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Rethinking Federated Cloud Integration Tools

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The difficulty of setting up and maintaining all required integration tools has been cited as one of the main reasons for resource providers to hesitate whether to join the Federated Cloud infrastructure or not. Until very recently, participating cloud sites have been required to set up interfaces for authentication, high-detail accounting, image management, VM management and for an information system, ad minimum. This was not only a showstopper for some, but also a source of trouble for those who actually took up the challenge and joined. Recently, responsibility for most integration services (with the exception of authentication) started to shift from resource providers to virtual organisations, who actually require (or sometimes don't) that level of service. This has several advantages. Firstly it makes it easier for resource providers to join the federation. Secondly it makes it possible for VOs to opt out of certain integration services, or choose their own alternatives. Finally, with integration tools implemented in such a way that allows them to be operated from outside the target site, it is easier for contracted operators such as the EGI Ops team, to run the integration services for their customers, should they wish to do so. Some integration tools have already been adjusted to this new paradigm, some are in the process of being transformed. This talk presents two examples, one being a new version of Cloudkeeper, an image synchronization system, and another being the GOAT (Go Accounting Tool), a freshly developed tool to extract accounting information from cloud sites. Both have been developed with the change of approach and responsibility in mind, both are ready for per-VO operation rather than per-site, and both are also examples of the new direction of releasing and deploying VO tools in the federated cloud.

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