Notes on the Joint GEANT-EUNIS workshop

CLOUD Management

Date and time	29th of October 2021 / 10.00 - 12.00 CEST
Attendees	32
Organised by	Denise Dittrich (EUNIS Cloud Community Group) & Maria Ristkok (GÉANT Cloud Team), assisted by Eva Nestorowska (GÉANT Cloud Team), Laurence Desnos, Anna Pacholak and Bas Cordewener (EUNIS)
Links	[Agenda](#) and slides

Introducing EUNIS cloud community group
(Denise Dittrich, Lead of EUNIS cloud community group)
The European University Information Systems organisation gathers those who are responsible for the digital policy in European higher education and research institutions (today around 100), as well as some associate members outside Europe and corporate members representing the industry.
The Cloud Special Interest Group started in February 2020 and gathers 45 participants. It aims for Knowledge Exchange and sharing of Best Practices around Cloud Management.

Introducing GÉANT cloud activity, including results of recent cloud surveys
(Maria Ristkok, Lead of GÉANT Cloud team)
Through interconnections with its ca 40 national research and education network (NREN) partners, the GÉANT network is the largest and most advanced R&E network in the world, connecting over 50 million users at 10,000 institutions across Europe and supporting all scientific disciplines.
The GEANT cloud collaboration mixes in-house cloud development and public cloud solutions, which offers the double advantage of having leverage for price negotiation and functionalities exactly matching the proper Institutional needs. It also combines EU funded projects with independent developments.

Q1: in that cloud consumption bar graph (slides 5 and 6), do we see a big dent in the growth due to the fallout from Schrems II?
A1: no, we do not see any dip which we can relate to Schrems. Don't forget there are also many European platforms available. There are still numbers coming in, which we would need to consolidate and add to the graph too.

"Getting to know each other" (break-out groups of 4 pp)
Groups exchanged and discussed around three issues: Main interest in/experience with Cloud management; Involvement/experience in GÉANT/EUNIS activities; hopes & expectations for this (and follow-up) joint exchanges.

In a brief plenary feedback round it was noted that one of the biggest challenges is to get contacts in universities that feel responsible for cloud issues. Other comment: some universities' departments are protective towards their own area of responsibilities and therefore are reluctant to go to the cloud.

The OCRE IaaS+ Framework incl. tool for mini competition (Garvan McFreeley, HEAnet, Ireland)
Garvan explained the 3 possible awards methods, depending on the Institution workload, needs and criteria (ex latency), and demonstrated the mini-competition tool.

<u>Q1</u>: in Finland the desktop mini competition is a new kind of mechanism; you can actually use quite a lot of subjective evaluation to decide on how to weigh the different criteria, etc. Where did you get the idea for the Desktop Mini Competition (DMC)? It's really a good tool, but it remains to be seen what kind of workloads and situations it would be suitable for. More common approach seems to be that the entire IT department is set on some specific platform, and they use direct awards to continue its use. Do you know if anyone has used the DMC?
<u>A1</u>: I'm not sure, as we only see when new institutions signed the call-off or RFIs, but not exactly which processes they went through.

<u>Q2</u>: what happens when you pick more choices in 'SelectionByNeeds' and you can't find a reseller? What's the next step? You must go to a Regular desktop mini competition?
<u>A2</u>: you need to review the selection that resulted in a dead end and see if you can live without it or refine the needs a little. Consider the latency of the primary location, then a second relocation.

<u>Q3</u>: can it happen that I go via two different processes, one with a reseller, a second one with another reseller.
<u>A3</u>: Certainly. It depends on how each of them matches your requirements.

Tools from the community:
   ● **eduMEET videoconferencing (Bartlomiej Idzikowski, PSNC, Poland)**
Bartlek presented the Open-source web-based videoconferencing tool eduMEET For NRENs, delivered as a SaaS on premises. Among the advantages of the tool are the open source character, the options to collaborate with Moodle. In comparison with other video conferencing tools, eduMEET is unique as it matches with community requirements, it is integratable and adaptable, cheap and a safe tool.
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   ● **GÉANT Cloud Flow, (Dan Still, CSC, FInland)**
Dan presented the GÉANT Cloud Flow tool, and highlighted the analytics function with examples.
<u>Q1</u>: Is the tool free?
<u>A1</u>: Basically yes, but for large scale usage, arrangements may have to be made with the actual capacity providers.

Discussion and exchange on possible issues to share and discuss (Bas Cordewener, EUNIS)
Bas used Mentimeter to inspire a discussion to identify topics that the audience might be interested in to exchange views, experience and expertise:
   1. ***What are the main challenges Cloud Management presents to universities?***
      ● Trainings related to Cloud, for User Experience but also for some technical skills
      ● GDPR/Schrems in Cloud/ Security and Ransomware/ Shadow IT and Cloud App Security/ Trust - Legal terms & certifications
      ● AWS Cloud: how can a university get sure that the data is secure: where can we get insurance from? From which data?
      ● Cost control and governance: multiple users/departments will want to use the Cloud
      ● data classification (organisation + technical view)
      ● Move to the cloud new skills.
      ● Universities work with budgets and are scared of using the cloud (these budgets can get out of control). Tend to use their own infrastructure first. high cost for an IT unit to

enable cloud usage of a single research project, esp of a "new" platform. Yet supporting this is essential for compliant use.
- Multi cloud management
- Network stability – accessibility of the cloud services (out of prem)
- Governance

2. *How can GEANT and EUNIS help universities to overcome Cloud Management challenges?*
- bring communities together
- Information sharing, case studies
- Share best practices and experiences in the community
- EUNIS can hopefully help to get us in touch with more researchers so we can make more publicity on OCRE and its advantages
- Whitepapers on specific issues
- GEANT/NRENS can provide training
  joint trainings - not sales pitches labelled as "training"

3. *What topics / tools would you like to hear more about, or present on?*
- Details on implementing regulations of GDPR/Schrems II
- Multi-cloud Management tools
- Best Practices/templates for risk assessment (related to GDPR/Schrems II)
- GÉANT Data classification tool
- How to reach the key-end-users (researchers) and get to know their specific needs which nobody has dealt with
- Erasmus without paper
- Metadata Management Tool
- How to protect and manage personal data in cloud?

Next steps, reporting and close

Organisers will present a brief report on what happened in the workshop. Slides will be provided on EUNIS website and in the GÉANT Internal shared work area. Attendees will be informed in about two weeks.

In a Zoom poll participants indicated that they would like to meet in a joint setting of GÉANT and EUNIS Cloud experts, with a frequency of about 2 to 4 times a year. Based on the input of today's workshop, the organisers will soon inform what these topics will be. Two participants indicated to be willing to consider a presentation.

A last audience check revealed that the majority of attendees, 75 %, is more familiar with GÉANT; 10 % more with EUNIS; 10 % with both, and 5 % not familiar with any of the two.