** The first phase of the workflow lifecycle is to create an abstract workflow for application. An abstract workflow [6] is a logical representation of control and data flow of application, independent of resources. An abstract workflow is composed of the tasks described in terms of logical transformations and logical input and output filenames. Depending on their backgrounds, circumstances, expertise on the workflow technologies, scientists can create abstract workflows, directly using predefined schemas, using the Pegasus Java API, or using the intelligent workflow editor, Wings [14].



**Figure 1.** Workflow lifecycle in the Pegasus framework

**2.1.2. Planning.** The goal of Pegasus is to find a good mapping of workflow tasks to available resources for execution. Pegasus transforms an abstract workflow through a series of refinements to a concrete workflow which is executable on resources. Pegasus first identifies the resources in production that the user can access to. Second, Pegasus simplifies the workflow with the historic computation results that Pegasus keeps track of. In case that the computing results of workflow tasks are already available (for example when the data were previously computed and stored), such computations can be replaced with simple data transfers. Pegasus then conducts a planning by selecting appropriate resources, based on the available resources and their characteristics as well as the location of input data. Pegasus relies on information services such as MDS (Meta-computing Directory Service) [15] to retrieve resource characteristics and RLS (Replica Location Service) [16] to locate historic data. For efficient execution, Pegasus can cluster jobs together in cases where a number of small granularity jobs are destined for a same computing resource. Next, Pegasus augments the workflow with the tasks that explicitly perform data transfers. The final step is to write out the mapping results in a Condor input file and the associated submit files which can be interpreted by Condor DAGMan [12].

**2.1.3. Execution.** Pegasus uses DAGMan for workflow execution. DAGMan is a workflow execution engine which submits jobs to Condor in an order represented by a Condor DAG. DAGMan processes a DAG input file and the associated Condor submit



**Figure 2.** Scientific Computing via Virtual Grid

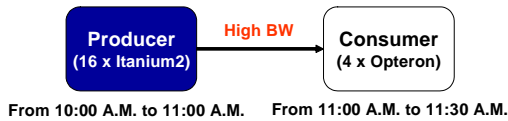
file(s) for an executable workflow. At the same time, it is responsible for scheduling, recovery, and reporting on the set of programs submitted to Condor.

For the distributed resources like Grids, DAGMan submits jobs to Condor-G. Condor-G [12] is a job management system which locates resources and submits, cancels, and monitors jobs on the behalf of the users. Condor-G provides a uniform resource space over heterogeneous resources via a Condor pool and enables the users to transparently access resources and manage jobs. For remote execution, Condor-G relies on Globus Toolkits [13] which enables secure accesses to resources, uniform accesses to a variety of batch systems, file staging, status monitoring, and so on.

## 2.2. Virtual Grid

Virtual Grid (VG) [9, 17] is a high-level resource abstraction enabling virtualized distributed computing across heterogeneous resources. Separated by the VG abstraction layer, a user specifies the characteristics of desired execution target while the Virtual Grid execution system (VGES) [17, 18] reifies the abstraction. VGES manages the uncertainty and dynamics associated with queuing delays, failures, and contention effects underneath the abstraction. As such, Virtual Grid can isolate application development, scheduling, and optimization procedures from the complexity of managing resources.

Figure 2 illustrates a computing scenario in the context of VG. First, the users abstract their resource requirements and program the structure and properties of desired execution target in the resource description language named VGDL [17]. VGES then analyzes the VGDL description and compiles a resource collection of quality into a VG instance through resource selection, binding, and environment setup. Once a VG is created, users can operate on the VG to retrieve the



(a) Resource requirement

```

Producer-consumer =
  Producer = ClusterOf (nd1) [16]
              <12/12/2006@10:0:0[EXEL], 1:0:0[EXEL]>
              { nd1 = [Processor == "Itanium 2"] }
  HighBW
  Consumer = ClusterOf (nd2) [4]
              <12/12/2006@11:0:0[EXEL], 0:30:0[EXEL]>
              { nd2 = [Processor == "Opteron"] }

