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Bristol Site Report

May 2006



Scope

- User Support / Servers / Config
- Security / Network
- UKI-SOUTHGRID-BRIS-HEP
- Upcoming: major infrastructure mods
- Assimilation of/into &or contention for upcoming IS HPC cluster

User Support

- Inventory/Asset Management (initialise!), budget, hardware replenish/upgrades
 - Desktop: XP, RH7/9, SL3/4, FC4/5, Mac
 - Rhys Morris (Astro) 25% PP support
 - MS support: Danny Yarde, JP Melot
 - Macs: users do own support mostly
 - Lots of laptops on & offsite (security??)
- No user acct/disk space management yet

PP Servers

- 2 login svr, one is main NFS – need separate
- Auth via krb4 to antique MS ADS svr – security concerns – can't upgrade, IS politics
- Other servers: PBS, NFS, compute, license – each unique hardware, OS/software/config
- “Critical” AFS server: Win2K (eeek); TO-DO: migrate to Unix
- Map services & disk: consolidate & retire

Standard Config

- Security: iptables & /etc/hosts.{deny,allow} but no central logging or monitoring yet (TO-DO)
- sendmail broken => no logwatch notices
- Nightly MS/RH/SL updates
- Only 4 filesystems regularly backed up (TO-DO: ensure backing up everything needing backup)

