

**Minutes for the ITC-Research Computing Management Meeting**  
**December 14, 2006 at 8:00AM**  
**2015 Ivy Road, 2nd Floor Conference Room**

Members: Alice, Hamp, Jim, Joe S., Mark, Mike, Robin, Terry, Tim S., Tom S., Tim T.

Attending: Alice, Hamp, Jim, Joe S., Mark, Mike, Robin, Tim S., Tom S., Tim T.

Chair: [Tim T.](#) Recorder: [Alice Howard](#)

I. Corrections to [minutes from last meeting on October 30, 2006](#)? None.  
( Click to review the [agenda from this meeting](#) )

II. Old Business:

- Condo-Cluster 2, aka dogwood-
  - Steven de Wakker (EnvSci faculty) wants to buy nodes of dogwood - but interested in no queue wait. (Tim T.) This is an opportunity to try the "set-aside" condo cluster approach and sell him some existing nodes.
  - HS faculty (Steve Rich) may purchase 8-16 of existing nodes when he gets here – he too might want to try the “dedicated nodes” option. (Tom in contact with Bill Woolfolk on this.)
  - Network switch problem, testing with NorTel switch, how to proceed?
    - *Will switch to the Nortel switches over Christmas break.*
- Cedar Cluster:
  - Avaki gateway setup-New software version released yet? Need to ping again.
  - 64 bit **test** cluster status? Gotten two user requests for 64-bit software/cluster usage – *Hamp will find out the status*
- Aspen & Birch Clusters:
  - Request for Aspen nodes from EnvSci. Despite my best effort to discourage, still interested.
    - Part of issue is grad. students in EnviSci have trouble getting jobs through the queue in timely fashion. Can we find ways to deal with this problem?
    - Can we transfer 8-10 nodes to them? *First talk to the LSP supervisor and get a better understanding of their issues and needs.*
  - Renewing maintenance support on Birch for another year?
    - Will NOT renew Birch maintenance contract for another year – hence may have to let a few nodes die if replacement parts are unavailable
    - Parallel use is on definite increase. Many VASP users on birch.
- Oak Cluster: "round-robin" logon enabled
- Teal Cluster: Any issues or concerns?
  - Need for running Gaussian until/unless licensing issues can be overcome.
- Andrew Grimshaw's request for Linux front-end to campus grid project – still waiting on next version of Avaki.
  - Are all clusters now running Marty Humphrey's GLOBUS gatekeeper client that does

direct file transfers?

- Any update on conversion to authenticate to Eservices via Kerberos for Unix logins/connections to blue.unix, HSM & Longtmp? (AKA Phase 2 of Netbadge CDP).
  - This transition will involve a major user education issue – especially for blue.unix users.
  - No timeline for this project yet – it has to wait until after the password synchronization web site is up.
  - ftp to blue.unix is being phased out, ITC-Service Transitions CDP working on schedule.
- Infrastructure Supporting Research Task Force (<https://www1.seas.virginia.edu/itrtf/>). (Maillist is [itrtf@virginia.edu](mailto:itrtf@virginia.edu))
  - CI-TEAM NSF proposal funded. Course has a time (MWF, 9-10) and course number (CS494 Computational Mathematics), fully enrolled (40+ undergrads, mostly 3rd & 4th year, mix of E-School disciplines, not all CS).
  - UVa's participation in ORNL's response to NSF RFP for next generation/iteration of Supercomputing Center . The full proposal is due on 2/2/07.
- Update on longtmp and HSM upgrades? (HSM scheduled for next spring07 semester)
  - Longtmp switched to NetApp - more disk space now. Snapshot frequency should be?
- SURA survey request- Phil Parrish's reply to pull together working group to respond.
  - Or should we concentrate on trying to find some users who could run on the SURA grid?  
*Tim T. will do email.*

### III. New Business:

- Future of UnixLab in E225? Currently has eight Sun Ultra60 workstations that are at least 5 years old that get almost no use. Continue to provide? Continue to maintain "Lab"/machines in E225? *NO – but need to let users know!*
  - *Plan/vision for Research Computing Lab in Brown is in spring or summer (depending on funding) to put a one or two each of Linux, Sun and Macintosh workstations in there. So little demand by anyone to work on Unix workstation directly.*
- Security concern about password storage on clusters by LSP in Psychology Dept. Tim Nowaczyk (TAN7F) left me [voicemail message](#).
- What to do for next “cluster”? Or -- how do we want to allocate the \$150 hardware funds?
  - *Do a combination of a 24-36 infiniband cluster (for fine-grained parallel) to replace birch; PLUS*
  - *1 or 2 very large memory computers (not clusters) – 4way CPU with 32 GB memory, and with Linux OS to replace “Athena”. Requires 64-bit kernel.*
- Have two proposals for “buy-in” to clusters (new one and dogwood): one gives priority to running jobs anytime you want by dedicating X purchased nodes to the exclusive use of the researcher; the other gives priority queue access to the entire cluster.

### IV. Adjourn by 9:30 and next meeting

- Do we need to meet on Monday, 12/18, 10:30 AM ? Yes.
- Next Scheduled Meeting of ITC ResComp Standing Committee: Monday, January 29th, 10:30 AM in ITC-2015 Ivy Road, Room #220.

Please send suggestions, additions, corrections to: [Tim Tolson](#) or [Alice Howard](#)



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