```

(b) Resource specification

**Figure 3.** An example of resource specification in VGDL

(*ClusterOf* denotes a set of homogeneous resources; *HighBW* represents a high bandwidth network;  $\langle xx/xx/xx@xx:xx:xx[avail\_prob], xx:xx:xx[rel\_prob] \rangle$  describes the start time and the availability of resource arrival and the duration and the reliability of resource allocation.)

resource information, to execute the application tasks, and to manage the resource collection. In the following sections, we highlight three components that implement the Virtual Grid concept.

**2.2.1. Resource description language.** VGDL (Virtual Grid Description Language) [17] is a resource description language, which provides constructs for expressing constraints on the attributes associated with computing resources. The users can describe resource requirements in terms of desired values of attributes (e.g., process type, memory capacity). The key advances of VGDL are the capability of hierarchical qualitative specification of resource aggregates and network proximity. The qualitative approach enables applications to construct simple and robust specifications regardless of technology advances.

The users can capture simple resource abstractions widely used to achieve the portability in design and to manage the complexity of resource environments via the VG resource aggregates. Moreover, the VG connectivity operators express the coarse notions of network proximity between aggregates in terms of latency and bandwidth. The resource aggregates and network connectivity operators enable the users to compose individual resources into an arbitrary structure. At the same time the users can specify application-specific resource quality in a user-defined resource ranking function. The users can specify the temporal resource availability for time-constrained applications [9]. Moreover, the users can specify the availability probability of resources at a certain time (i.e., start time) and the reliability probability of resources for a certain duration.

Figure 3 illustrates how a program that consists of a pair of a producer and a consumer can be described in VGDL. In this example, the user needs two tightly coupled clusters in a temporal order, each of which has 16 Itanium processors and 4 Opteron processors, respectively. In addition, the user requires a high level confidence that the resources will be timely allocated

and should be highly reliable while the application is running. Two *ClusterOf* aggregates are used to represent clusters and a *HighBW* connectivity operator is used to tightly couple two clusters.

**2.2.2. Resource compilation.** Compiling a VG instance from a VGDL specification is the process of configuring a network of resources for the specification [9]. A VG compilation consists of selection and binding. Selection is to identify the possible resources satisfying the specification in the resource universe while binding is to secure the resource allocation with a certain confidence.

Virtual Grid reformulates the resource selection problem through a resource classification and an online search for efficient selection and implements the fast resource selection by exploiting the relational database technology [18]. On the other hand, the likelihood of binding success is contingent upon the resource management policy of resource manager. Virtual Grid exploits the compositional structure of resource specification and identifies the components that can be allocated independently. Virtual Grid guarantees the success of resource binding probabilistically by identifying multiple solutions for each component [18].

**2.2.3. Personal cluster.** A personal cluster is a virtual cluster instantiated on demand from physical resources, which gives an illusion to the user as if the instant cluster is dedicated to the user for a certain time period [20]. A personal cluster reserves a partition of resources and enables a uniform, cost-effective use of batch resources. The user has a dedicated cluster under the control of a private resource manager. As such a personal cluster can provide a uniform job/resource management environment over heterogeneous resources regardless of system-level resource management paradigms.

The current implementation is based on WS-based Globus Toolkits [22] and a PBS [21] installation. Per-

sonal cluster uses the similar mechanism to Condor glidein [12]. Once a system-level resource manager allocates a partition of resources, a user-level PBS scheduled on the resources holds the resources for a user-specified time and a user-level WS-GRAM configured at runtime for the partition accepts jobs from the user and relays them to the user-level PBS. As a result, the users can bypass the system-level resource manager and benefit from the low scheduling overhead with the private scheduler.

