

Research Computing Advisory Committee

Minutes June 5, 2017 (taken by Erik Deumens)

Present: Paul Avery, S. Balachandar, Peter Barnes, Erik Deumens, Alberto Riva

Discussion HiPerGator Challenge planning

A brief summary is as follows:

- Tracy edited the announcement text. Information that needs to be added
 - o Mention in the opening paragraph that the format is that of a hackathon.
 - o Give an overview of the timeline (Announcement in September, meeting, proposal deadline in October, complete in January 2018) to convey that this is not a regular weekend-hackathon, but a super hackathon.
 - o Clearly advertise the meeting two weeks after the announcement to
 - Learn details
 - Find others to make a team
 - Connect with mentors
- The team-building briefing/meeting/workshop needs to be prepared before the announcement, with all details provided on a website that is shown on the announcement. The website needs to have
 - o An RSVP to attend the briefing/meeting/workshop
 - o A form to express interest to participate in the challenge
 - o An example of meaningful challenge project (Ana's example)
 - o The detailed timeline for the hackathon
- **Timing challenge:**
 - o To give students time to work on the challenge we are suggesting and helping set up special topics courses they can take to get credit for working in a challenge team.
 - o However, the students have to register for such a course in the last week of August or first week of September.
 - o The plan was to announce the HPG Challenge between August 15 and August 31 (see project document).
 - o The decision to take such a class must be made before teams are formed, proposals reviewed, and everyone is ready to start, which happens in late October.

Discussion affordable storage

After the ITN (invitation to negotiate) process July – November 2016 by FLR and SSERCA for affordable storage at \$25/TB/year, UFIT Research Computing is working on an implementation to be ready in September 2017.

- The price is not the lowest, but is competitive> The lowest price is the cost of a drive by itself, without infrastructure to spin it: A 96 TB NAS costs \$5,100; that is \$53 / TB compared to \$125 /TB to be offered by UFIT RC (\$25 /TB /year).
- Storage can be purchased to hold extra copies of data as needed, e.g. snapshots, rsync's, etc. This is better than offering a higher cost for storage with a preset list of backup features.

Organization

- Next meeting will be on Monday July 17, 2017 in the usual conference room NPB 2304 from 1:30 – 2:30 pm. It is the combined July-August meeting.