

Manhattan Beach, California    March 28-30, 2006

# Tool Development for Distributed System Architectures

Thomas Grubb  
NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center  
Thomas.G.Grubb@nasa.gov  
GMSEC@nasa.gov

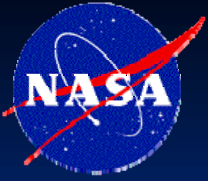


Tool Development for Distributed System Architectures



## Purpose

- To show how a message bus architecture facilitates growth and change, and enables opportunities for rapid application development
- To show tools developed at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center for the Goddard Mission Services Evolution Center (GMSEC) architecture



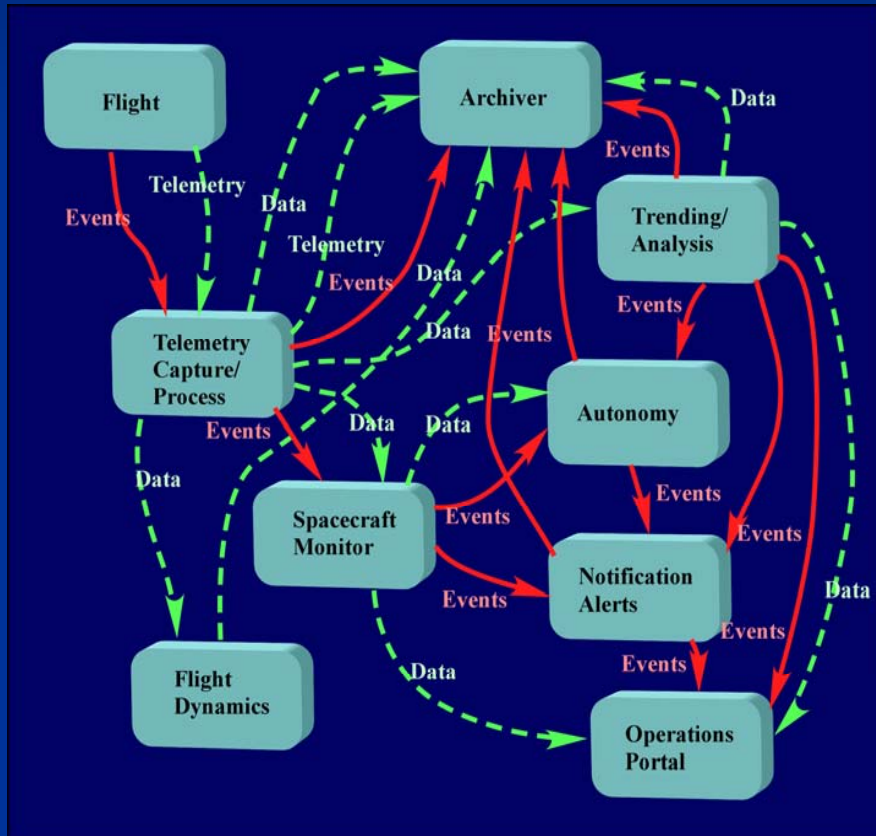
# What is GMSEC

- **GMSEC** (Goddard Mission Services Evolution Center)
  - Developed to improve how NASA would develop and maintain ground data systems for dozens of missions, with a constant stream of missions always in the development phase.
- **Four Key System Concepts**
  1. Standardize interfaces (not components). Loosely coupled
  2. Utilize a messaging middleware to develop a framework (publish/subscribe)
  3. Provide the user with choices for major functional components
  4. Own the reference architecture and interface standards, allow vendors and development organizations to own and advance their functional areas