### 3. Pegasus on Virtual Grid

The intuition behind integrating Pegasus with Virtual Grid is that a workflow planning system can benefit from the advanced resource management services of provisioning system and consequently enable robust and efficient computing. However, the scope of this paper is limited to a simple scenario of interactions between Pegasus and Virtual Grid. To minimize impacts on both the systems and enable independent developments, we propose a proxy system named Pegasus-VG proxy which implements the interfaces and the services required for integration, insulating the systems from each other. In this section, we present our computing scenario and detail the issues of this study.

#### 3.1. Computing Scenario

As discussed in Section 2.1, a workflow basically goes through three phases in the Pegasus framework: creation, planning, and execution. Workflow creation is a wholly application-specific phase, independent of target resources. Rather, Pegasus interacts with Virtual Grid at the planning and execution phases. An issue here is that the resources in Virtual Grid are presented in a virtualized manner even though Pegasus needs concrete resource information such as hostname, port number, directory name, and so on. Therefore, the Pegasus-VG proxy devirtualizes the provisioned resources and allows Pegasus to follow the normal planning and execution processes without modifying the Pegasus internals.

Figure 4 illustrates how Pegasus interacts with Virtual Grid in a simple devirtualization scenario. First, the user would specify application-specific knowledge about resource requirements (e.g., processor type, memory capacity) and the application-level information (e.g., locations of executable, data, and replica) needed to run his/her application in the Pegasus framework at the creation phase. When the user conducts planning with this abstract workflow, a wrapper program for the Pegasus planning command intercepts the

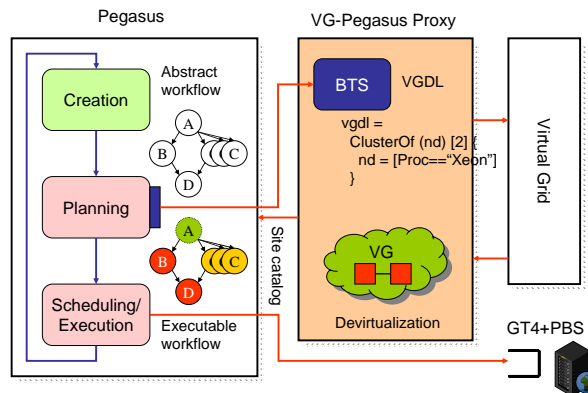
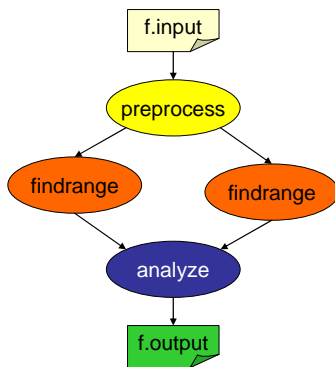


Figure 4. Pegasus on Virtual Grid

resource information before the ordinary planning of Pegasus takes place and contacts the Pegasus-VG proxy. The proxy then synthesizes a vgDL description through a resource capacity estimate and instantiates a VG on the behalf of Pegasus. The proxy devirtualizes the VG instance and generates a new *site catalog* which is a formal input of Pegasus describing the information of the provisioned resources from VG. The site catalog is then sent back to the wrapper and finally the wrapper invokes the ordinary Pegasus planner with the site catalog. Pegasus now continues its normal planning process. Since a site catalog contains the detailed information about how to access resources such as hostname, GRAM port number, scheduling adaptor, and so on, Pegasus can run applications directly on the resources via DAGMan as usual.

