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RE: MyExperiment Repository Enhancement Proposal  
February 9th, 2009

Dear Dave:

It is my great pleasure to write this letter of collaboration, in support of your proposal for further enhancement of the MyExperiment repository. Over the last couple of years, MyExperiment has been clearly leading the way as the number one innovative and collaborative environment for scientists to share their workflows and protocols. Based on Web 2.0 principles, MyExperiment targets specifically scientific communities to share their knowledge via workflows, protocols, and other digital artifacts, including various ways of interlinking across repositories and digital libraries. MyExperiment has gained remarkable momentum in the international community and can now support an increasing number of different workflow systems.

Similar to Taverna, the Kepler scientific workflow system aims at supporting scientists from different disciplines develop methods for scientific data analysis, experimentation, etc. In Kepler, we would like users to seamlessly share, annotate, and discover workflows; MyExperiment with appropriate Kepler extensions seems to be the ideal candidate. Specifically, we would like to work with you and your team on ways to upload Kepler workflow metadata to MyExperiment, so that users can more easily discover and share Kepler workflows via MyExperiment. Similarly, on the Kepler side, we would like to extend our system to export and import workflows from KAR (Kepler archive) files, which would make workflow sharing and deployment via the MyExperiment repository much more easy and useful for Kepler users than previously. Another extension we are interested in building is a Kepler library search pane that will allow users to automatically search the MyExperiment repository.

We hope your proposal will get funded, so we can continue our exchange on Kepler/MyExperiment coupling and in fact formalize subsequent collaborative steps. Building complex systems, whether it is scientific workflow tools like Kepler or Taverna, or repository systems like MyExperiment, is never easy. After the remarkable initial successes of these types of systems, it is now important to further enhance and harden these systems so that many scientific groups and communities can employ MyExperiment with different underlying workflow paradigms and systems. I wish you every success in your application and look forward to working with you on the Kepler/MyExperiment coupling in the near future!

Sincerely,

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