



**Computational Resource Allocation Group (CRAG)
Monthly Meeting**

Friday 19th June 2015 at 13.00

Room 103, Podium Building, 1 Eversholt Street, London NW1 2DN

Chair:

Nik Kaltsoyannis [NK]

Present:

Nicholas Achilleos [NA]; Dario Alfe [DA]; Clare Gryce [CG]; Javier Herrero [JH]; Owain Kenway [OK]; Andrew Martin [AM]; Michail Stamatakis [MS]; Sergey Yurchenko [SY]

Apologies:

Thomas Jones [TJ]

In attendance:

Numaan Chohan [NC] (*Minutes*); Corrinne Frazzoni [CF] (*Minutes*)

MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes of last meeting held on Friday 22nd May 2015 [Chair]

The Group approved the Minutes of the last meeting. There were no matters arising.

2. Update on status of current Actions [Chair/All]

The list of current Actions (see table at end) was updated.

3. Review of any requests for additional resources on local HPC facilities [Chair/All]

There were two new requests for additional resources:

- Katarzyna Maksimiak
- Request for increased priority

Request rejected.

- Qicheng Meng
- To increase running time and priority

Request rejected.

Action:

As users frequently requested additional resources for longer periods than was usually permitted, it was agreed to amend the request form to note that additional resource requests would be approved for a maximum of one year, at which point users would need to re-apply for extension. [OK]

4. Review of Legion usage statistics [OK]

<http://gouf.rcdev.ucl.ac.uk:8888/>

The group reviewed the Legion usage statistics for May 2015.

- A number of nodes were out due to cooling issues
- Planned outage due
- Slowdown figures quite low
- Some increased wait times – possibly due to backfill

5. Review of IRIDIS and EMERALD usage statistics [OK]

IRIDIS and EMERALD usage statistics for May 2015 were unavailable.

6. Cfl/New HPC update [OK]

- IRIDIS termination still on schedule for 31st July 2015
- Data repatriation from IRIDIS to Legion ongoing
- The RCGG had approved continued investment at a level of approximately £39k for a reduced Cfl EMERALD service. This was not capital funding but coming out of a specific recurrent budget.
- UCL was the only member of the Consortium who wished to continue with the service; Oxford and Southampton did not want to continue.
- A purchase order had now been issued for the new HPC (to be named GRACE).
- The winning bid had come from OCF.
- 'GRACE' would be a direct replacement for IRIDIS – current users would automatically be issued with an account; new users would need to apply
- Spec: 180TF, 360 nodes, each of 64GB. Hardware supplied by Lenovo.
- Same apps available to users. UCL site licence would cover GRACE.
- Planning and implementation had just started (Project Manager: Mike Atkins)
- Equipment due to arrive August 2015
- Commencement of service expected by November 2015

Action: CG to alert EMERALD user community to the possibility of extending the service into 2016/17 if users can find funding.

Action: CG to send out communications to user community introducing GRACE as the new service replacement for IRIDIS post-shutdown on 31st July 2015.

7. Replacement CRAG Chair [All]

NK announced that he would be stepping down from the CRAG as he was moving to a new role in Manchester. CG offered thanks to NK on behalf of the CRAG for his long service as Chair of the Group and wished him well in his new post.

It was agreed to discuss replacement of the Chair online; members were invited to submit their proposals and thoughts on nominations for a suitable new Chair, either themselves or someone else, to CG via email. Consideration should be given to the importance of having a Chair who was familiar with the CRAG and would ensure representation of the CRAG at the wider UCL level. The possibility of a rotating Chair was considered.

Action: CRAG members to consider the replacement of the Chair and send proposals/thoughts to CG via email.

8. AOB

There was no other business.

9. Next meeting date and agenda

Friday 17th July 2015 from 13.00-15.00

Venue: Room 103, 1st floor, Podium Building, 1 Eversholt Street, London, NW1 2DN.

