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TITLE: Music Performance as a Service

ABSTRACT:

Laptop orchestra performances often require musicians to launch, configure, and synchronize multiple custom software applications on networked computers. This process may be repeated for each piece, all while an audience watches and waits. Grendl was developed to help distribute and execute software, and manage application environments, for each composition.

Grendl's first iteration leveraged the SAGA grid computing framework, viewing the ensemble as a distributed computational platform. Later iterations replace the grid computing framework with zeroconf services and OSC messaging, but the service model has been maintained. In addition to alleviating the initial problem of laptop orchestra software distribution and execution, Grendl's treatment of laptop orchestra members as service providers in a virtual ensemble provides a novel framework for exploring aspects of composing, performing, and archiving computer music.