

Notes for the ITC-Research Computing Standing Committee Meeting
March 31, 2008 at 10:30 AM
2015 Ivy Road, 1st Floor Conference Room

Members: Alice, Hamp, Jim, Joe S., Mark, Mike, Robin, Terry, Tim S., Tim T., Tom and members of Systems, Research Computing and ACHS as desired

Attending: Alice, Hamp, Jim, Joe S., Mark, Robin, Tim S., Tom, Bill P., Ed, Katherine, Kathy

Chair: [Tom](#)

Recorder: [Alice](#)

I. Corrections to [minutes from last meeting on February 25, 2008?](#) (Click to review the [agenda from this meeting](#))

II. *Old Business:*

- *Linux Clusters: Cedar, Dogwood Elder*
 - *Downtime for UPS switchover: Cedar done. Dogwood and Elder left. (UPSes are here)*
 - Hamp thinks the switchover can be completed by the end of April – need to replace a power panel at the same time.
- *Assessment of [Computational Science Speaker Series?](#)*
 - Could have some UVa people give some of the talks; improve on publicity efforts.
- *Update on A-School (Earl Mark & Eric Field) possibly having HPC windows compute cluster and harvesting idle cycles from office PCs and labs & classrooms.*
 - No news.
- *Update on CSAC, NSF PetaScale Track 2 meetings, and related.*
 - *Computational Science and HPC Center formation*
 - *CSAC Meeting Wednesday, April 2nd*

III. *New Business:*

- *Storage needs assessment -- LSP dialog (Joe)*
 - Joe explained that the LSPs are interested in having more storage at less cost. An advisory group is working on a survey to gather more information from the departments – what amounts are needed – what characteristics are important --- and what are the cost tolerances.
 - There was discussion about where our costs come from: lots of it is related to backups and redundancies.
 - Other options include: work with Cost Accounting to see if we can do cost recovery differently; mirror once a day as a backup (as Astronomy does).
 - Other factors to be considered include: performance, not being backed-up, how critical is availability and redundancy?
 - Joe will send the survey to this group.
- *Cluster node purchase by faculty -- revisit (Tim)*
 - Have received some inquiries about our possible next cluster purchase from Chemical Engineering – so do we have enough interest to buy one this year?
 - Decided to say that ‘we will work with them’ – and that TimT will follow up with the Chemical Engineering department.
- *ACHS Large Memory System -- make available to others temporarily? (Tom)*
 - This system (for high-throughput DNA sequencing) has just been ordered – and will likely be available and idle for several months – so we could open it up to other researchers for awhile IF we want to.
- *John Hawley's [Guide to Teragrid application process](#)*
 - This is a useful document – perhaps we could shorten it up a bit for our users.
- *UVa/Univ of Michigan/Stanford collaborations update/report.*
 - No news.
- *Any news, information from E-School? SURA? CSAC brownbags? UCIT? Other organizations?*
 - No news.
- *Any other Items?*
 - Availability of machine room space – if you get an inquiry, talk to Hamp or Jim first before ‘just saying no’ – we do have a bit of flexibility, but have to look carefully at each request.
 - Replacement for PBSPro queuing system – looks like we have until January '09 to find a substitute for PBSPro. Alternatives include Torque and Maui – or SGE which provides integrated queue management and job scheduling. Decided to look at these – with particular attention to SGE and differences in writing scripts.
 - Andrew G. is keen on putting his grid platform up in public labs and classrooms. We decided to install and test it.
- ***Completion and review promises and requests from this meeting.***

IV. *Adjourn by 11:45 and next meeting*

- *Next Scheduled Meeting of ITC ResComp Standing Committee: Monday, April 28th, 10:30 AM in ITC-2015 Ivy Road, Room #102 (First Floor Conference Room)!*
Please send suggestions, additions, corrections to: [Tom](#) or [Alice](#)