National Aeronautics and Space Administration

NASA Use Case CISTO Experiences with an iRODS-Based Data Management Service

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Computational & Information Sciences & Technology Office (CISTO)

Glenn Tamkin



CISTO Mission

- Traditional
 - Enable scientists to increase their understanding of the Earth and the universe by providing state-of-theart high performance computing, storage, network, and application solutions
 - Provide large-scale compute engines, analytics, data sharing, and high-end computing services
- Future
 - Develop a data services capability to better support the climate research communities and prepare the way for technology advances



Challenges

- Finding observational and model data for use in climate and weather studies
- Accessing the geographically distributed data
- Managing the massive digital holdings, which are measured in petabytes and hundreds of millions of files
- Maintaining the data, which must often be preserved for decades
- Supporting data sharing, data publication, and data stewardship

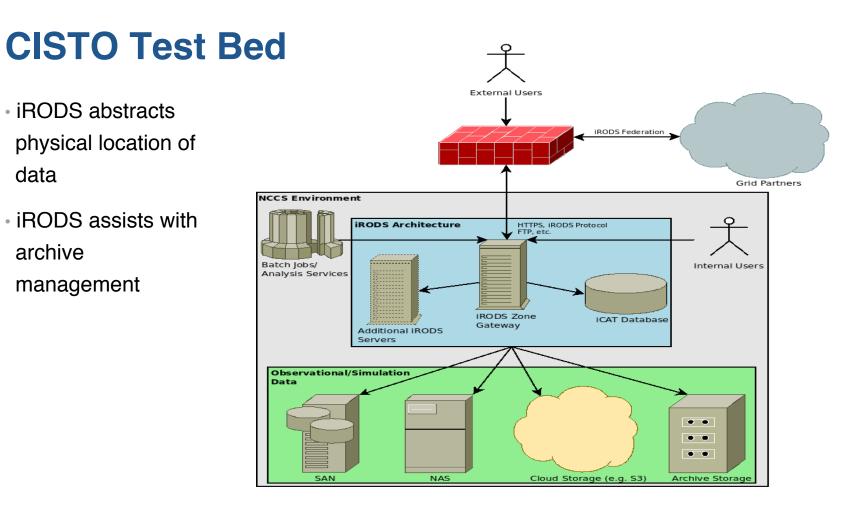


Technology - integrated Rule-Oriented Data System (iRODS)

- Open source data grid software developed by the Data Intensive Cyber Environments (DICE) group, University of North Carolina
- Targets large repositories and digital preservation
- Supports the federation of independent, distributed collections
- Supports server-side workflows that are implemented by chaining execution rules together based on data policies
- Includes features such as domain-specific validation, automatic replication, and digital signature/checksum computation
- Validates assertions about data such as integrity and authenticity







Ingest/Registration

- iRODS rules and microservices allow data to be stored in configurable collections based on data policies
- Replication to backup storage resources also supported

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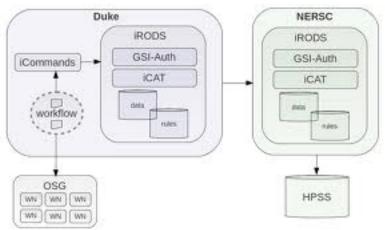
Search

- iRODS rules and
- microservices can be used to assign metadata
- iRODS provides advanced search capabilities over the metadata

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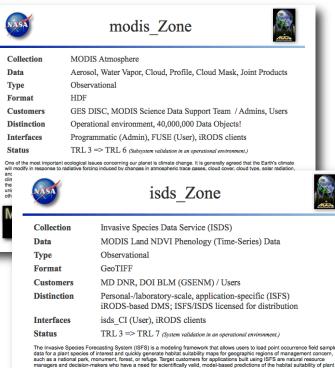
Federation

- Federation allows separate iRODS Zones (iRODS instances) to become integrated.
- Each zone is a separate iRODS instance, administered separately, but the users in the multiple zones, if given permission, will be able to access data and metadata in the other zones.
- No user passwords are exchanged, as each system will, in a secure manner, check with the user's local zone for authentication when the user connects.



