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Abstract

Information Technology used to allow organisations to differentiate themselves, nowadays it is largely regarded solely as a unavoidable cost of doing business. As organisations have attempted to reduce this cost they have run into a fundamental problem. Long-term business value doesn't come from doing things more cheaply, rather it comes from doing things that couldn't have been done before. As such, companies are wanting to innovate, but their IT infrastructures are preventing them from doing so. Business is happening faster than ever before; with the data processing needs of most organisations growing in an uncontrollable fashion. Add to this the rapid commoditisation of systems, the loss of business controls that occurred during the dot.com boom and the challenges that organisations have to face in attracting and retaining skilled professionals. Grid computing was seen by many as the solution to many of these problems, however a variety of events have conspired to cause the term 'grid' to become discredited within many commercial environments even though these same environments are more 'grid-like' than ever before. This session will look at the next stage in the evolution of business grids. It will look at the use of 'application-specific accelerators' within grid environments to address many of the specific problems that businesses face and show how grid environments will need to change as business needs move faster than the current 'state of the art' is allowing them to do so.