

Computational Resource Allocation Group (CRAG)

MEETING MINUTES

1st October 2010

In Attendance:

- John Brodholt
- Eric Fraga [EF]
- David Gregory [DG]
- Clare Gryce (acting CRAG Secretary) [CG]
- Thomas Jones [TJ]
- William Hay [WH]
- Nik Kaltsoyannis [NK]
- Owain Kenway [OK]
- Andrew Martin [AM]
- Bruno Silva [BCS]
- Ben Waugh [BW]

Apologies:

- Ian Eames [IE]

1. Minutes of June meeting – to approve

The Minutes of the June 2010 meeting were approved by the Group.

2. Minutes of August meeting – to approve

The minutes of the last meeting held on 26th August were approved by the Group, and the list of current actions reviewed and updated (see table below).

3. Legion Upgrade Project – an update

The IS team provided a verbal report on progress of the Legion Upgrade project. The project is progressing well with successful resolution of minor issues arising.

Overall, the project is about one month behind, with two main causes: Legion outage owing to conflicts for staff time owing to a service outage associated with remedial work to the UPS generator; application of patching to the stack for the 'Upgraded' Legion in response to a Red Hat security vulnerability.

4. Proposal for migration of users and workload to Upgraded Legion

The IS team provided a verbal report on the status of the Legion Upgrade project. Overall the project is about one month behind schedule. Bruno Silva explained that it was proposed that users be migrated to the new service in tranches, with the first tranche comprising about 20 of the most experienced users who did not need any applications other than those that would be immediately available. The IS team will work closely with these users to debug and address and minor issues with the system or software environment that are exposed through this early use. Subsequent tranches will be defined in a similar way, based on anticipated support dependencies and required applications. The IS team reported that over 80 users have completed the online re-application in readiness for migration of their account to the upgraded service. The current scheduling policy is being re-implemented using SGE.

The IS team explained that the current Lustre /home areas will become scratch space, and that users will be required to actively migrate their data to the new, resilient /home areas on NFS. The group raised a query regarding the handling of data of users who have not completed a re-application. It was agreed that these users' data would be placed in a resilient area and the users informed (**NEW ACTION 51 see below**).

5. Report on Unity usage patterns

Owain Kenway provided a brief report (tabled) on the analysis of recent Unity usage patterns. The summary findings were that most of the existing users are conducting development work which accounts for the low RAM utilisation of their jobs.

The group discussed how usage of the service could be increased. It was agreed that a call should be issued to Legion users inviting them to apply for a Unity account if their application could benefit from access to higher bandwidth and additional RAM, noting that this was a tactical measure and did not represent a change in policy. It was agreed that the IS team should evaluate applications presented and make decisions on behalf of the CRAG (**NEW ACTION 52 see below**).

6. Special requests received

One special request had been received and was reviewed by the Group:

Request from Francesco Lescai

It was agreed that further information was needed in order for the group to properly consider the request. Andrew Martin and David Gregory agreed to follow

up and seek a meeting with the applicant and relevant colleagues (**NEW ACTION 53 see below**).

The group noted that most requests that had been reviewed at recent meetings lacked sufficient information and/or a comment from the Consortium leader. It was agreed that all future requests should be submitted to the Research Computing team in the first instance, who would then forward on to the CRAG with their comments, only when the request is deemed to be complete (**NEW ACTION 54 see below**).

7. AOB

Clare Gryce reported that planning for a project to double the capacity of the Legion service was underway and that it was expected that this would be implemented early in 2011.

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the group is scheduled for 29th October.

*Clare Gryce
Group Manager - Research Computing Services (ISD)
4th November 2010*

LIST OF CURRENT ACTIONS

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

	Actions	Status	Owner
10	HEP and RC to decouple the running of the middleware from Legion and run this from HEP Central.	IN PROGRESS – monthly meetings ongoing between IS-RC and HEP	CG/BW
10a	MoU between CRAG/RC and HEP to be agreed.	PENDING	CG/BW
18	MoU between CRAG/RC and Miracle project to be agreed on confirmation of funding.	IN PROGRESS	CG
30	Web information about list of applications available on Legion to be updated, to include applications waiting to be installed, and any items that have been 'prohibited'.	ONGOING – to review after Legion Upgrade	CG
35	Monthly data showing a histogram of number of users vs % use of machine, to be provided.	PENDING – raw stats available, need to create report	CG
37	More detailed information be provided to users regarding actions they may take in response to wait times experienced	IN PROGRESS: Script being produced to report blocked jobs - DONE SGE features to be implemented post Upgrade – PENDING	CG

40	Online Applications information – for those apps which are not centrally supported, information to be provided about which groups are running them, to enable knowledge transfer	Pending	
44	Scatter plot to be provided showing Legion wait times against requested wall clock times.	IN PROGRESS – Plot created, to be moved to main website (create CRAG only page)	CG
45	Unity users to be asked to provide a brief outline of their current work patterns.	DONE	CG
46	Max RAM usage per job and Mean RAM usage per job to be added to summary Unity stats.	IN PROGRESS	CG
47	Send form for requesting additional resources to Alan Sokal.	DONE	CG
48	Request clarification on request for additional resources from Ian Eames.	DONE	CG
49	Prioritise jobs as per request from Julien Harou.	DONE	CG
50	Next meeting to be held a week prior to Upgrade project service migration.	DONE	CG
51	Move /home data of users who have not re-applied for accounts to resilient area and contact users to advise.		BCS
52	Issue call to Legion users inviting applications for Unity accounts (high bandwidth and additional RAM).		OK
53	Seek meeting with Francesco Lescai and colleagues to clarify terms of request for additional resources.		AM/DG
54	Amend website to reflect changes to procedure for submitting requests for additional resources.		CG