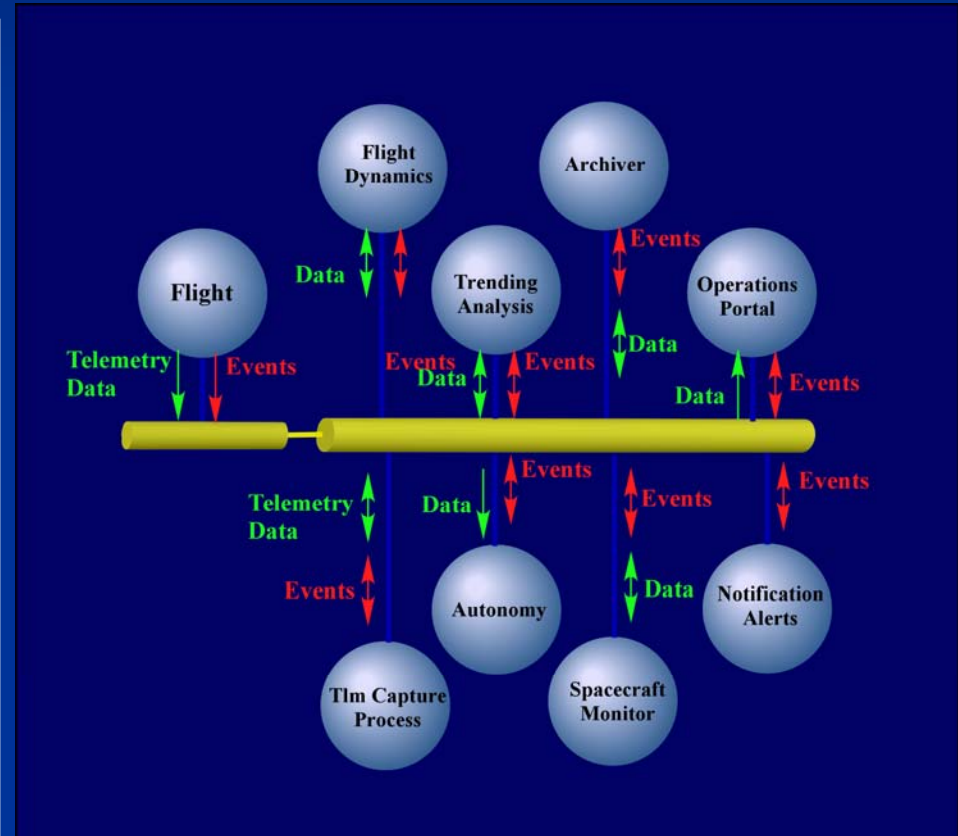


# Interface Standards and Middleware Simplifies Architecture

## Traditional Design Socket Connections



## GMSEC Design Middleware Connections





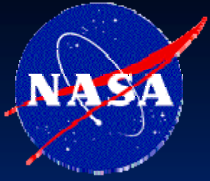
## What GMSEC Framework Provides Developers

### ■ Standard API

- Multiple languages (C, C++, Java, Perl, Python, etc)
- Multiple middlewares (SmartSockets, Rendezvous, MagicBus, etc)
- Multiple platforms (Windows, Linux, Solaris, Mac OS)

### ■ Standardized Messages

- Reduced programming integration (e.g., don't have to worry about the applications, just the messages. In some ways, Similar to blackboards and/or goal based architectures)
- Reduced system integration (applications can be added/deleted/swapped on the fly)



## What this means for developers

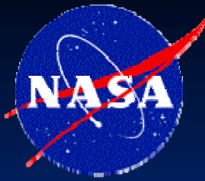
- Tools can be developed with minimal knowledge or impact, on other applications
  - Enables opportunities for developers to quickly, rapidly, and cheaply develop applications for targeted problems and/or system-wide areas.
- Tools can be added, deleted, and updated easily while a system is running
- Generalized tools can easily be developed, with minimal migration effort from mission to mission
- High return on development investment by using the strengths of your team as regards to platform, language, and product knowledge to add value to systems





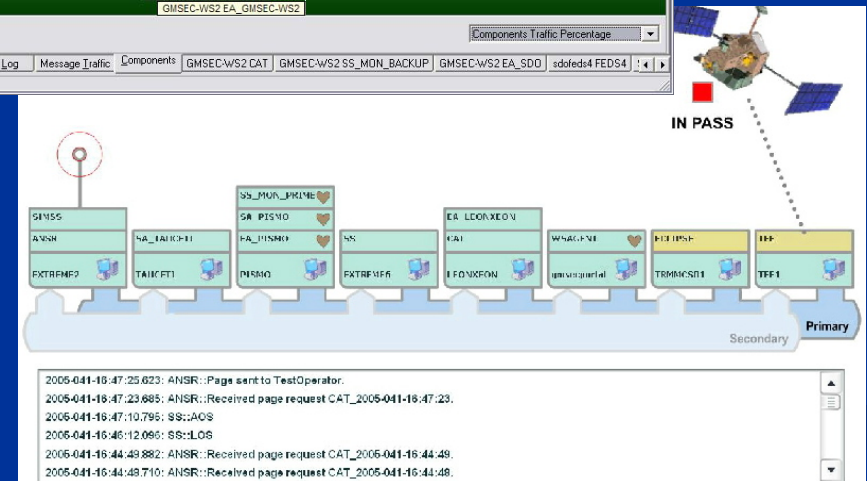
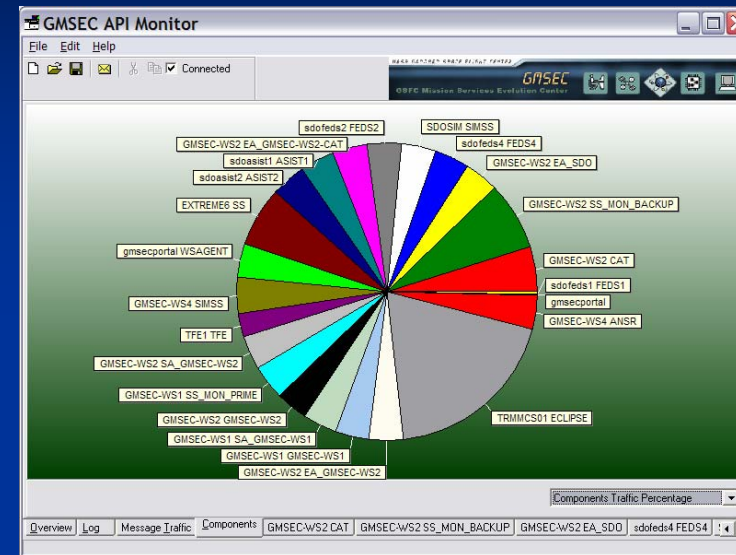
# Types of Tools

