

# Scientific Computing Steering Committee Meeting

## Conference Room B Bldg 50

### MEETING MINUTES

---

**Minutes for Thursday, September 22, 2011:**

<b>Attendees:</b> Richard Dubois (chair), Len Moss, Rob Cameron, Imre Kabai, Amedeo Perrazo, Stuart Marshall, Lex Kemper, Ashley Deacon, David MacFarlane, Jen Gill (recorder)
<b>Absent:</b> Amber Boehnlein, Arno Candel
<b>Guests:</b> Lance Nakata, Mark Reichanadter, Norm Ringgold, Shirley Gruber

**Action items from current meeting:**

Date	Action Item	Responsibility	By When
9/22/2011	Review 5 year Scientific Computing Plan with Mark Reichanadter	Amber Boehnlein	10/5/2011

**Action Items status from previous meetings:**

Date	Action Item	Responsibility	By When	Status
9/7/2011	Sign off Scientific Computing charges on the Recharge report	Richard Dubois	9/9/11	Completed
9/7/2011	Identify personnel to work with Ashley Deacon on a Globus on-line project	Amber Boehnlein	9/9/11	Completed

**Agenda items:**

**News:**

**RHEL Test batch queue: Len Moss**

- Introducing a test queue to the rhel6 batch farm: will take 4-6 machines out of general use. Since it is a specific queue name, there is no danger of jobs running there by mistake.
- The app runs 64 bit in the batch farm, no need for 32 bit since the compatibility mode takes care of that
  - But jumping from 32 bit rhel4 to rhel6 is potentially problematic – due to missing libraries across two full releases.

**Project List: Lance Nakata**

- Project list reviewed, Handout given regarding the Storage File Systems Project. First Opportunity to review the new project template format.
- **Storage File Systems:** pricing and licensing costs may change, looking at GPFS as well as other systems. There was a discussion regarding the choices and costs of various systems. The idea is to look at file systems (eg gpfs) and then vendor file servers that can plug into the chosen system(s).
- A good file system needs to allow easy data migration when plugging in new storage, or adapting to hot spots (eg making multiple copies of data), and transparent tape usage.
- Amber's direction going in is to bias storage and cycles to shared systems (with exceptions when needed). Such a model needs seed money to initially purchase equipment, then it will start to pay for itself as customers pay. An advantage is it builds total cost of ownership into the pricing.
- The computing resource survey is intended as the vehicle for gathering requirements. In parallel, task forces for storage, cycles and networking will be commissioned to look at technical solutions.

- **NFSv4:** Len covered the project plan, there was a discussion regarding the attributes of NFSv4, and the possibility of deploying this project as a test, to gauge security of the app. A timeline of 2 months was suggested. The prime reason for looking at NFSv4 is improved security; no performance improvements are anticipated.
- **Projects we are NOT doing:** Shirley listed projects we are not doing: Identity Life Cycle Management, Cross Realm Authentication, Standardized Central Printer support
- **These will be posted on the SharePoint site.** It was suggested that anything posted to the SharePoint site should be a pdf so that all users of the site can see the documents. See: <https://slacspace.slac.stanford.edu/Operations/SCCS/SCS/Shared%20Documents>
- There were short discussions on GIT version control (plan in place to rewrite the requirements, ie look at repositories, not just git); Unix System Management Replacement: (short discussion about the Taylor System) Cross Realm Authentication: (discussion regarding the pros and cons of the number and frequency of password inputs per day)

#### **Globus On-Line Evaluation:**

- Globus had an on-site demo with Len and others. They have started working with SSRL, and the project is not yet well defined
- There are serious security concerns for this system at this time that still need to be risk-assessed.

#### **Introduction to Mark Reichanadter, Interim CIO:**

- Mark just started. He brings considerable project management experience. We introduced the SCSC to him and recapped where things stand and where we're going. Next milestone is presenting a scientific computing roadmap plan to the SPC in early November.
- A search committee has been formed to replace Mark. The chair is Piero Pianetta, with Richard Dubois (SCSC, PPA), Enzo Carrone (ITSC, AD), Todd Martinez (PS), Linda Rakow (CFO), Amber Boehnlein (SciComp, CD), Ganesh Karkala (Stanford Assoc VP for Administrative Systems) and Bill Clebsch (Stanford Assoc VP for IT Services). The committee should start proceedings in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of October.