



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

Friday 20th February 2015 at 13.00

Room 104, Podium Building, 1 Eversholt Street, London NW1 2DN

Chair:

Nik Kaltsoyannis [NK]

Present:

**Nicholas Achilleos [NA]; Javier Herrero [JH]; Owain Kenway [OK]; Andrew Martin [AM];
Michail Stamatakis [MS]; Sergey Yurchenko [SY]**

Apologies:

Dario Alfe [DA]; Clare Gryce [CG]; Thomas Jones [TJ];

In attendance:

Corrinne Frazzoni [CF] (Minutes)

MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes of last meeting held on Tuesday 13th January 2015 [NK]

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

It was noted that Clare Gryce would no longer attend the CRAG regularly, due to increased pressure of workload, but would provide the Cfl and HPC report as a standing agenda item in absentia.

2. Update on status of current Actions [NK]

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

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

There was one new request for additional resources:

- Dapeng Wang
 - To increase Legion scratch storage to 2TB from 08/01/2015 to 31/01/2016

Request approved.

**Action: OK to confirm expiration dates on list of currently approved requests
(carried over from January CRAG).**

4. Review of Legion usage statistics [OK]

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

The group reviewed the Legion usage statistics for January 2015.

Action: OK to add targets and REF category to service availability graph.

Action: OK to follow up on stats for Climate Science and Archaeology

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

IRIDIS and EMERALD usage statistics for January 2015 were reviewed.

6. Centre for Innovation (CFI) update [CG]

- Following guidance from the CRAG and the RIISG, the agreed focus of the project will be on providing replacement capacity for IRIDIS. The project is now progressing well and initial vendor meetings scheduled for w/c 23/02/15.
- It is anticipated (but unconfirmed) that the total budget available to the project over both 14/15 and 15/16 will be sufficient to provide both the IRIDIS replacement and replace most of the Legion 1 servers (in capacity terms). Unfortunately, there will however be a gap of about 4 months between the termination of the IRIDIS service (local datacentre is being decommissioned) and the launch of the new HPC facility.
- STFC have developed a fully-costed model for continuation of the Emerald service, which is now under review by SES partners. Senior academic stakeholders close to SES (including VP Research) have expressed the view that it is strategically important that UCL provides some level of ongoing support for research programmes that have successfully ported to CUDA on Emerald and thus obtained significant performance improvements. Consultation with heavy Emerald users has revealed significant grant income and other dependencies. A proposal for continued funding of Emerald and/or its successor facility in 15/16 will be written in the next couple of months.

CRAG guidance required:

- Any issues referred by the RC Service Team relating to the migration of UCL user data back to UCL, from Southampton
- Legion scheduling policy changes that may be needed in view of the service gap noted above

7. Overview of Legion OS Upgrade [OK]

- Very old system
- Replacement system needed across UCL
- Trial in place
- Updated application priorities
- Project plan in place

8. Data repatriation plans [OK]

- Discussion ongoing with Southampton
- Need to plan
- Emails being sent out to update users
- People will want a simple transition
- Need a roadmap and communication plan

9. New HPC plans [OK]

- Preparing tender for £1.5M
- Possibly to be in off-site data centre
- Meetings with vendors scheduled: Dell, Viglen, IBM
- Framework agreement to be drafted

10. AOB

There was no other business.

11. Next meeting date and agenda

Friday 20th March 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 [NEW]
7. Data repatriation plans [NEW]

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	?	OK to check
Wright	10/06/2014	Extension of maximum wall clock time to 10 days on Legion	10/06/2014	31/10/2014	?	OK to check
Tian	08/07/2014	360 hours wall time requested to December 2014	08/07/2014	31/12/2014	?	OK to check
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		
Ferreira	07/10/14	Scratch quota increased to 2TB and extended	07/10/2014	31/10/2015		OK to discuss suitability of platform with user
Wang	20/02/15	Scratch quota increased to 2TB and extended	08/01/2015	31/01/2016		

LIST OF CURRENT ACTIONS

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

	Actions	Status	Owner
163	Retirement of Condor/IRIDIS	(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 (07/10/14) ONGOING – OK to meet with Desktop team. Carry into November (13/01/15) ONGOING (20/2/15) ON HOLD Will revisit after RIISG in May 2015.	OK/CG
166	Re-application process, stats for re-application and project account/ publication data	(09/12/14) NEW ACTION. Check with RITA to add to backlog and confirm usage Report back to CRAG with plan on how to implement (13/01/15) ONGOING (20/02/15) ONGOING. Contractor has been hired	OK CG/OK
167	Requests for additional resources on local HPC facilities	(13/01/15) NEW ACTION: Confirm expiration dates on list of currently approved requests (20/02/15) ONGOING	OK
168	Paid allocation reporting	(13/1/15) NEW ACTION: Keep current report and add extra reporting for paid usage plus time used. OK to produce (20/02/15) ONGOING	OK
169	Legion usage statistics	(20/2/15) NEW ACTION. Add targets and REF category to service availability graph. Follow up on stats for Climate Science and Archaeology	OK