- Monitoring applications for displaying components on the bus, their status, and communication statistics.
- Debugging/Simulation applications for recording and then playing back any type of message traffic on the bus.
- Web Services for remotely accessing a GMSEC bus from ANY language, ANY platform, and ANY location.
- Automation applications for automatically scheduling activities or analyzing and reasoning about components and the system.
- Logging and Archiving applications for displaying, reporting, and saving telemetry, event/log, directive, command or any other types of messages from the bus.
- Commanding
- New Middlewares

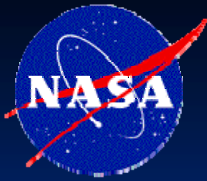


# Health Monitoring – GSMO, GEDAT, and API Monitor

- System-wide real-time application health monitoring
  - Visual overview of machines and components on the GMSEC bus
  - Monitors published messages on the bus, including heartbeats
- **Required no changes to other applications**
- Extremely small development effort
  - API Monitor – Windows-based Health Monitor and graphs (< .1 FTE)
  - GSMO – Flash-based Overview Display (.1 FTE)
  - GEDAT – Java-based Overview Display .375 FTE)

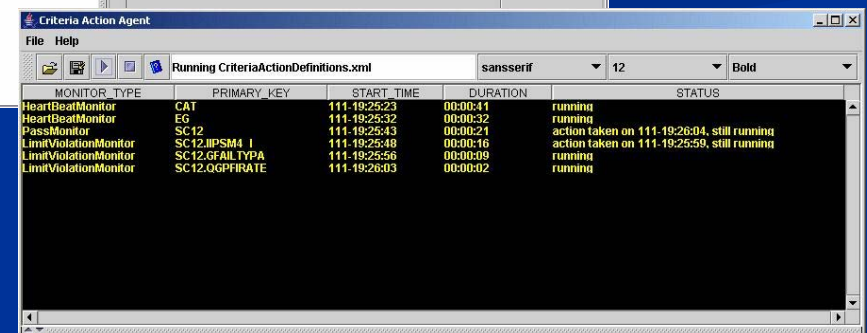
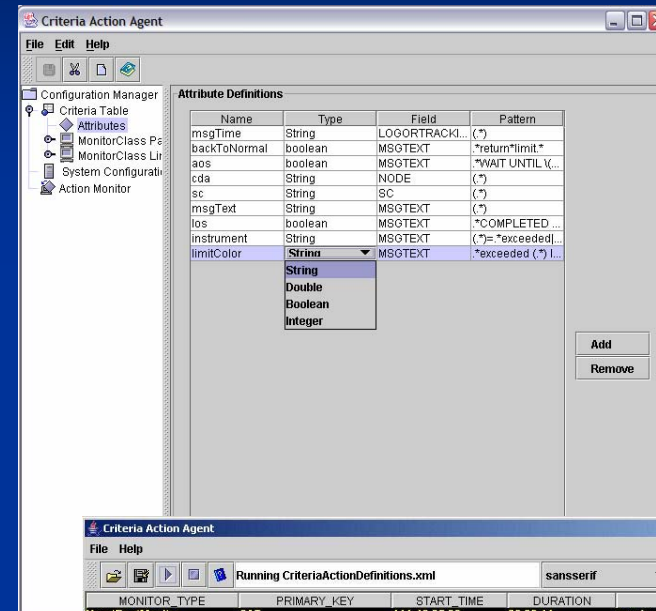


