

DEDICATIONS

To my family...

To my friends...

To my teachers...

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I owe my deepest gratitude to Mr. Ahmaed Abd Alhaleem from Petrodar Company who helped me to solve some problems in the implementation of the system. I would like to thank my colleagues at Sudan University of Science and Technology who helped me to complete this thesis: Ms. Anna Margani, Ms. Sara Tawfig, Mr. Abd Elrahman Mohamed Alamin and Mr. Almothana Alabid. A special thanks to my family, without the help and support of which the completion of this work wouldn't have been possible.

ABSTRACT

Grid computing aims at exploiting the available resources in computer networks for executing distributed and complex problems. The grid computing environment is an open and dynamic environment, where a new node can join the network at any time while other nodes may leave the network, thus resource and job management in this environment can be complex tasks.

This research aims at using agent technology to optimize the control and exploitation of available resources in the grid computing environment and facilitate monitoring of jobs that are executing on it.

A primary grid computing environment has been developed using agent technology. Since multi-agent systems are suitable for solving problems on open and dynamic environments, it is expected that the integration of grid computing technology and multi-agent technology will lead to a better management of the available resources in the environment. The proposed environment is comprised of three parts: construction of the network, establishing monitoring nodes, and executing the distributed task.

The proposed environment was implemented in two phases; the first phase was implemented on a virtual network; and the second was the implementation on a real network comprised of four hosts, with similar specifications connected in a local area network. Each of the hosts is using the Linux operating system. The Proposed environment was tested by running a parallel matrix multiplication application, using the MPI technology. Different dimensions of these matrices were used and the program was divided into a different number of processes for three different cases, namely: (1) Implementing the program in one host; (2) Implementing the program in four hosts using the traditional techniques and (3) Implementing the program in four hosts using the proposed environment.

Results obtained indicate that better resource management has been achieved using the developed environment. Selection of nodes to execute a job is done automatically at execution time by checking the current status of the node. Better job management has been achieved also. If there is not enough resources to execute a job it is scheduled until resources are found, the client is notified of such an action.

It is recommended that multi-agent negotiation techniques be used to achieve better control over distributed resources and jobs. Development of a security model for new environment is also needed.

المستخلص

تهدف الحوسبة الشبكية إلى إستغلال الموارد المتاحة في شبكات الحاسوب لتنفيذ البرامج الموزعة و المعقدة. وبيئة الحوسبة الشبكية هي بيئة مفتوحة ومتغيرة باستمرار، حيث تنضم عقد جديدة إلى الشبكة من حين إلى آخر في حين تخرج عقد أخرى نسبة لتغير ظروفها. مما جعل من عملية ادارة المصادر المتاحة و تنفيذ البرامج في هذه البيئة أمراً غاية في التعقيد. يهدف هذا البحث إلى استخدام تقانة الوكلاء لزيادة التحكم في ادارة واستغلال الموارد المتاحة و تسهيل متابعة تنفيذ البرامج في بيئة الحوسبة الشبكية.

تم في هذا البحث تطوير بيئة ابتدائية للحوسبة الشبكية باستخدام تقانة الوكلاء، و ذلك بالنظر إلى أن أنظمة الوكلاء المتعددين تناسب البيئات المفتوحة والمتغيرة. وتتكون البيئة المقترحة من ثلاثة أجزاء رئيسية هي انشاء الشبكة، و مراقبة العقد الموجودة بالشبكة، و تنفيذ المهام الموزعة بها.

تم تنفيذ البيئة المقترحة على مرحلتين: الاولى في شبكة افتراضية، اما الثانية فقد تم التنفيذ في شبكة حقيقية مكونة من أربعة عقد ذات مواصفات متشابهة موصلة في شبكة محلية و بها نظام التشغيل لينكس. تم اختبار البيئة باستخدام برنامج ضرب مصفوفات بتقنية واجهة تمرير الرسائل (MPI). حيث تم استخدام أبعاد مختلفة لهذه المصفوفات. تم تقسيم البرنامج إلى عدد مختلف من العمليات لثلاث حالات مختلفة هي تنفيذ البرنامج في جهاز واحد، و أربعة اجهزة باستخدام الطرق التقليدية، و أربعة اجهزة باستخدام البيئة المقترحة.

تشير النتائج التي تم التوصل إليها إلى أنه أمكن تحقيق تحكم أفضل بالموارد المتاحة باستخدام البيئة التي تم تطويرها، حيث أن اختيار العقد لتنفيذ برنامج معين يتم أثناء تنفيذ البرنامج عن طريق فحص الحالة الراهنة للعقدة. كما أنه إذا حدث توقف لعقدة معينة فإنه يتم تغيير حالة هذه العقدة إلى الحالة "غيرمتصل". لوحظ أيضاً أنه إذا لم توجد موارد كافية لتنفيذ برنامج معين تتم جدولة هذا البرنامج للتنفيذ لاحقاً و يتم إعلام العميل بذلك.

لزيادة التحكم بالموارد و البرامج الموزعة نوصي باستخدام تقنية التفاوض المستخدمة في أنظمة الوكلاء المتعددين. كما نوصي بتطوير نظام حماية للبيئة الجديدة.

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ABBREVIATIONS

#	Abbreviation	Meaning
1	ACL	Agent Communication Language
2	AUML	Agent Unified Modeling Language
3	DBMS	Data Base Management System
4	FIPA	Foundation of Intelligent Physical Agent
5	IP	Internet Protocol
6	MPI	Message Passing Interface
7	SSH	Secure Shell
8	VM	Virtual Machine

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