Agenda (Items) for the next meeting:

Standing items:

1. Approval of Minutes of last meeting
2. Update on status of current Actions
3. Review of any requests for additional resources on local HPC facilities
4. Review of Legion usage statistics
5. Review of IRIDIS and EMERALD usage statistics
6. Update report on Cfl and new HPC (from CG)
7. Data repatriation plans

LIST OF CURRENTLY APPROVED EXCEPTIONAL REQUESTS

Requesting user	CRAG approval date	details of exception	start date agreed	end date agreed	date removed	Implementation Notes (for info)
Meng	09/09/2014	Scratch quota increased to 3TB and extended	09/09/2014	30/09/2015		
Herrero	09/09/2014	Scratch quota increased to 6TB and extended	09/09/2014	30/09/2015		
Ferreira	07/10/2014	Scratch quota increased to 2TB and extended	07/10/2014	31/10/2015		
Wang	20/02/2015	Scratch quota increased to 2TB and extended	08/01/2015	31/01/2016		
Wellington	23/02/2015	Scratch quota increased to 1TB for the period	23/02/2015	01/08/2015		
Bloch	20/03/2015	Scratch quota increased to 1TB and extended	20/03/2015	31/03/2016		Advise user to reapply upon expiry as had requested longer timeframe
Ladak	20/03/2015	Scratch quota increased to 5TB and extended	20/03/2015	31/03/2016		Advise user to reapply upon expiry as had requested longer timeframe
Oostra	22/05/2015	Scratch quota increased to 3TB and extended	22/05/2015	31/05/2016		Advise user to reapply upon expiry as had requested longer timeframe
Terras/ Hetherington	22/05/2015	40+ nodes to be reserved for JISC Data Spring project events	16/06/2015	23/06/2015		Between the hours of 09:00-18:00 on both dates only

LIST OF CURRENT ACTIONS

Shaded (closed/completed) items will be deleted in the next version.

	Actions	Status	Owner
163	Retirement of IRIDIS	(09/09/14) NEW ACTION. OK and CG to consider resultant loss of capacity in light of	OK/CG

		Legion 4k rollout and OS upgrade. OK to speak about new Desktop at October CRAG (07/10/14) ONGOING – OK to meet with Desktop team. Carry into November (13/01/15) ONGOING (22/05/15) ON HOLD To revisit at next meeting post RIISG in May 2015. (19/06/15) CLOSED	
166	Re-application process, stats for re-application and project account/ publication data	(09/12/14) NEW ACTION. Check with RAGG to add to backlog and confirm usage Report back to CRAG with plan on how to implement (20/02/15) ONGOING. Contractor has been hired (20/03/15) ONGOING. OK to check on progress (22/05/15) ONGOING. (19/06/15) ONGOING	OK CG/OK
169	Legion usage statistics	(17/04/15) NEW ACTION OK to talk to Systems team re metrics/file system performance. (22/05/15) ONGOING. (19/06/15) ONGOING	OK
170	Data repatriation after IRIDIS shutdown	(20/03/15) NEW ACTION. OK to Inform users of repatriation plans for data. (20/03/15) ONGOING. (17/04/15) ONGOING. Initial email sent. OK to keep users updated on plans (22/05/15) ONGOING. OK discussing with Southampton. Users have been advised. (19/06/15) ONGOING	OK
172	Requests for additional resources	(19/06/15) NEW ACTION. As users frequently requested additional resources for longer periods than was usually permitted, it was agreed to amend the request form to note that additional resource requests would be approved for a maximum of one year, at which point users would need to re-apply for extension.	OK
173	Cfl	(19/06/15) NEW ACTION. CG to alert EMERALD user community to the possibility of extending the service into 2016/17 if users can find funding.	CG
174	New HPC	(19/06/15) NEW ACTION. CG to send out communications to user community regarding GRACE.	CG
175	Replacement of CRAG Chair	(19/06/15) NEW ACTION. CRAG members to consider the replacement of the Chair and send proposals/thoughts to CG via email.	All/CG