

Guideline for Service Deployment

In order to help ENVRplus service providers and RIs have clear ideas on how to deploy services on e-Infrastructures, WP9 works on a guideline explaining service deployment approaches. EGI is one of the e-Infrastructures supporting the ENVRplus project and working closely with WP9. Several use cases (such as IC_14 and TC_2) and WP7 use EGI Federated Cloud, which is a typical e-Infrastructure service allowing to deploy and operate services. In this guideline, we use this e-Infrastructure setting as a concrete example to discuss deployment approaches.

EGI Federated Cloud

EGI Federated Cloud (FedCloud) is a grid of clouds with a harmonised operational behaviour.

EGI FedCloud federates institutional Resources Providers (RP) offering an Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) solution composed of 22 providers from 14 National Grid Initiatives (NGI) running different Cloud Middleware Frameworks (CMF), 2/3 are OpenStack, 1/3 are OpenNebula and there is one Synnefo site. Around 6000 cores are available.

In the federation, the Clouds and their interconnections are based on open technologies such as the OpenNebula, OpenStack and Synnefo Cloud Middleware Frameworks (CMF) and on open Standards such as the Open Cloud Computing Interface (OCCI) for Virtual Machine (VM) management and the Cloud Data Management Interface (CDMI) for object storage. FedCloud is also offering native access to OpenStack sites. A common authentication and authorization layer using x509 and VOMS is used and OpenID Connect integration is ongoing. Operational tools for accounting, monitoring and ticketing are operated centrally.

The EGI FedCloud value proposition is the capability of instantiating virtual machine images across heterogeneous cloud providers in a uniform way, giving the possibility to compute and store data across a combination of public and community clouds of choice and bringing computing to data.

Multiple tools are available to interact with the Federated Cloud. Firstly, the EGI Application Database is an application catalogue for Virtual Appliances (VAs). Secondly, it is possible to use low level Command Line Interfaces (CLI) and Application Programming Interfaces (API). Finally, some high level tools such as the EGI AppDB VMops dashboard are built on those APIs to offer more user friendly and automated interfaces to FedCloud.

The EGI Application Database (EGI AppDB)