#### 3.2. Issues

**3.2.1. Resource capacity estimation.** A critical capability required for this integration is to synthesize a vgDL specification from application workflow(s). The most important attribute from the perspective of high-level workflows is the number of processors required by the application because the resource size is one of the important factors in determining the makespan of workflow application and the cost of resource allocation. If the number of resources is large, the parallel execution of independent tasks can reduce the execution time while too many resources can cause low resource utilization, high scheduling overhead, and high cost. On the other hand, if the number of resources is too small, the execution time of workflow can increase. Therefore, it is important to estimate the number of resources as small as possible so as to complete a workflow within a given deadline. This problem is different from the conventional workflow scheduling or cost-optimization problems, which aim at minimiz-



(a) Black-diamond workflow

```

<!-- part 1: list of all files used (may be empty) -->
<filename file="f.input" link="input"/>
<filename file="f.intermediate" link="input"/>
<filename file="f.output" link="output"/>
<filename file="keg" link="input">

<!-- part 2: definition of all jobs (at least one) -->
<job id="ID000001" namespace="pegasus" name="preprocess" version="1.0" >
<argument>
  -i <filename file="f.input"/> -o <filename file="f.intermediate"/>
</argument>
<uses file="f.input" link="input" register="false" transfer="true"/>
<uses file="f.intermediate" link="output" register="false" transfer="false">
</job>

<job id="ID000002" namespace="pegasus" name="analyze" version="1.0" >
<argument>
  -i <filename file="f.intermediate"/> -o <filename file="f.output"/>
</argument>
<uses file="f.intermediate" link="input" register="false" transfer="true"/>
<uses file="f.output" link="output" register="true" transfer="true"/>
</job>
...

```

(b) A fragment of Pegasus DAX

```
Diamond = ClusterOf [2] (nd) [, 01:00:00]{ nd = [Processor == "Xeon" ] }
```

(c) A synthesized vgDL description requesting a cluster consisting of 2 Xeon processors

**Figure 5.** vgDL synthesis for a black-diamond application workflow

ing the application’s runtime against a fixed set of resources.

This issue was already addressed by several studies [23, 24]. In particular, the BTS algorithm estimates the resource capacity very efficiently [24]. The algorithm scales well even with very complex workflows and provides good estimate of resources needed which is close to the optimal for a variety of workflows. Moreover, the resource estimate is abstract and independent of description languages and selection mechanisms so it can be easily integrated with any resource description languages and provisioning systems.

The Pegasus-VG proxy has a wrapper of BTS which takes abstract workflows (DAX) from Pegasus and generates a vgDL description. For example, Figure 5 (a) depicts a black-diamond application. The user can describe the structure and behavior of the application in a DAX as shown in Figure 5 (b). Then, the BTS wrapper extracts the workflow information (e.g. task and link) and invokes BTS. BTS then estimate the number of processors required for the workflow and synthesizes a vgDL description as shown in Figure 5 (c) using the resource requirements (e.g., processor type, clock rate, memory capacity) given by client. In this example, the user can have a cluster consisting of 2 Xeon processors. The processor requirements are

embedded into the node definition while the cluster size is determined automatically by BTS.

**3.2.2. Site catalog publication.** Pegasus conducts a workflow planning against the resources described in site catalogues. The BTS wrapper generates a complete vgDL specification through the resource capacity estimate and then the proxy acquires resources via Virtual Grid. Once a VG instance is successfully created, the proxy devirtualizes the VG and creates a site catalog describing the provisioned resources.

Figure 6 (a) is a site catalog created for the vgDL specification presented in Figure 5 (c). As discussed in Section 2.3, Virtual Grid deploys a personal cluster based on Globus Web Services and PBS to the provisioned resources. The key information that the proxy retrieves is the information related to the WS-GRAM service such as Globus version, service endpoint, batch scheduler type, and so on. In this example, the cluster has 2 processors and provides a GRAM web service for PBS available at <https://cat7.kaist.ac.kr:9000>.