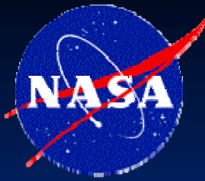




# Analysis & Response – System Agents & Criteria Action Table (CAT)

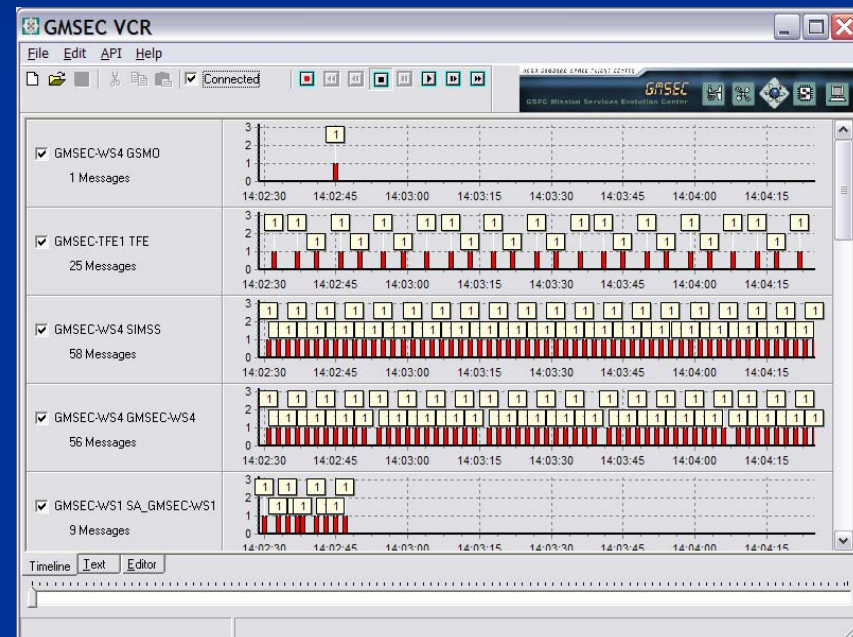
- Rule based fault detection and response
  - Provides more automation and autonomy to mission operations
  - Monitors Heartbeat and System Agent messages to automate detection of anomalous conditions
  - Works with System Agents to detect and respond (failovers) to problems
- **Required no changes to other applications**
- Moderate development effort: System Agents (.1 FTE), CAT (1.5 FTE)

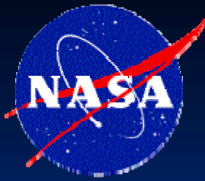




# Simulation, Presentation and Testing Tools – GMSEC VCR

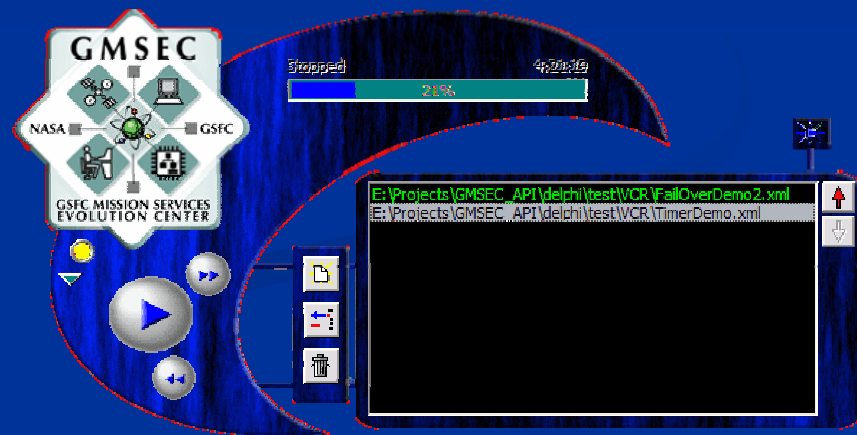
- Recording and playback of published messages
  - Extremely helpful in debugging and simulations
  - Similar to a multitrack tape recorder where each component is a separate track.
  - VCR Functions (Record, Play, Stop, Pause, Step Forward, Step Backward, etc) and Editing Functions (Add, Edit, Delete messages)
- **Required no changes to other applications**
- Extremely small development effort (< .1 FTE)

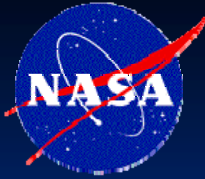




# Simulation, Presentation and Testing Tools – GMSEC Symphony

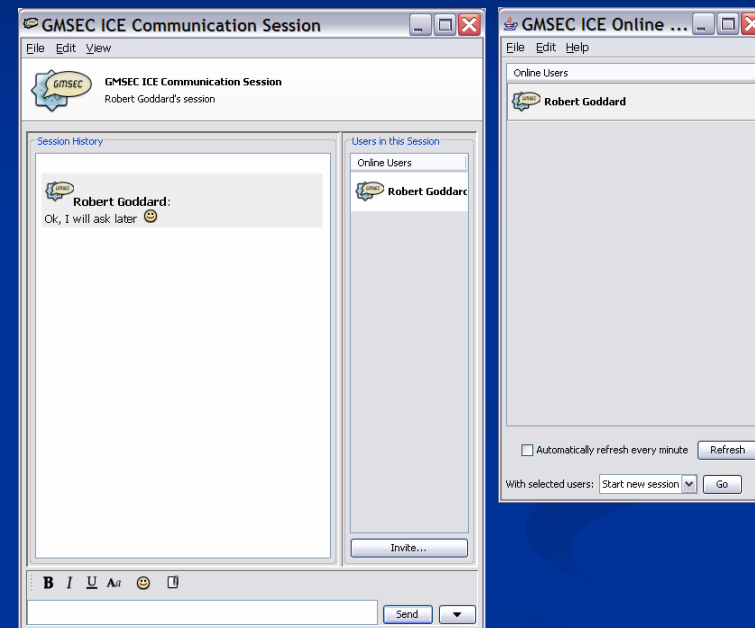
- Playback of lists of recorded sessions
  - Excellent for presentations
  - Uses a familiar paradigm for managing and playing back a play list of GMSEC VCR files
  - Manage a “play list” of VCR files: Add, delete, and reorder your playlists and save them for later
  - Play each VCR file in sequence, loop them, pause after playing each file, and jump to specific points in a file
- **Required no changes to other applications**
- Extremely small development effort (1 week)





