The mission of International science grid this Week

The following draft was edited by Jacqui Hayes, Miriam Boon, and Adrian Giordani in July 2011, with additional edits by Jacqui and Miriam in September 2011.

# Proposed mission statement

iSGTW is an international weekly online publication that covers distributed computing and the research it enables.

# Proposed supporting document

### Audience and reading level

iSGTW is read by researchers, computing specialists, funders, policy makers, the general public, and members of the press. The majority of articles are written such that an advanced high school graduate can follow what is written. A subset of articles will aim to educate researchers new to distributed computing, funders, policy makers, and members of the press regarding some of the foundational concepts of computational science.

### Domain of coverage

*Industry vs. academic*

A variety of existing commercial publications cover high-performance computing, with some cloud computing, and even less grid computing added in for good measure. Because of their commercial nature, these publications extensively cover industry news.

There is little value in re-creating the wheel, or trying to compete with these publications. For that reason, iSGTW will rarely cover developments that involve only industry. Exceptions will be made only for major revolutionary developments that stand to substantially influence computational research.

*Types of computing*

As mentioned above, a variety of publications focusing on high-performance computing already exist. Cloud computing is also covered by a variety of publications. Grid computing, however, only receives coverage as an afterthought. As a result, there is an unmet need for grid-related stories.

That unmet need, combined with iSGTW’s history as a grid-focused publication, means that at this time, the publication will prioritize grid-related stories, with regular coverage of other forms of distributed computing, and occasional stories about high-performance computing. It is worth noting that this guideline cannot account for complex feature stories that include information about more than one type of computing, educational stories covering topics common to all types of computing, or the fact that the developers of different types of computing can often learn from each others’ technological advances.

*Geographic regions*

iSGTW is an international publication covering stories from across the globe, with staff based near Geneva, Switzerland, and Chicago, Illinois.

*Types of Content*

At present, factors ranging from the weekly nature of the publication to our approval process result in a significant lag between when we first learn of a new story and when it can be published. For that reason, iSGTW’s focus must be on providing thoughtful coverage, rather than breaking news – particularly with regard to those areas of computing, such as high-performance computing, covered by daily publications.

iSGTW also strives to provide a variety of services to readers and the scientific computing community, through which they can submit their own content. These services include, but are not limited to announcements, calendar items, and job advertisements.