Pegasus then generates a Condor input file and the associated Condor submit files. The key information in a submit file is *universe*, *grid\_type*, *globusscheduler*, and *jobmanager\_type*. *Universe* specifies the Condor execution environment, *grid\_type*, the Globus version

```

<sitecatalog xmlns="http://pegasus.isi.edu/schema/sitecatalog" ...>
<site handle="cat7" gridlaunch="/home/globus/pegasus-2.1.0/bin/kickstart" sysinfo="INTEL32::LINUX">
<profile namespace="env" key="PEGASUS_HOME"/>/home/globus/pegasus-2.1.0</profile>
<profile namespace="env" key="GLOBUS_LOCATION"/>/usr/local/globus-4.0.7</profile>
<profile namespace="env" key="LD_LIBRARY_PATH"/>/usr/local/globus-4.0.7/lib</profile>
<profile namespace="env" key="JAVA_HOME"/>/opt/jdk</profile>
<profile namespace="condor" key="grid_type">gt4</profile>
<profile namespace="condor" key="jobmanager_type">PBS</profile>
<lrc url="rlsn://cat7.kaist.ac.kr" />
<gridftp url="gsiftp://cat7.kaist.ac.kr:2811" storage="/home/globus" major="4" minor="0" patch="7" />
<jobmanager universe="transfer" url="https://cat7.kaist.ac.kr:9000/wsrf/services/ManagedJobFactoryService" major="4" minor="0"
patch="7" total-nodes="2" />
<jobmanager universe="vanilla" url="https://cat7.kaist.ac.kr:9000/wsrf/services/ManagedJobFactoryService" major="4" minor="0" patch="7"
total-nodes="2" />
<workdirectory>${HOME}/workdir</workdirectory>
</site>
...
</sitecatalog>

```

(a) A simplified site catalog published for the provisioned cluster consisting of 2 Xeon processors

```

environment = GLOBUS_LOCATION=/usr/local/globus-4.0.7;JAVA_HOME=/opt/jdk;PEGASUS_HOME=/home/globus/pegasus-2.1.0;
LD_LIBRARY_PATH=/usr/local/globus-4.0.7/lib;
arguments = "-n black::preprocess:1.0 -N black::top:1.0 -R cat7 /home/globus/pegasus-2.1.0/.../black-preprocess-1.0 -a top -T60 -i f.a -o f.b1
f.b2"
error = /home/globus/pegasus-2.1.0/temp/dags/globus/pegasus/black-diamond/run0001/preprocess_ID000001.err
executable = /home/globus/pegasus-2.1.0/bin/kickstart
globusrsi = (jobtype=single)
globusscheduler = https://cat7.kaist.ac.kr:9000/wsrf/services/ManagedJobFactoryService
grid_type = gt4
jobmanager_type = PBS
output = /home/globus/pegasus-2.1.0/temp/dags/globus/pegasus/black-diamond/run0001/preprocess_ID000001.out
remote_initialdir = /home/globus/pegasus-2.1.0/temp/${HOME}/workdir/pegasusexec/globus/pegasus/black-diamond/run0001
transfer_error = true
transfer_executable = false
transfer_output = true
universe = grid
+pegasus_generator = "Pegasus"
+pegasus_version = "2.1.0"
+pegasus_wf_name = "black-diamond-0"
+pegasus_wf_time = "20080909T182531+0900"
+pegasus_job_id = "preprocess_ID000001"
+pegasus_site = "cat7"
Queue

```

(b) A simplified Condor submit file generated by Pegasus for the DAX against the site catalog

**Figure 6.** Planning of abstract workflow against provisioned resources

installed on the remote resource, *globusscheduler*, the end point information to access the GRAM web service, and *jobmanager\_type*, the batch scheduler name of remote resource manager. Figure 6 (b) illustrates a Condor submit file generated by Pegasus 2.1.0 version. In this example, *universe* is *grid*, *grid\_type* is *gt4*, *globusscheduler* is <https://cat7.kaist.ac.kr:9000/wsrf/services/ManagedJobFactoryService>, and *jobmanager\_type* is *PBS*; this information is extracted from the site catalog presented in Figure 6 (a).

