**Concept**

- The concept is developed originally for the Internet (CATI project) and is later applied for the Grid in GACS.
- The accounting/charging process is decomposed into its subprocesses: metering/mediation, accounting, pricing, charging and billing.

**Pricing Scheme**

- Pricing scheme follows the tariffing model of public utilities.
- Rates can be applied for each resource and for each metered parameter in a given time interval.

\[ TC_i(t) = \left( T^T \right)^T \cdot \sum_{k=1}^{N} \left( \left( \left( T_j \cdot f(\theta) \right) - f(\theta) \right) \cdot \beta^T \right) \cdot T^T \]

**Data Partitioning**

- Accounting/charging data should be partitioned because the amount of data collected can grow rapidly.
- Vertical partitioning along the modules.
- Horizontal partitioning by grouping the data per resource and per metered parameter.

**Deployment**

- After deciding how the accounting/charging data will be partitioned, a multisite configuration can be established.

**Architecture**

- Multilayered and multisite.
- XSD schema based protocol description.
- Secured communication using GSI and PDoH.
- Unified data structures allow to integrate GACS with various Grid solutions (e.g. with gLite/APEL).

**User Interface**

- GridSphere portlets.
- Job and time interval (per month or per week) based billing.

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