



**Computational Resource Allocation Group (CRAG)
Monthly Meeting
Tuesday 9th September 2014 at 13.00
Room 103, Podium Building, 1 Eversholt Street, London NW1 2DN**

Chair:

1. Nik Kaltsoyannis (NK) – *Molecular Quantum Dynamics and Electronic Structure*

Present:

2. Dario Alfe (DA) – *Thomas Young Centre (Materials Science)*
3. Clare Gryce (CG) – *Head of Research Computing and Facilitation Services, ISD*
4. Owain Kenway (OK) – *Research Computing Analyst, ISD*
5. Sergey Yurchenko (SY) – *Atomic, Molecular, Optical and Positron Physics*

Apologies:

6. Nicholas Achilleos (NA) – *Astrophysics and Remote Sensing*
7. Tom Couch (TC) - *Research Comp & Facilitating Services, ISD*
8. William Hay (WH) – *Datacentre Services, ISD*
9. Thomas Jones (TJ) – *Research Platforms Team Leader (Infrastructure Lead), ISD*
10. Ian Kirker (IK) - *Research Comp & Facilitating Services, ISD*
11. Jo Lampard (JL) - *Senior Research IT Services Facilitator, ISD*
12. Andrew Martin (AM) - *Structural & Molecular Biology*
13. Vincent Plagnol (VP) – *Next Generation Sequencing*
14. Michail Stamatakis (MS) - *Chemical Engineering (replacing Simon Kuhn henceforth)*

In attendance:

15. Corrinne Frazzoni (CF) – *Administrative Services, ISD (Minutes and meeting support)*

MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes of last meeting held on 8th July 2014

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

2. Update on status of current Actions

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

3. Review of any requests for additional resources on local HPC facilities

There were 3 new requests for additional resources

a. Qicheng Meng

- i. Higher priority to access resources – Rejected
- ii. Longer operating time – Rejected
- iii. More scratch space (3TB) to September 2016
 - Approved until 30 September 2015 only
 - User will need to re-submit request after 1 year
 - User must discuss suitability of platform with Research Computing

- b. Enrico Berardo
 - i. 4 serial jobs for Legion requiring 200GB for 1 month to 15/10/2014
 - Not yet approved - OK to contact to discuss application requirements as request unclear and not completed by supervisor/PI.
- c. Javier Herrero
 - i. More scratch space (total 6TB) to August 2017 for 3 users
 - 6TB of scratch space approved until 30 September 2015 only
 - Users will need to re-submit request after 1 year

4. Review of Legion usage statistics <http://gouf.rcdev.ucl.ac.uk:8888/>

The group reviewed the Legion usage statistics for July/August 2014.

**Action: OK to look at slowdown and add number of nodes to graph breakdown.
OK to amend wording and consider policy.**

5. Review of IRIDIS and EMERALD usage statistics

The group reviewed the IRIDIS and EMERALD usage statistics for July/August 2014.

6. Discussion about Consortium role in CRAG requests

The group discussed the new application form for CRAG requests. It was approved except for the following amendments: remove reference to 'Consortium Leader' and add box for written approval from either supervisor or PI, if applicable. Approval process wording to be changed to reflect that 'the CRAG usually meets on a monthly basis'.

7. Retirement of Condor

Condor to be retired over a 3-month period, preferably before IRIDIS is retired in 2015.

**Action: OK and CG to consider resultant loss of capacity in light of Legion 4k rollout and OS upgrade.
OK to speak about new Desktop at October CRAG**

8. AOB

Account repatriation process needed for Cfl users.

Action: Identify and contact CFI users who have not reapplied to tell them to do so asap and warn them that data may become difficult/impossible to access after 1st October (OK).

9. Next meeting date and agenda

Tuesday 7th October 2014 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

Extra items:

6. KPI setting for Legion slowdown
7. New Desktop

LIST OF CURRENTLY APPROVED EXCEPTIONAL REQUESTS

Requesting user	CRAG approval date	details of exception	start date agreed	end date agreed	date removed	Implementation Notes
Jenner	13/05/2014	Scratch quota extended for the requested period	13/05/2014	01/05/2015		
Piasini	10/06/2014	Scratch quota extended for the requested period	10/06/2014	31/12/2014		
Wright	10/06/2014	Extension of maximum wall clock time to 10 days on Legion	10/06/2014	31/10/2014		
Tian	08/07/2014	360 hours wall time requested to December 2014	08/07/2014	31/12/2014		
Meng	09/09/14	Scratch quota increased to 3TB and extended	09/09/2014	30/09/2015		User to discuss suitability of platform with RC
Herrero	09/09/14	Scratch quota increased to 6TB and extended	09/09/2014	30/09/2015		

LIST OF CURRENT ACTIONS

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

	Actions	Status	Owner
151	KPI for legion wait times	<p>(17/01/2014): After correcting for job arrays, mean slowdown will be calculated for each job type (single core, single node, multi-node etc.) on a monthly basis. The use of this measure will be evaluated at a subsequent CRAG meeting.</p> <p>(14/2/14): This is now being done for senior management reports – will be introduced in coming Legion statistics reports. ONGOING</p> <p>(12/03/14): ONGOING</p> <p>(13/05/14): Create graph to cover 2-year timeframe on slowdown trend/users/ and normalised/active users overlaid NEW ACTION</p> <p>(10/06/14) ONGOING</p> <p>(08/07/14) ONGOING</p> <p>(09/09/14) Legion slowdown graph to be included in CRAG stats as soon as reasonably practicable. Include comparative data from start and for 12-month period. KPI policy for slowdown to be defined. ONGOING</p>	OK
159	EMERALD usage statistics	<p>(13/05/14): Request explanation of high utilisation and slowdown figures from Timothy Metcalf (TM)</p> <p>(10/06/14) ONGOING. TM provided a partial reply which was not felt to fully explain the figures. OK to meet with Derek Ross to discuss metrics further.</p> <p>(10/06/14) ONGOING. OK met with Derek Ross to discuss metrics. Derek conceded that the figures were confusing and would look into them.</p> <p>(09/09/14) OK to follow up with Derek. ONGOING</p>	OK
160	Account application	<p>(08/07/14) NEW ACTION. CG to email leaders of current consortia on behalf of CRAG and summarise changes to approval process, noting two month deadline to reapply for accounts.</p> <p>(09/09/14) Identify & contact CFI users who have not reapplied to tell them to do so asap and warn them that data may become difficult/impossible to access after 1st October. ONGOING.</p>	CG OK
161	Amend Legion/RC Terms & Conditions	<p>(08/07/14) NEW ACTION. OK to amend Legion/RC Terms and Conditions as follows (in bold):</p> <p>4) The Research Computing Platform Services Team reserve the right to suspend or ban without prior warning any use of the system which impairs its operation.</p> <p>8) Users are required to acknowledge their use of Legion and associated Research Computing services in any publications describing research that has been conducted, in any part, on Legion. The following words should be used: "The authors acknowledge the use of the UCL Legion High Performance Computing facility, and associated research computing services, in the completion of this work".</p> <p>(09/09/14) CLOSED</p>	OK
163	Retirement of Condor/IRIDIS	<p>(09/09/14) NEW ACTION. OK and CG to consider resultant loss of capacity in light of Legion 4k rollout and OS upgrade. OK to speak about new Desktop at October CRAG</p>	OK/CG