Pegasus can conduct a normal planning for the DAX presented in Figure 5 (b) with this site catalog

and generate an executable workflow (Condor DAG) as shown in Figure 6 (b). Since the Globus Web Services and a PBS job manager are already deployed to the provisioned resources, Condor DAGMan can run the workflow tasks directly on the resources by using the GT4 options of Condor submit command.

## 4. Related Work

In [25], the authors discussed on workflow planning over provisioning resources across multiple sites or VOs (Virtual Organization) [26]. They use Pegasus as

a workflow management framework and Condor-G [12] as a provisioned framework. Condor-G working with Condor [27] can be regarded as a resource provisioning framework which can support advance reservation [28] and dynamic resource acquisition using the glidein mechanism [12]. Different from Condor-G, Virtual Grid is not only a resource provisioning framework but also a resource programming and virtualization framework. In addition, Virtual Grid supports a variety of resource management paradigms such as best effort space-sharing, advance reservation, price-based reservation [29], compute cloud [11], and time-sharing resources. Moreover, Virtual Grid can deploy any user-level job manager including PBS on demand.

In addition to the system-level integration, there have been several studies on scheduling application workflows on provisioned resources [30-32]. These studies demonstrate the potential of integrating workflow management systems with resource provisioning systems. A common lesson from these studies is that provisioning resources can deliver good and predictable performance to applications, compared to the best effort space-sharing resources. Virtual Grid can instantiate resource collections that have specific characteristics across distributed resources, which can meet the assumption that the application-level schedulers have.

## 5. Conclusions & Discussions

This paper presented a case study on workflow planning and execution over provisioned resources through integrating the Pegasus workflow framework with the Virtual Grid resource provisioning system. We identified that the resource capacity estimate and the site catalog publication through resource devirtualization are two key features required for this basic integration. As an implementation, we introduced the Pegasus-VG proxy as a common ground where Pegasus interacts with the Virtual Grid. This proxy-based implementation enables an easy integration without changing the internals of either of the systems. We believe this integration enables scientists to explore their problems more efficiently over distributed resources. Since resource provisioning is opaque to the users, the application development cycle is the same even with more advanced resource allocation.

This study is the first step for understanding the issues when integrating workflow management systems with resource provisioning systems. Furthermore, we have identified several challenges through this integration. Pegasus can partition a workflow into multiple subworkflows which can be planned and executed separately over time. Since allocating a large set of

resources for long time is expensive and difficult and exposes applications to resource failures, provisioning resources over time can be cost-efficient and even provide better performance and reliability. For temporal resource provisioning for multiple subworkflows, the users can specify time constraints on their resource specifications and let Virtual Grid allocate resources according to the user-specified schedules. On the other hand, the users can allocate resources on-the-fly for each subworkflow whenever Pegasus conducts planning. In either of the cases, Virtual Grid will optimize resource allocation, taking into account of resource characteristics. We are going to explore to what extent the temporal resource provisioning can improve application performance, compared to the static resource allocation.

Even though the resource devirtualization makes this integration easy, it sacrifices the advanced features of Virtual Grid. For instance, DAGMan repeats the same computation in case of computation failures until it reaches to the maximum retries. However, repeating computation on the same resource is not likely to succeed if the failures do not result from transient errors. Unless Pegasus provides multiple plans for a workflow or a dynamic re-planning feature at failures, DAGMan cannot handle non-transient runtime failures. Restarting the failed job on different resources, on the other hand, is more likely to succeed. Virtual Grid supports a variety of functionalities for fault-tolerance. First of all, Virtual Grid can provision more reliable resources so it can proactively minimize the likelihood of failures. Moreover, Virtual Grid can swap resources dynamically after resource failures and restart the failed tasks on the new resources.

Finally, the overall performance of application is influenced by a variety of factors such as resource quality, resource reliability, data location, etc. We are also exploring how to improve the effective performance, which represents not only the performance of successful executions but also the penalty due to failures, against dynamic resource environments.

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