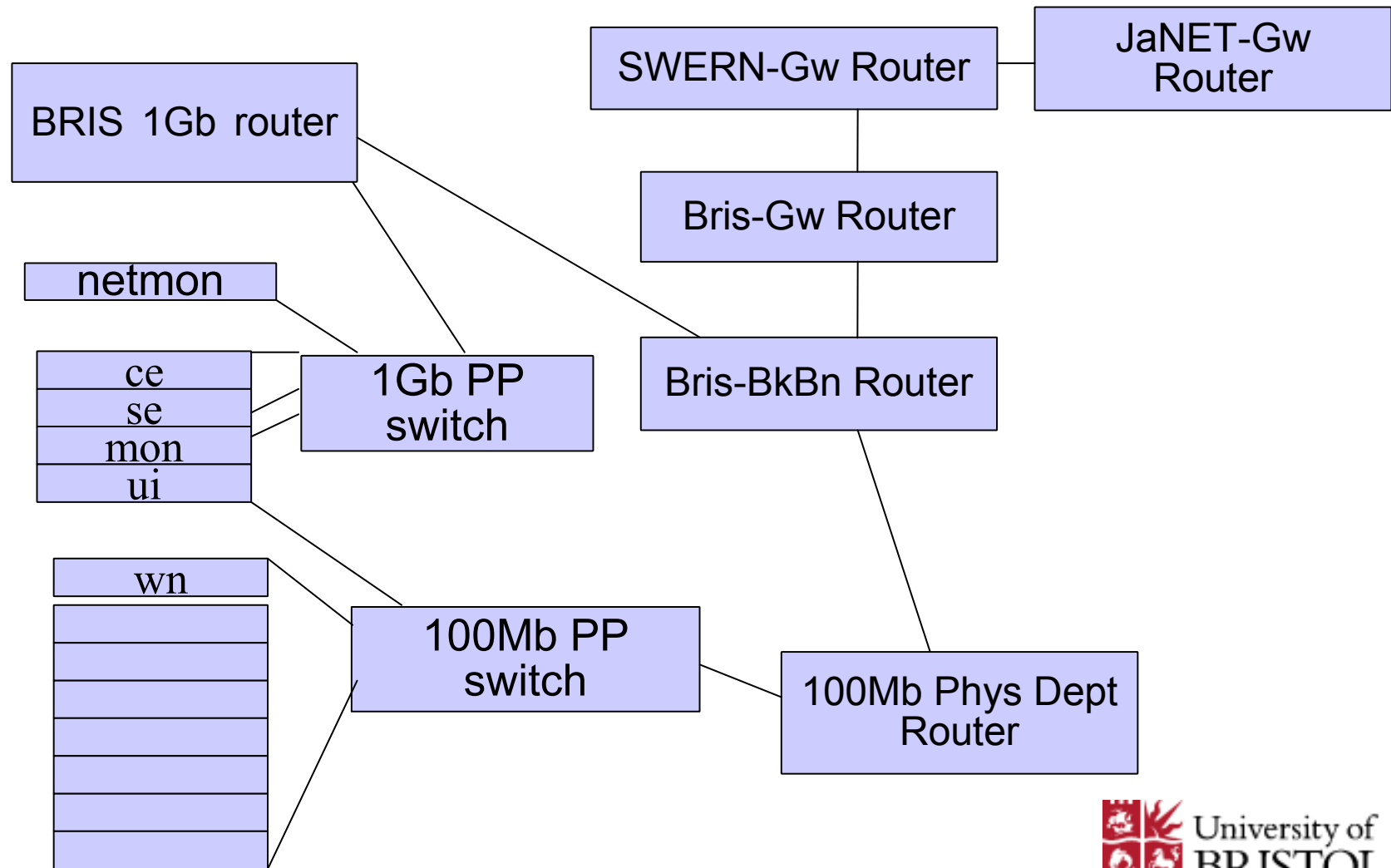
Security

- Nodes run standard Lx crons ie logwatch but sendmail never sends due to security; 97% is unwanted “all-ok”; need filtering – really do want that 3% “Help me...”
- Needed: Secure monitored central logging server, secure gateway/login server
- Encrypted (Unix) offsite backups (done)
- MS backups by JP Melot to 1+4 flr bkp svrs

Network

- JP Melot manages all Physics networking
- Grid nodes (CE/SE/MON) on 1Gb network
March 2006, rest still 100Mb
- Still mapping network & devices: Phys => IS
=> SWERN => JaNET

PHYSICS => BRIS => SWERN => JANET



UKI-SOUTHGRID-BRIS-HEP

- Pete G & Yves C built CE/SE/MON/WN (1 WN = 2CPU (1 reserved for SFT)) 2005-07
- WL online 2005-10, Pete G & Yves C came to tutor in UI build 2005-11
- Yves still a font of wisdom! (LCG: complex)
- LFC, DPM, Upgrade to LCG 2.7.0, +7WN(scavenged from PP PBS cluster)
- Next: Security Review & Monitor, Backups; XFS? SL4.x?

UKI-SOUTHGRID-BRIS-HEP (pix)



Upcoming

- Major Physics reno => PP floor must move
 - Staff move to 1 if not 2 remote building(s)
- 5th floor water tank: dismantle for new IS HPC machine room; Physics (incl. Astro, etc) machine room(s) will move into it
- All servers rackmount – consolidate heap of “white box” PP servers to fewer rackmount servers (++work, but will simplify)

IS HPC

- Just completed Phase1 of tender evaluation
- Selection by – mid May?
- 1024 CPU, garden variety cluster (Masters, Storage subsystem = heads & servers)
- Shared by ALL Uni research groups (eeek)
- Particle Physics funding = expect ongoing set of LCG WN allocated, & LCG storage; IS being evasive to agree/commit

CE \Rightarrow IS.HPC Cluster

- Existing WN may stay, & want to point LCG CE at IS.HPC cluster / queue (queues?)
- LCG/PP #WN probably fluctuate – have to define when/how IS.HPC cluster adds & deletes PP LCG WN
- Must know exactly what config needed for WN \Leftrightarrow { PP LCG CE/SE/MON)

SE \Rightarrow IS.HPC Storage

- Likewise PP “expects” to have access from LCG SE to some (much?) IS.HPC storage
- *Really* need to know how much + what kind of control the LCG SE needs over remote cluster storage
- IS expecting at best NFS access.... maybe not good enough for LCG SE
- Need to find out what others have done

Current Issues

- Useful to learn how other sites do security & configuration architect/maintain/manage
- Scavenge good ideas; **SIMPLE = GOOD**
- Server consolidation will be +work but good
- Less daily interrupts to work on longer-term projects & study/grok LCG software structure & monitoring