# Simulation, Presentation and Testing Tools – GMSEC Integrated Communications Environment (ICE)

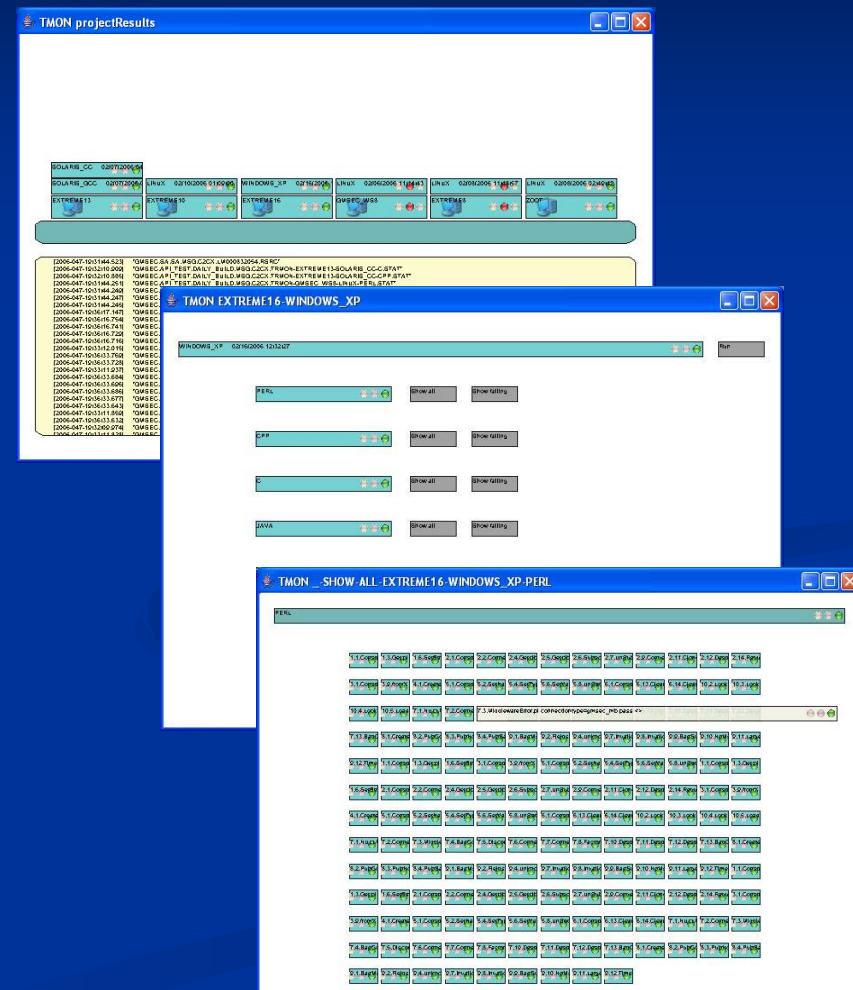
- Text conferencing solution using the GMSEC Bus
  - As secure as your network
  - Provides Full-featured text conferencing with graphical "emoticons", WYSIWYG text editor, file attachments, and user icons
  - Can be used as an application or in a browser and part of GMSEC Portal
- **Required no changes to other applications**
- Extremely small development effort (.1 FTE)





# Simulation, Presentation and Testing Tools – GMSEC Testing Suite

- Automated Testing Suite for GMSEC API run on a daily basis
  - Tests the latest development version of source code
  - Daily builds and tests, generate result reports
  - Total of 91 test cases per middleware wrapper
    - Currently Releasing/Supporting
      - 3 wrappers \* 4 languages \* 6 platforms
    - 6552 test permutations to execute for the entire suite
- Moderate development effort (.5 FTE)

