

Research Computing Advisory Committee

Minutes Jun 4, 2012 (taken by Erik Deumens)

Present: Paul Avery, S. Balachandar, Peter Barnes, Mike Conlon, Erik Deumens, Rob Ferl, Rolando Milian, Hannah Norton, Craig Prescott, Charles Taylor

Reports

CTS-IT Advisory Committee (CIAC)

A new organization, called CTS-IT, will provide support for research computing and IT activities related to the Clinical Translational Science Institute (CTSI). This organization, director Felix Liu, will execute complex projects for CTSI and interact with UF Research Computing, director Erik Deumens, the UF & Shands data repository, director Gigi Lipori, and the Academic Health Center (AHC) Research IT organization, director Colleen Ebel. The governance structure for the new organization fits into the existing UF IT Governance structure in the form of the CTS-IT Advisory Committee (CIAC) reporting to the Research Computing Advisory Committee. The diagram can be found on the RCAC web site

<http://www.it.ufl.edu/governance/advisorycommittees/researchcomputing.html>. A list of members has been proposed and they will be invited to serve on the new committee.

Internet2 initiatives

Internet2 has started a new initiative to advance research on and use of BIG DATA in the form of the Innovation Platform (IP). A number of universities are implementing the IP, and UF is one of them. The IP has three requirements:

1. Have a Science DMZ. UF has had the Campus Research Network since 2004, which qualifies.
2. Work with software defined networks (SDN). UF is part of the DYNES project which uses SDN. SDN allows research on alternative network protocols to happen and be explored with real-life data and networks, as opposed to laboratory settings.
3. Connect at 100 Gb/s to Internet2. Internet2 is upgrading its core network to 100 Gb/s in the next 6 months. UF has committed to upgrade the connection from Gainesville to Jacksonville to 100 Gb/s. A proposal with a \$475K budget to acquire a 100 Gb/s switch to connect the campus to the FLR point-of-presence in Gainesville was submitted last week to NSF CC-NIE.

Campus CI Plan

A document describing the Campus Cyber Infrastructure was written in part to satisfy the requirements for the NSF CC-NIE proposal. It is now available on the RCAC website.

The UF Data Center

The building of the new data center on the Eastside Campus is now progressing quickly. The first day of operation is expected to be Feb 1, 2013. No further delays are expected. The HPC Center is delaying some equipment purchases because we do not have sufficient electrical and cooling capacity in the existing machine rooms. However, we are able to meet demand and a few pieces of equipment have been ordered to make sure we keep being able to meet demand until the new equipment in the new data center is operational.

UF Research Computing annual review

UF Research Computing was created one year ago from the HPC Center with a commitment for 5 years of funding from the Provost, the VP for Research, and the CIO. This funding is subject to an annual review. This review happened last week. UFRC was found to have exceeded its expectations and funding for the next year has been reaffirmed.

Network news: 1Gig on campus

The UF Service to the Wallplate is starting its first refresh cycle after 5 years. As part of this refresh the speed of standard port will be increased from 100 Mb/s to 1 Gb/s.

Network News: UF and Gig-U

The University of Florida is a member of the Gig.U “University Community Next Generation Innovation Project”. See <http://www.gig-u.org/> for more details. The goal of this project is to create an environment in the city and community around the participating universities that will foster innovative use of internet technologies by making a 1 Gb/s connection to every home affordable, i.e. comparable in price to current broadband and DSL connections. There will be an announcement from UF and its partners in Gainesville soon.

The agenda for the summer can be found at <http://www.it.ufl.edu/governance/advisorycommittees/researchcomputing.html>.

Next meeting will be on August 6 at 1:30 pm in NPB 2205.