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ICOSS

Social Exclusion & Youth Offending: a collaborative Grid application

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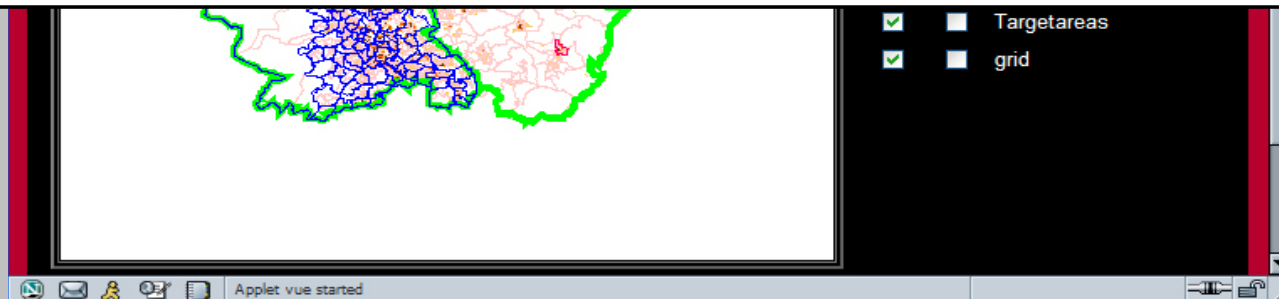
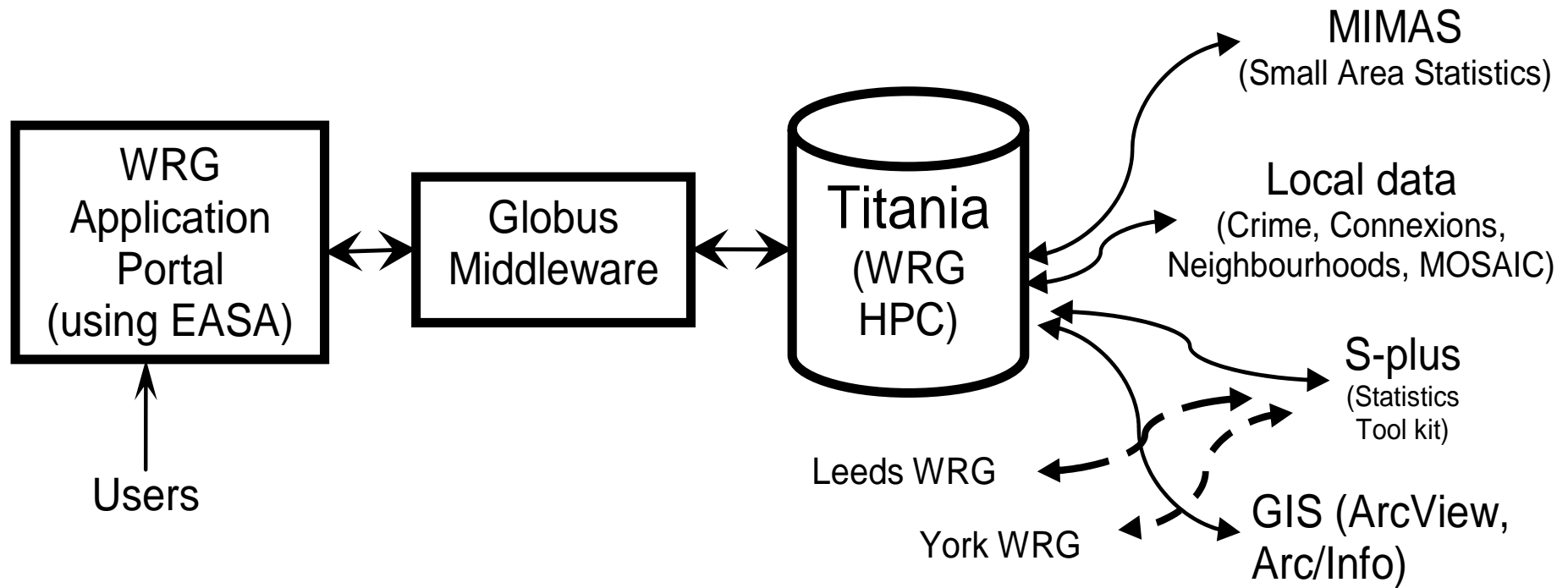
ESRC e-Social Science Demonstrator Project - Objectives

- Explore, quantify and model correlation between crime distribution & socio-economic and locality characteristics
- Develop a user-driven application of Grid technology
- Critically reflect on the working relationship between social scientists and technologists
- Share analysis and results with policy makers through a distributed architecture



Technical and Social Challenges

- Sharing heterogeneous data
 - e.g. Census, crime, youth education, employment & training, neighbourhood classification, Index of Multiple Deprivation
- Enabling collaboration between geographers, criminologists, sociologists, planners, computer scientists
- Facilitating Grid access to non-technical users
- Integrating Grid output with Web-based map services





Conclusions

- Methodology and research practice need to be taken into account so that Grid technology can generate tools to enable researchers to ask better research questions
- Social barriers still need to be overcome and researchers must
 - extend existing expertise
 - participate in joint learning of new skills
 - combine disciplinary approaches
 - counter researcher exclusion
 - avoid data-reductionism
 - trust networks and data providers