

**Computational Resource Allocation Group (CRAG)
Monthly Meeting
Tuesday 13th May 2014 at 13.00
Room 103, Podium Building, 1 Eversholt Street, London NW1 2DN**

Minutes

Chair:

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

Present:

2. Prof Dario Alfe (DA) – *Thomas Young Centre (Materials Science)*
3. Dr Simon Kuhn (SK) – *Engineering Sciences*
4. Dr Vincent Plagnol (VP) – *Next Generation Sequencing*
5. Dr Bruno Silva (BCS) – *Research Computing Platforms Team Leader (Service Lead), ISD*
6. Dr Owain Kenway (OK) – *Research Computing Analyst, ISD*
7. Dr Nicholas Achilleos (NA) – *Astrophysics and Remote Sensing*

Apologies:

8. Dr Sergey Yurchenko (SY) – *Atomic, Molecular, Optical and Positron Physics*
9. Dr Tom Couch (TC) - *Research Comp & Facilitating Services, ISD*
10. Ms Clare Gryce (CG) – *Head of Research Computing and Facilitation Services, ISD*
11. Mr William Hay (WH) – *Datacentre Services, ISD*
12. Mr Thomas Jones (TJ) – *Research Platforms Team Leader (Infrastructure Lead), ISD*
13. Dr Ian Kirker (IK) - *Research Comp & Facilitating Services, ISD*
14. Jo Lampard (JL) - *Senior Research IT Services Facilitator, ISD*
15. Dr Andrew Martin (AM) - *Structural & Molecular Biology*

In attendance:

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

1. Approval of Minutes of last meeting held on 4th April 2014

The Group approved the Minutes of the last meeting. Point 6 of the Minutes was amended, to reflect that the report on priority access had been prepared by the CRAG, not the RCGG. 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 was one new request for additional resources, from Jenner Labs, which was approved until 01/05/2015.

4. Review of Legion usage statistics <http://efron.rcdev.ucl.ac.uk:888>

The group reviewed the Legion usage statistics for April 2014.

NB This month's core utilisation is affected by the availability of new compute nodes within the scheduler for testing.

5. Review of IRIDIS and EMERALD usage statistics

The group reviewed the IRIDIS and EMERALD usage statistics for April 2014.

IRIDIS

78 Active users (Mar = 83)

97% Utilisation (Mar = 91%)

EMERALD

41 Active Users (Feb = 52)

99.7% Utilisation (Feb = 79.4%)

Action: BCS to request explanation of high utilisation and slowdown figures from TM

6. Proposal: purchase of computing nodes - additional funding available

Purchase of nodes of type U and four additional login nodes (Same spec as compute nodes but without infiniband and with two 10Gbps cards) approved.

7. Discussion: account creation process for external users of RC platforms

The current process consists of the creation of a departmental visitor account and filling out a Research Computing platforms application form.

- Remain as is – RC to advise researchers that they should request accounts for visitors via departmental administrators.
- Remove consortium requirement, replace with PI

8. Proposal: New account creation process migration plan

- All existing users will have to re-apply using the new (first time) application form
- Two months deadline from announcement of the new form - access to Legion disabled from deadline
- All users required to re-apply one year after their first application under the new form
- Consortium leaders to be informed regarding their new role when new process is announced
- Documentation about the new application process fully available and ready when new process is announced.
- Users to give acknowledgement of use in publication (e.g. Legion@UCL)
- IK will provide updated timeline

9. AOB

There was no other business.

10. Next meeting date and agenda

Tuesday 10th June 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

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		

LIST OF CURRENT ACTIONS

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

	Actions	Status	Owner
135	Review of Legion usage statistics	<p>(12/7/2013): BCS to investigate the unexpected wait time spikes for users with small run times.</p> <p>(17/9/2013): ONGOING</p> <p>(11/10/2013): Standing Agenda Item: Identify (full name & user ID) & contact users with systematic problems, try to resolve problems.</p> <p>(22/11/2013): BCS to investigate whether it is possible to remove jobs from the slowdown graph which are part of arrays that have already started.</p> <p>(13/12/2013): Slowdown statistics for job arrays to be calculated according to start time of first job in array only. Check-pointing jobs also to be treated similarly according to initial start time (except for jobs that fail quickly).</p> <p>(17/01/2014): Pending confirmation. ONGOING</p> <p>(14/2/14): ONGOING</p> <p>(12/03/14): ONGOING</p> <p>(04/04/14): Revisit in May – make modifications and review stats from January onwards, comparing to same periods in previous year. ONGOING</p> <p>(13/05/14): CLOSED</p>	BCS
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>	

		(12/03/14): ONGOING (13/05/14): Create graph to cover 2-year timeframe on slowdown trend/users/ and normalised/active users overlaid NEW ACTION	BCS
155	Functions to add to application system	(12/03/14): Functions to add to application system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students to indicate name of PI/supervisor - Add option to change PI/cost centre on system in cases where PI leaves but student remains at UCL. - User to choose from a drop-down menu of research themes (to be defined). - Provide link on form to example of correctly completed form. - Reminders for PIs who have reserved advance resources, when a new user applies (04/04/14): ONGOING (13/05/14): CLOSED	IK
156	Dissolution of consortia	(12/03/14): Contact the leaders of the dissolved consortia to advise them of this and invite to remain as part of an informal expert advisory community. NEW ACTION (04/04/14): Wait for RCGG approval. ONGOING (13/05/14): CLOSED	NK
157	Legion usage statistics	(04/04/14): Investigate slowdown for Climate Science users. NEW ACTION (13/05/14): CLOSED	BCS
158	Legion usage statistics	(04/04/14); Add slowdown to monthly report with commentary. NEW ACTION (13/05/14): ONGOING	BCS
159	Cfl usage statistics	(13/05/14): Request explanation of high utilisation and slowdown figures from Timothy Metcalf (TM)	BCS