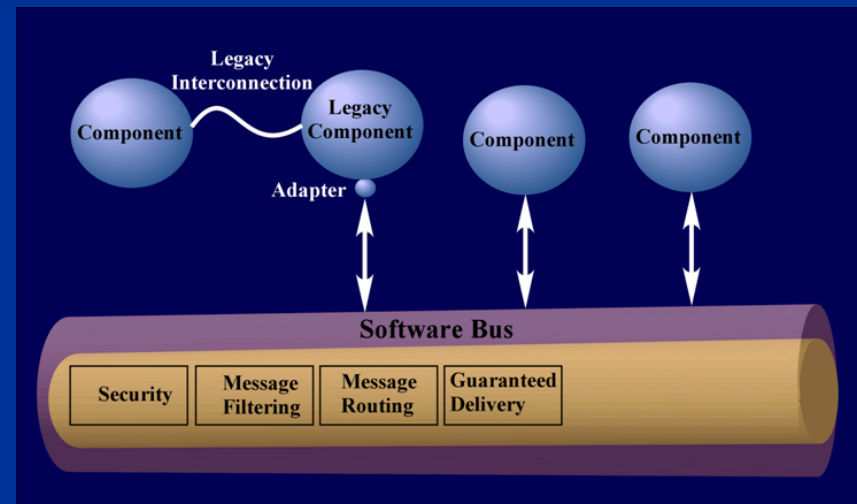


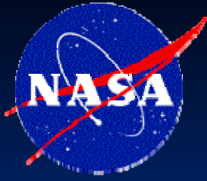




## Middleware and Bridges – GMSEC Message Bus (MagicBus)

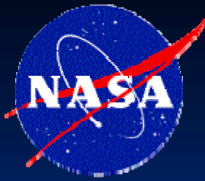
- Light weight middleware implementation
  - Supports all messaging capabilities of the GMSEC API.
  - Excellent for development period and small systems
  - Easy to use and configure
- **Required no changes to other applications**
- Small development effort (.375 FTE)





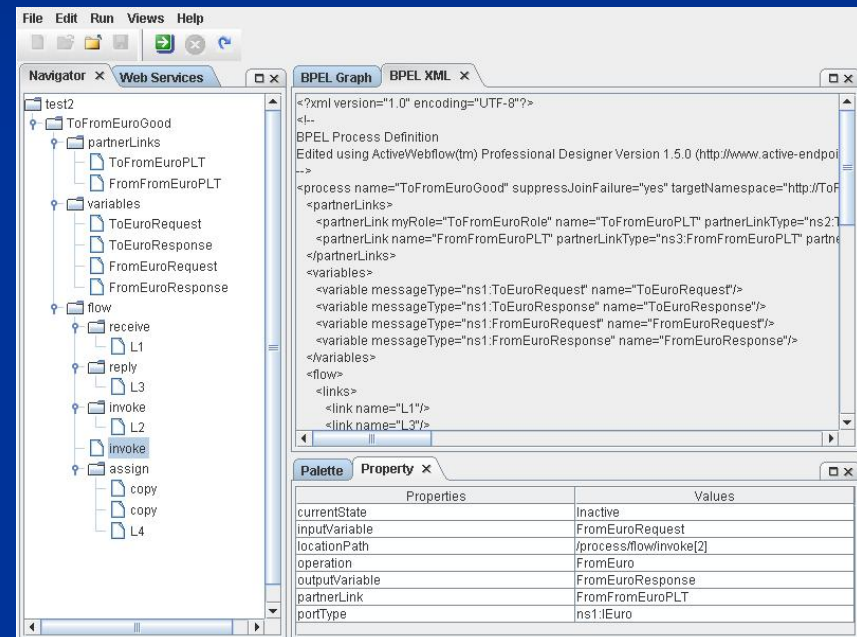
## Middleware and Bridges – GMSEC Bridge

- Bridges two GMSEC buses to make one virtual bus
  - Transparently bridges messages between two (or more) GMSEC buses
  - Provides message filtering
- **Required no changes to other applications**
- Small development effort (.3 FTE)



## Middleware and Bridges – GMSEC Web Services

- Exposes GMSEC Bus through web services
  - Enables integration of GMSEC system architectures with non-GMSEC systems
  - Enables GMSEC enabled applications for new platforms and languages
  - Can be integrated into web applications for the GMSEC portal with zero-configuration for clients
- **Required no changes to other applications**
- Extremely small development effort (.2 FTE)





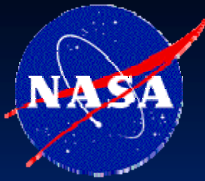
# Logging and Archiving – GMSEC Reusable Events Analysis Toolkit (GREAT)

- Log Archiver and Reporting Tool
  - Provides a software toolkit to archive, process, display, and analyze standard event log messages
  - Provide mission operations tool that is highly portable across platforms and applicable to multiple missions
- **Required no changes to other applications**
- Moderate development effort (.5 FTE – first version)

The screenshot shows the GREAT software interface. It has a menu bar (File, View, Help) and a toolbar with icons for file operations. Below the toolbar are dropdown menus for font (Tahoma), size (11), and style (Normal). The main area displays a table of event log messages.

