

Research Computing Advisory Committee

Minutes Sep 14, 2020 (taken by Erik Deumens)

Present: Chris Barnes, Nikolay Bliznyuk, Erik Deumens, Aria Eshraghi, Jorge Frias-Lopez, Richard Hennig, Bill Hogan, Rafa Munoz-Carpena, Parisa Rashidi, Melissa Rethlefsen, Alberto Riva, Plato Smith, Douglas Spearot, Jack Stenner, Bruce Vogel

Updates

- The configuration for both HiPerGator 3.0 and HiPerGator AI have been finalized during August and purchases orders have been placed. The details are available on the RC website <https://www.rc.ufl.edu/services/hipergator/>
- HiPerGator 3.0 phase 1 will arrive in October.
- HiPerGator AI will arrive in November and December.
- Both systems will be available for early user access sometime in January 2021.
- Work on upgrading the electrical power and cooling in the data center is progressing.
- Training materials will be developed and become available on the RC website by December.
- There are 7 open positions in RC; we are screening candidates now; the postings will remain open through September.

Discussion

- HiPerGator AI will provide nodes to ResVault to allow AI research on restricted data.
- In addition, UF is working with HITRUST Alliance to certify both HiPerGator and HiPerGator AI to hold and process PHI restricted data, without the need to use ResVault.
- The two DGX A100 nodes, one in HiPerGator, the other in ResVault, purchased by UF are being used by RC staff and by pilot user groups on a scheduled basis to meet everyone's needs as much as possible
 - o We have 19 groups in the queue for pilot use of the system.
 - o To date, 9 groups have been given access, of which 3 groups are in ResVault.
- The Office of Research has a Catalyst seed grant solicitation out.
 - o Researchers can apply for funds for students and for resources on HiPerGator and the HiPerGator AI SuperPOD.
 - o Projects can start early by using the GPUs HiPerGator 3.0 offers; they are slower, but fully compatible with the new A100. They serve as good platform for training and exploring new ideas.

Next meeting will be on October 19, 2020 from 1:30 – 2:30 pm. The meeting will be Zoom only. An invitation will be sent.