

Grouper Call 18-Jan-2012

Draft Minutes: Grouper Call 18-Jan-2012

Attending

Tom Barton, U. Chicago, Chair
Chris Hyzer, University of Pennsylvania
Shilen Patel, Duke
Mike McDermott, Brown
Steve Olshansky, Internet2
Emily Eisbruch, Internet2 (scribe)

New Action Items

[AI] (Chris) will start a Grouper UI Planning wiki page outlining the phases to develop a new Grouper UI (DONE)<https://spaces.at.internet2.edu/display/Grouper/Grouper+UI+redesign+v2.2>

[AI] (Mike) will review and contribute to the Grouper UI Planning wiki page

[AI] (Shilen) will review and contribute to the Grouper UI Planning wiki page

Carry Over Action Items

[AI] (TomZ) will document steps he took regarding naming for LDAPPC NG modules

[AI] (Jim) will email the grouper-users list soliciting input on JNDI source adapter work.

[AI] (Emily) will make recommendations based on feedback from Peter S.<https://lists.internet2.edu/sympa/arc/grouper-users/2011-12/msg00020.html>

[AI] (Jim) will create a wiki page on reconciling the two LDAP source adapters (DONE, see <https://spaces.at.internet2.edu/display/Grouper/LDAP+Source+cleanup>)

[AI] (TomZ) will put test data in the Grouper demo to show using an LDAP source

[AI] (TomZ) will review Jira issues for the next release and ensure they are properly fleshed out.

[AI] (TomZ) will review the Grouper LDAP Loader doc and provide feedback to Chris, possibly with lessons learned from LDAPPC work.<https://spaces.at.internet2.edu/display/Grouper/Grouper++Loader+LDAP>

[AI] (TomZ) will update JIRA to reflect the priorities

[AI] (Rob) will follow up with Danno on obtaining the server for the Continuous Integration Environment.

[AI] (Everyone) review Rob's chapters and give him feedback on the Grouper Users List.

DISCUSSION

Grouper v2.0.3

- Grouper V2.03 was released.
- Penn discovered one issue (a subject API caching problem) described in this JIRA:<https://bugs.internet2.edu/jira/browse/GRP-725>
- This issue has been fixed in the Grouper v2 branch and trunk
- Other than that one issue (now fixed), Penn is using the new release and it's working fine.

Grouper Installer

<https://spaces.at.internet2.edu/display/Grouper/Grouper+Installer>

- Chris finished the Grouper Installer and has received good feedback on the list
- Chris implemented features that TomZ suggested, including being sure memory is bumped up for Tomcat
- Chris merged the Grouper installer work forward to the trunk
- TomZ mentioned possibly getting some LDAP elements working in the installer, which would be great

Always Available Client

<https://spaces.at.internet2.edu/display/Grouper/GrouperClient+failover+client+API>

- For this Failover Client API , you provide a list of endpoints and some logic
- You register the configuration (how many servers and if they are active, etc.) and that's called a configuration type
- Can have multiple configuration types
- For example, you might have a configuration type for LDAP and one for discovery and one for web services
- For each type, you call the failover logic and pass in what you want done in case of a fail
- The API finds a client that returns a successful response before a timeout has occurred

- Chris is working the Failover Client API into Grouper client, web service, LDAP and into discovery
- Discovery part is so you can have a web server or two that will specify where your web service servers are
- So if you have a new cluster, you don't have to change the config files.
- This work is based on database failover work at Penn
- Can be used in command line or in a server
- This doesn't replace load balancers

Q: Does this depend on discovery service?

A: No, discovery service is optional

- Can hard-code all your servers in the Grouper client. or can use discovery
- Discovery file is cached locally too, so if discovery is not available it will use the cached discovery

Q: How much coding in the Java client is needed to integrate with the failover client?

A: With this API, not a lot of coding is needed, there is just configuration

Q: Do you plan to package this with Grouper Client?

A: Chris: Grouper Client should be only one Jar, according to the design principal.

- But this is in the Client
- Could use just this from the Client if you want.

Grouper 2.1 Planning

- Mid- Feb is the planned freeze date for Grouper 2.1
- Waiting to get status report from TomZ, since LDAPPC-NG real-time is the primary item.

XML Import

- Shilen is making changes to how the point in time data is stored to account for reuse of identifiers (such as when data is exported, deleted, and reimported).
- if you export a group and delete it in Grouper and you reimport, then there is a new group row with that UUID
- Plan is to add an additional column to each table to track UUIDs for such cases
- basic problem is if UUIDs can be reused, then point in time must not assume they'll always be unique
- eventually there might be a start and end (delete) date for a group and this feature will help with that too
- In general every database table should have its own unique ID column
- This is what Shilen will implement for Grouper 2.1
- So could be multiple rows associated w a single UUID, to report on the comings and goings of a group

Developing the New Grouper UI

Plan is to redo the Grouper UI for Grouper 2.2 <https://spaces.at.internet2.edu/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=14517754>

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Accessibility Issues

Chris and Shilen completed a course called Designing Accessible Web Forms On-Line <http://formsonline.cita.illinois.edu/>

Important concepts covered included:

- Browser plug-ins and validator
- high visibility mode
- Screen reader
- Keyboard only

Robust Web Services

- MikeM asked about the focus on robust web service
- He noted this is the direction at Brown U.
- Having a clear division of API from the interface works well.

- Chris stated it's more productive to work on the UI as a UI, but the community will still be able to build web services-based UIs

Next Call: Wed. 1-Feb-2012 at noon ET