Preliminary Tests – Observational Data

- Developed an iRODS data grid that publishes Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) observational data
 - 54 million registered files, 630 TB of data, and over 300 million defined metadata values
- Developed an iRODS data grid that focuses on a small-scale, multi-product, applicationspecific data service
 - The Invasive Species Data Service (ISDS) manages a collection of MODIS data products for ecological forecasting applications







Preliminary Tests – Simulation Data

- Developed an iRODS data grid that manages Modern Era Retrospective-Analysis for Research and Applications (MERRA) simulation data
 - 360 files, 47 GB of data, and 4000 metadata values
- Developed an iRODS data grid that publishes Year of Tropical Convection (YOTC) data sets
 - 134,000 files, 12 TB of data, and 400,000 metadata values

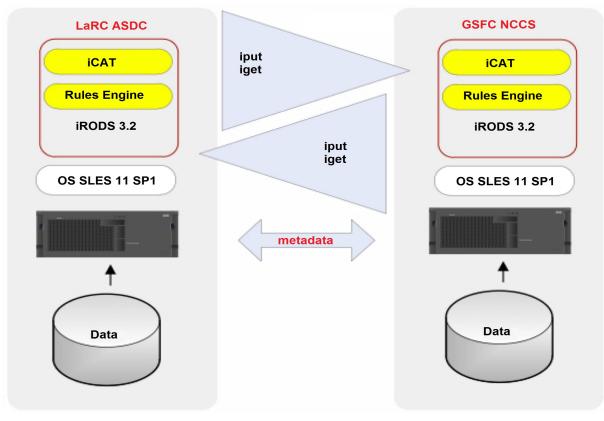
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NASA LARC/GSFC iRODS Federation

- Stakeholders
 - NASA's Atmospheric Science Data Center (ASDC) and Center for Climate Simulation (NCCS) both ingest, archive, and distribute data that is essential to stakeholders including the climate research community, science applications community, and a growing community of government and private-sector customers who have a need for atmospheric and climatic data.
- Goals
 - To implement a data federation ability to improve and automate the discovery of heterogeneous data, decrease data transfer latency, and meet customizable criteria based on data content, data quality, metadata, and production. Another goal of the federation is to support/enable applications and customers that require the integration of multiple heterogeneous data collections.

NASA LARC/GSFC Federation Architecture



Langley Research Center (LARC) Zone

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- The LARC Atmospheric Science Data Center (ASDC) Zone contains varies scientific collections (e.g., CALIPSO, CERES)
- ASDC's Data Products
 Online (DPO) is federated
 with the GSFC/MAS Zone.

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Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) Zone

- The GSFC MERRA Analytic Service (MAS)
 Zone contains the full
 MERRA collection
- All NetCDF metadata is registered for each file
- Modern-Era Retrospective Analysis for Research and Application (MERRA) is federated with the LARC/ ASDC Zone

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Both iRODS
 Zones are
 accessible
 together

Users can access the data via web browser, command line, FUSE file system, etc.

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LARC/GSFC Metadata

- All NetCDF files are harvested for metadata at registration time using iRODS microservices and rules
- Users can view and search across the metadata
- Custom/derived metadata can be applied to any collection or file

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LARC/GSFC Search

• Files can be searched by attribute or metadata

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Summary

- iRODS federation can be a powerful mechanism for creating ensembles of distributed data
- Collections are still managed by the data owners, but iRODS provides mechanisms for creating and enforcing policies that control external access within the federation
- iRODS abstracts the advertised collection and the physical location of the data. As a result, the data can be relocated or extended without disturbing the federated consumer. In fact the consumer needn't be aware of the federation, as it appears as one large ensemble
- This approach enables parallel downloads of datasets from selected replica servers
 that can be geographically dispersed, but still accessible by users worldwide

Next Steps

- Inclusion of a new member to the federation
- Extended access to files on the ASDC's tape archive
- Collection expansion to include LandSAT and MODIS data
- Utilization of the NetCDF plugin to assign metadata to arbitrary NetCDF/HDF4/ HDF5 data.
- Testing/utilization of the iRODS HDFS plugin (Hadoop access)
- Testing/utilization of methods to register remote data in the Public Domain via iRODS MicroService Objects
- Automated file registration using operating system level triggers (i.e., 'iNotify')

Future ASDC iRODS Configuration