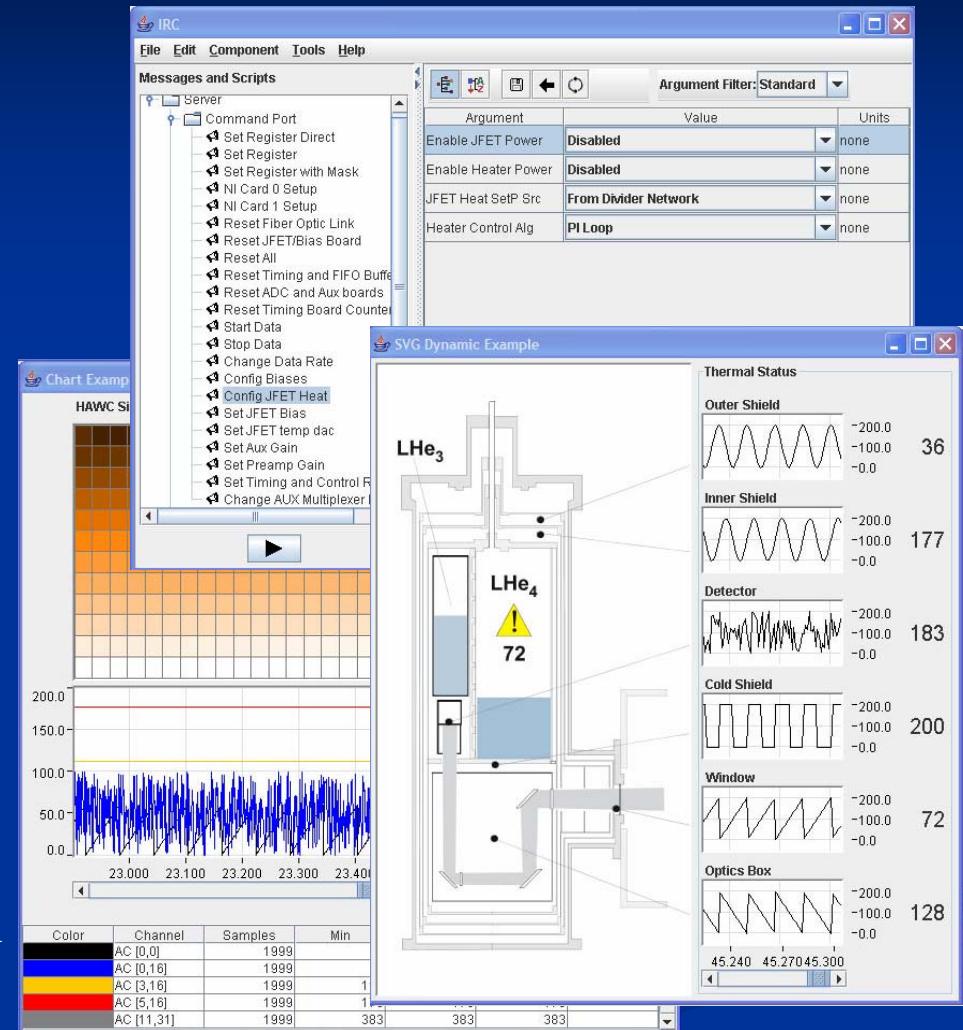
Time	ID	Type	Node	Message
2002/332/00:01:48.3619	30084	CMS	vibc01	Detected 0 miscomp out of 52 for config mon set JWFHRO...
2002/332/00:01:48.3637	30084	CMS	vibc01	Detected 0 miscomp out of 21 for config mon set KHOLD5M.
2002/332/00:01:48.3666	30084	CMS	vibc01	Detected 0 miscomp out of 63 for config mon set MNORMAL.
2002/332/00:01:48.3681	30080	CMS	vibc01	Miscomp ^NSBITERR = 1.000000; expected = EQ 000000...
2002/332/00:01:48.3695	30082	CMS	vibc01	Detected 1 miscomp out of 35 for config mon set NOP.
2002/332/00:01:48.3718	30084	CMS	vibc01	Detected 0 miscomp out of 39 for config mon set OOP2.
2002/332/00:01:48.3735	30084	CMS	vibc01	Detected 0 miscomp out of 18 for config mon set OTASTNRD.
2002/332/00:01:48.3753	30084	CMS	vibc01	Detected 0 miscomp out of 23 for config mon set UOP.
2002/332/00:04:54.4883	22410	CCL	vicc01	Op input (wnewton simonr2 master): "XSRDSPB 3 1300 1 ...
2002/332/00:04:54.8669	22055	CCL	vicc01	***** Starting procedure XSRDSPB, *****
2002/332/00:04:54.8723	22034	PRC	vicc01	XSRDSPB: EV Version 0 06/05/01 Subsys=DMS...
2002/332/00:04:54.8764	22034	PRC	vicc01	XSRDSPB: EV WARNING! - This procedure cont...
2002/332/00:04:54.8802	22034	PRC	vicc01	XSRDSPB: global answer
2002/332/00:04:54.8836	22034	PRC	vicc01	XSRDSPB: EV PROC FOR LOADING & EXECUTI...
2002/332/00:04:54.8870	22034	PRC	vicc01	XSRDSPB: EV SSR, ONCE RECORDER P/B ARR...

