

**Minutes for the ITC-Research Computing  
Standing Committee Meeting  
June 26, 2006 at 10:30AM  
(2015 Ivy Rd, 1<sup>st</sup> floor Conference Room)**

Members: Alice, Bill, Dawn, Ed, Hamp, Kathy G., Katherine H., Jim, Mark S., Martha, Nancy K., Robin, Sue Ellen, Steve, Terry, Tim S., Joe S., Tom S., Tim T.

Attending: Alice, Bill, Ed, Hamp, Kathy G., Katherine H., Jim, Mark S., Tim S., Joe S., Tom S., Tang (for Robin), Tim T.

Chair: Tim T. Recorder: Alice Howard

**I. Corrections to minutes from last Standing Committee meeting on April 24, 2006? No.**

(Click to review the [agenda from this meeting](#))

**II. Ongoing Discussion Topics:**

- \* "Condo" Cluster #2 – aka Dogwood: Timetable was to have it setup/running in June, ready for users late July, early August. Update?
  - o Starting cabling and all the equipment we have is in racks – but are missing a Cisco switch, it's back-ordered– so will not be setup/running in June.
  - o Any update on SEAS faculty that wanted nodes or Infiniband cluster? None. --> Jim will check with SEAS.
  - o Should we order more nodes? Have space for 39 more nodes on the network switch and 31 empty spaces on the rack so could add 30 or so nodes fairly easily. However, Hamp thinks we're at the edge of cooling, power circuits and UPS now.
  - o Have new incoming EnviSci faculty (Stephan de Wekker) who wants 8 nodes now and possibly more later.
  - o New release of ROCKS is imminent.
  - o Not sure if the partitioning of machine room in Carruthers is completed or not.
- \* Cedar Cluster: any problems/issues? (Schedule of OS update in early August will be based on dogwood rollout)
  - o None
- \* Aspen & Birch Clusters: (schedule of OS update to Birch ONLY in early August will be based on dogwood rollout) Any issues or concerns?
  - o Agreed at 4/06 meeting to keep Birch running/ under maintenance support another year.
  - o Aspen to be retired in late fall. Matt Neurock may be interested in buying nodes from this. We just need it out of Carruthers. Need to make sure Matt understands what he's getting and associated headaches likely to come with it.
- \* Oak Cluster: From May meeting: interactive, round-robin login most anytime. Will target this for mid-June and Hamp will check with Chip about preferred dates.
  - o Anyone can login on any node now – will do the round-robin login around July 5. However we do NOT allow remote login outside the UVa network on any research

- cluster – so one needs to login to blue, etc. first or use VPN. Need to make sure this is announced.
- \* Teak Cluster: Any issues or concerns?
    - Only concern is age – but the problem is that this is the only system on which we can legally run Gaussian/G03, which is used by the Chemistry department. So to discontinue support of Teak we would need someone/Chemistry to get a license for Linux – or we would have to migrate them to some other code.
  - \* Proposal for Linux cluster support as ‘for-fee’ service. At December meeting, Hamp said he’d translate current hourly Unix support rates into table/information showing cost for supporting cluster of X size for Y years.
    - Not done yet.
  - \* Acquiring monitoring tools as discussed in March, especially MPI Link Checker?
    - There was some discussion about whether or not we really need this – especially if it turns out to be expensive. Hamp will renew his request for pricing, and then we can decide if it’s worth it.
    - Bill P says there’s now commands built-in for the new Ethernet drivers that lets him query their network communication settings to help debug problems. So probably don’t need MPI Link Checker for this anymore. Hamp thinks might be useful if getting InfiniBand cluster (and for Birch) since communication problems are harder to detect and resolve. Tim asked Bill if he could let Ed & Katherine know the new commands that are available.
  - \* Andrew Grimshaw’s request for Linux front-end to campus grid project – waiting on next version of AVAKI.
    - However Marty Humphrey has almost finished a grid Windows client that does direct file transfers and Katherine is experimenting with it.
  - \* Mitch Rosen’s IT – Infrastructure Supporting Research Task Force. (<https://www1.seas.virginia.edu/itrff>). (Maillist is itrff at virginia dot edu) Early draft is circulating for input – no recent update or “final” draft.
    - CI-TEAM NSF proposal submitted on time with lots of input and assistance from Ed & Katherine.
  - \* Update on CSS Research Computing support staff and services relocating to Brown Science & Engineering Library and Alderman Library fourth floor in summer 2006.
    - Katherine and Ed moving to Brown on 7/17 – the lab is now set up and will be called the “Research Computing Lab”.
    - Alderman move will happen over 8/7-8/9; this will mark move of rest of the Research Computing Support Center out of Wilson. Space in Alderman called the “Scholars’ Lab.”
    - The main phone number (243-8800) is moving to Alderman; RCSC secondary number (243-8799) moves to Research Computing Lab in Brown Library – staff phone numbers stay the same.
    - Tim’s office remains in Wilson.

### III. New Business

- \* There was discussion about removing telnet access from blue.unix later this summer (and also ftp from everything except for anonymous ftp). After further discussion about how to

identify who is currently using telnet – and how to publicize this change, it was decided to refer this issue to the Transitions Group.

- \* Related discussion about removing ability to ssh (secure shell / login) from OUTSIDE of UVa domain to all research computing hardware. Hamp says we're seeing numerous daily attacks. Would help make us more secure. We would need to announce that all research computing hardware will no long be accessible unless inside UVa domain or running VPN.
- \* Katherine asked if we needed to get more PBS licenses in order to have enough for new dogwood cluster. Bill thinks we've got more than enough PBS licenses for the new cluster. Dawn A-M gets the ACHS one's separately.

Next Scheduled Meeting of this Standing Committee group: Monday, August 28, 2006, 10:30 AM in ITC-2015 Ivy Road, Room #102.

Next Scheduled Meeting of ITC ResComp Management team: Monday, July 24, 2006, 10:00 AM in ITC-2015 Ivy Road, Room #220.

**Go to: [ITC Research Computing Standing Committee Home Page](#)**

