Infrastructure & Security

Strengthening Singapore's digital foundation

2008 marked a year when Singapore took a major leap forward in advancing both the nation's infocomm hardware as well as its accompanying "software" components. This is a significant and strategic development for Singapore. To keep pace and maintain its global competitiveness, Singapore needs to ensure that its infocomm ecosystem, which covers everything from its Internet infrastructure to "software" such as market regulations and security policies, is abreast with the constant and rapid changes in the infocomm landscape.

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Making affordable grid computing a reality

AS SINGAPORE prepares for the dawn of blazing broadband speeds with the Next Gen NBN, it is also important to consider potential applications that can ride on such an ultra-fast Internet backbone.

Grid Computing, which enables the utility provisioning of compute, storage and software resources and allows users to save on hefty IT investments, is an example of an innovation that can be powered by such ultra high-speed connectivity. Commercial grid services have already become a reality today. The imminent availability of the Next Gen NBN will further fuel the growth and adoption of Grid Computing.

Grid Computing allows users to save on hefty IT investments by tapping on a shared pool of computing resources.

In June 2008, three companies were appointed by IDA to be the stewards of the **National Grid**. This initiative aims to provide businesses and consumers with access to on-demand and pay-as-you-use high performance computing capabilities for everything from graphics animation and biomedical research.

Alatum , nGrid (led by NewMedia Express) and PTC Systems have started offering commercial grid services with up to 3,500 compute cores and a storage capacity of up to 30 terabytes under the National Grid project.

The National Grid will also provide the foundation for a new breed of infocomm companies to provide applications and software on the web to end-users on a pay-per-use basis. By 2011, more than 80 such SaaS (software-as-a-service) players are expected to tap on this platform to offer tools such as desktop publishing and productivity packages.