Below the first table is a second table with similar data. At the bottom of the window is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon and the text "Search".

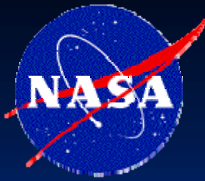


# Tools modified for GMSEC – Instrument Remote Control (IRC)

- Bridges GMSEC Bus to devices and sensors or Users
  - Enables integration of non-GMSEC devices via Instrument Markup Language (IML) to GMSEC system architectures
  - Enables customized Graphical User Interfaces to GMSEC enabled applications or devices
  - Can be used as an application framework for building customized GMSEC aware client or service applications
- **Required no changes to other applications or device interfaces**
- Extremely small development effort (.1 FTE)

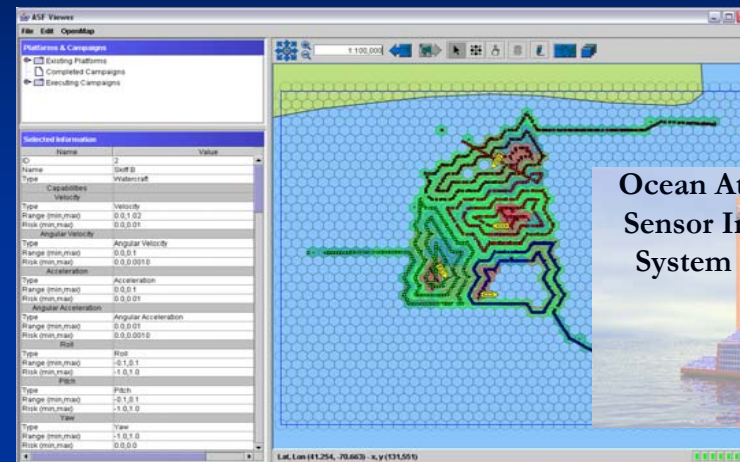




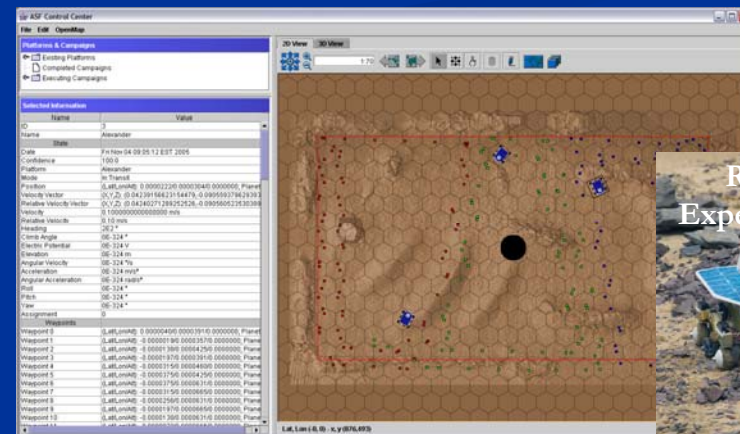


# Tools modified for GMSEC – Adaptive Sensor Fleet (ASF)

- Supervisory control system designed to use a collection of heterogeneous robotic platforms to optimally perform observations of dynamic environments driven by high-level goals.
  - provides for observations through high-level goals,
  - supervisory fleet management of robotic platforms (coordination),
  - analysis of environmental science data to use in the decision making process (collaboration),
  - optimal path planning and replanning,
  - identification of science phenomena,
  - and adaptation to dynamic or unknown environments Required no changes to other applications.
- **Required no changes to other applications**
- Adapted for GMSEC with 0.1 FTE (approx. 1 month)



Ocean Atmosphere Sensor Integration System (OASIS)



Rover Experiments



# Summary

- Standardizing interfaces (API and messages) results in
  - Reduced programming integration time
  - Reduced system integration time
- Smart distributed architecture design enables
  - Quick, rapid, and cheap development of applications for targeted problems and/or system-wide areas.
  - High return on investment by using the strengths of your development teams as far as platform, language, and product
  - Independent development of new applications with minimal, or no, impact on other applications and their development teams
  - Added value to system architects by providing a broad suite of tools and applications