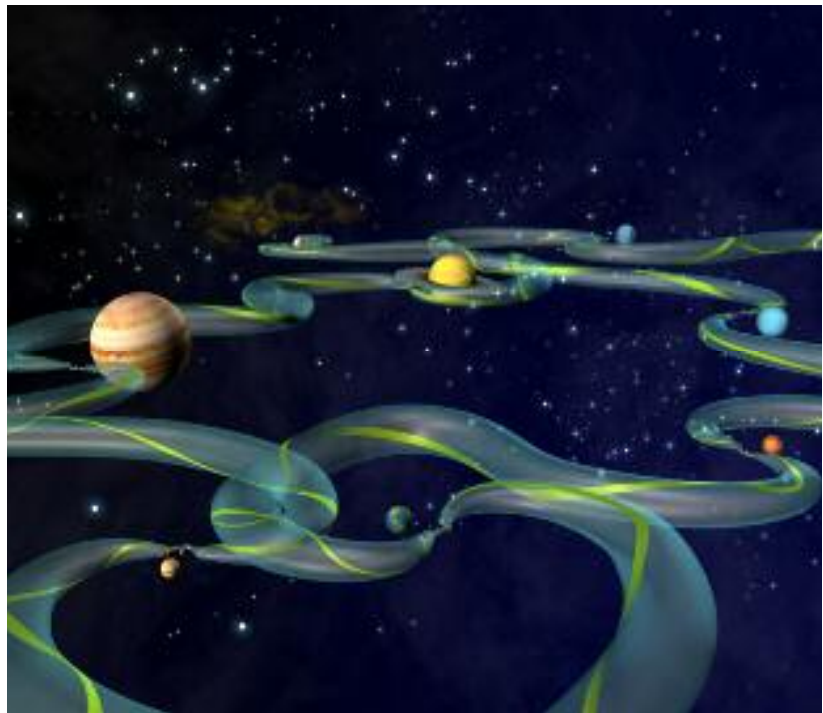


Grid Computing

The Internet and e-services have entered our homes and have become part of our everyday life. But they will soon belong to the past. The concept of grid computing is already gaining ground, and will be the new frontier in the near future. Grid computing is meant to be a global network connection that will replace the Internet, providing on-demand access to data and information not available at the moment to one individual or group of machines. Using shared languages and interaction protocols, the grid system will **reach out** across the globe to access the computing resources required to satisfy the needs of local users. The system will act like an electric power grid, that delivers electric power in a pervasive way. In a similar manner, grid computing, both a hardware and a software infrastructure, will be capable of providing pervasive and inexpensive access to all data and information in a uniform way. The benefits offered by grid computing will be enormous. Let's make some examples. In the scientific field, huge amounts of data coming from scientific experiments will be processed, studied and compared. Researchers will be allowed to carry out worldwide studies to determine the effects of environment on health and lifestyle. In the field of medicine, a physician, by having access to remote computers and databases, will be able to compare the X-rays of a certain patient in his hospital with those of a million other patients elsewhere, having the opportunity, in this way, to discover a **malignancy** earlier. As for astronomy, grid systems will permit scientists to map the sky by means of their computers and to analyse and compare the vast amount of data referring to the position and brightness of celestial objects. Such astronomical databases could be linked into a global virtual observatory. So, let's hope that grid researchers will be able to provide the required technologies in the near future to make this vision of grid-enabled computing a reality.



Network.

GLOSSARY

- to reach out:** to extend
- malignancy:** severe illness

1 Complete the following sentences.

- 1 Grid computing will allow users to access
- 2 Grid systems will share
- 3 Grid computing will act like
- 4 The grid is meant to be infrastructure.
- 5 Access to data and information will be inexpensive and
- 6 A vast amount of data concerning celestial objects



2 Write a short paragraph about the advantages provided by the grid system.

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3 Write as many words as possible related to “computer” according to the categories given below.

Hardware:

Software:

People:

Actions:

4 Complete the following sentences with like or as.

- 1 Do you think Mary looks her mother?
- 2 He behaves in a very rude way. I can't stand people him.
- 3 Why didn't you correct the exercise I told you?
- 4 She is really beautiful, she is a princess.
- 5 I have just found a job a computer operator.
- 6 You never listen. Talking to you is the same talking to a wall.