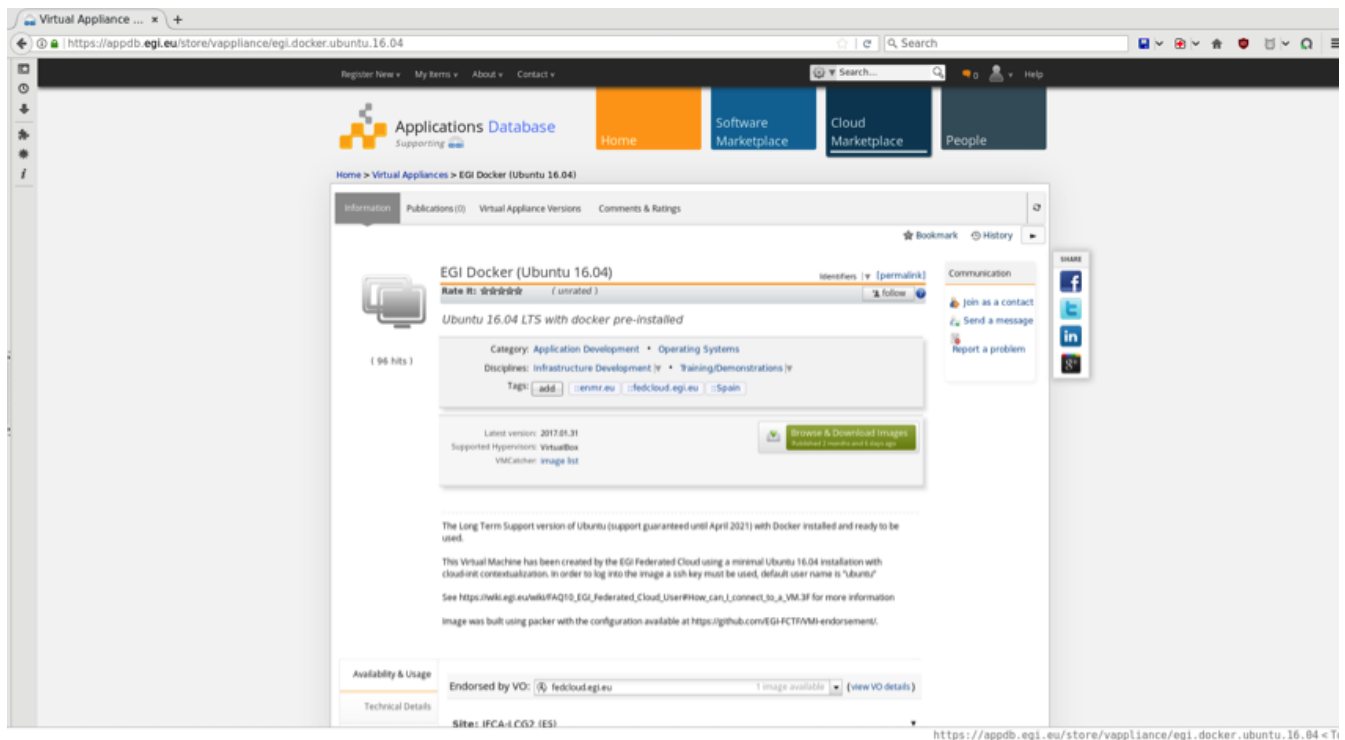


Figure 1: The EGI AppDB showing EGI Ubuntu Docker Virtual Appliance

The [EGI AppDB](https://appdb.egi.eu) is an application catalogue based on a user-friendly web portal for sharing:

- EGI-endorsed Virtual Appliances (VAs)
- Software packages, tarballs and scripts
- Sites and Virtual Organisation (VO) information, including VA availability at a sites for each VO
- Information about people

Using the EGI AppDB, users can share and search VAs and software. It is possible to publish metadata about the VA such as a description or hardware requirements. For the packages, software repositories are automatically created for debs and RPMs simplifying their usage. The VO-specific Virtual Appliances are synchronized on every FedCloud sites supporting them.

Deploying using Command Line Interface (CLI) and Application Programming Interface (API)

The lowest level of interaction with EGI FedCloud is using the supported CLIs and APIs.

Currently, FedCloud is accessible using two realms: OpenStack and OCCl. OCCl can be used to access OpenStack, OpenNebula and Synnefo sites. It is also possible with OpenStack sites to use the OpenStack native tools.

Virtual Machine contextualization has to be done using cloud-init, it can be used to allow remote connection using ssh or to bootstrap a complete service.

Deploying using Complementary Services and tools

In addition to the IaaS cloud service, some other services are offered to the users, some of which are provided by EGI while others are just higher level services that can ease and automatize the usage of a IaaS solution.

For the long tail of science users, an [Application On Demand](#) service was created, offering an easy on-demand deployment of application specific clusters (implemented using the EC3 tool) as well as some ready to use and pre-configured Science Gateways including various tools.

Some other third party applications are also able to access FedCloud. They can be grouped in two broad categories: Virtual Research Environments (VRE) and orchestrators. For example, the VREs [d4science.org](#) and WS-PGRADE are both able to use FedCloud resources and allow to create user-friendly and community-based Science Gateways simplifying the use of the cloud resources.

Orchestrators are components that can automatically deploy a complete virtual infrastructure on one or multiple cloud sites, sometimes even among different cloud providers. This category includes UPV's Infrastructure Manager (IM) offering a web interface, a Command Line Interface client and multiple APIs allowing to easily deploy and update complex infrastructures; the Dynamic Realtime Infrastructure Planner (DRIP) allowing to orchestrate deployments based on time constraints; and the INDIGO Orchestrator, the central component of the INDIGO Platform-as-a-Service solution. Those services can deployed infrastructure that are specified in TOSCA and interact with the sites using OCCl.

