

**First UPRM Workshop on Parallel and  
Distributed Computing**

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**University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez  
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**Panel: Are operational computational grids finally a reality?**

Grid computing research focuses on building a large-scale computing infrastructure by linking computing facilities at many distributed locations. By analogy with the electric power grids, such systems are known as computational grids. While a common definition of grid computing has yet to emerge, it essentially means that rather than having standalone hardware, middleware and software, the computing infrastructure is linked together into a grid. The advantage is said to be that the individual elements of the grid, from storage arrays to application servers, are aware of one another. If they are aware, then they can start to optimize their own behavior based on what the other elements are telling them. All in all, grid computing is a sensible goal to chase. But are truly self-healing, heterogeneous grids just around the corner? This panel discusses how to move towards operational grids, the choices between strict application of the standards and pragmatic use of non-standard, but working middleware, and ultimately whether or not we can consider grid computing as a reality today.