Deploying using EGI AppDB VM Operations Dashboard (EGI VMops dashboard)

The [EGI VMops dashboard](#) is a graphical user friendly interface allowing users to create and deploy topologies on FedCloud. A topology is composed of one or multiple instances of a Virtual Appliance and can include contextualization and automatic mounting of additional storage.

The EGI VMops dashboard is a web portal that is operated centrally by EGI and is built on top of the EGI services. It is integrated with the AppDB, thus allowing users to see the list of Virtual Appliances available for a specific VO and it will allow to deploy the topology on one of the available sites supporting this VO as it is also integrated with EGI Information System and monitoring. Due to the integration with the EGI CheckIn service (EGI's Authentication and Authorization Infrastructure (AAI)) there is no need for a X509 certificate for the end user. Technically the deployment orchestration is managed by the Infrastructure Manager.

The EGI VMops dashboard is an example of high-level services offering high value to users and that can be built using the standard APIs supported by FedCloud.

The screenshot displays the EGI AppDB VM Operations Dashboard, specifically the 'Topology Builder' section. The interface is divided into several panels:

- Left Sidebar:** Contains navigation links for 'New Topology', 'My topologies', and 'My VM instances'.
- Header:** Shows 'EGI AppDB Dashboard' and 'VM Operations' tabs, along with a user profile 'Baptiste Grenier'.
- Topology Builder:** The main area for creating a new topology. It includes a 'Configure the settings of the deployment for the selected virtual image' instruction.
- Virtual Organization:** Displays 'fedcloud.egi.eu' with a description: 'The FedCloud Virtual Organization brings together sites and users interested in running cloud services, testing compatibility and integrating cloud sites into EGI operations infrastructure. Members identify and test techno...'.
- Site Service:** Shows 'IN2P3-IRES' with the description 'Institut Pluridisciplinaire Hubert Curien' and platform 'OpenStack'.
- Template Resources:** A table listing resources for the selected image 'EGI Docker (Ubuntu 16.04)'.
- Settings:** A section for configuring the topology, including fields for 'Topology Name' (EGI_Docker_Ubuntu_16_04), 'VM Name' (EGI_Docker_Ubuntu_16_04), and 'Set number of instances' (Number of instances: 1/10).
- Block Storages per VM instance:** A section indicating that no block storages have been defined yet, with an 'Add New' button and a note: 'You can define up to 10 block storages which will be created and attached to the VM instances during the deployment. To define a block storage click the Add New button below. Note: The block storages will apply for each VM instance, so if you increase the number of VM instances the block storages will increase accordingly. Using 1 out of 2 available items'.
- Contextualization:** A section for managing user accounts, with a note: 'You haven't defined any user account yet. You can define up to 10 user accounts which will be created in the VM instance operating system during the deployment. To define a user account click the Add New button below.'

Figure 2: The EGI AppDB VMops dashboard

What's coming?

EGI Federated Cloud is currently focused on delivering Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) solutions, but leveraging orchestrators work on Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS) and Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) solutions is ongoing. The Service orchestration will allow the ENVRplus community to more easily deploy and manage a complete virtual infrastructure that can be tailored to the specific need of each Research Infrastructures. Another important effort is the OpenID Connect integration, which will simplify the access and usage of the API and CLIs by removing the need for a X509 certificate. Being used also by a number of other tools, OpenID Connect will ease integration with other solutions, such as ENVRplus services supporting OpenID Connect, thus allowing to use a federated Authentication and Authorization Infrastructure (AAI) supporting Single sign on across all services. FedCloud monitoring probes are being extended to improve the reliability of the infrastructure and exhaustively monitor it. Finally, in order to go beyond the Virtual Appliances usage and follow the growing usage of containers, an EGI DockerHub of trusted containers will be created. It will offer access to selected tools useful for the various ENVRplus RIs that use containers to easily package and deploy their user-community specific applications will be able to propose them in order to easily present and share them among the EGI community.