

Computational Resource Allocation Group (CRAG)

MEETING MINUTES

26th August 2010

In Attendance:

- Eric Fraga [EF]
- Clare Gryce (acting CRAG Secretary) [CG]
- Thomas Jones [TJ]
- William Hay [WH]
- Nik Kaltsoyannis [NK] – *acting Chair for meeting*
- Owain Kenway [OK]
- Bruno Silva [BCS]
- Ben Waugh [BW]

Apologies:

- John Brodholt [JB]
- Ian Eames [IE]
- Andrew Martin [AM]

1. Approval of Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the last meeting (June 2010) had been distributed by email and some discussion had arisen, conducted over email, regarding some action items. The Group agreed to formally review and confirm these minutes at its next meeting. It was suggested that a more formal process for approving Minutes should be adopted.

2. Review list of actions

The list of actions from the last meeting was reviewed and the list updated (see table below).

3. Review of Unity usage and resource allocation policy

It was observed that a very large number of jobs were using very little RAM, although it was noted that this could be because they were development jobs only.

It was agreed that all current users should be asked to provide a brief outline of their current work, noting that this was not asking them to justify their usage in terms of research outputs, rather, this was specifically to enable the CRAG to better understand the current usage patterns observed (**NEW ACTION 45, see below**)

The group asked that the following additional data be provided as part of the monthly Unity usage statistics: Mean RAM usage per job and Max RAM usage per job, per user (**NEW ACTION 46, see below**).

It was reported that only one comment on the recently imposed three day limit on jobs had been received (from Alan Sokal). It was agreed that Prof Sokal should be asked to complete a request for additional resources as may be required, using the standard online form (**NEW ACTION 47, see below**).

4. Special requests received

Two special requests had been received and were reviewed by the Group:

Request from Ian Eames

The group agreed that the request was not clearly explained in terms of why the proposed work could not be done under the prevailing system. Also, the wording describing required resources was unclear. It was agreed that the request should be rejected, and the applicant asked to provide further information (**NEW ACTION 48, see below**).

Request from Julien Harou

The group discussed whether, as this was a request for the prioritisation of two jobs, this fell within the scope of the request policy. It was agreed that under current circumstances (lack of other requests, correct procedure followed) the request should be granted. RC team to follow up and action (**NEW ACTION 49, see below**).

5. Report on Legion Upgrade project and recap on service impacts pending

The IS team reported on plans for the migration of users and workload as part of the Legion Upgrade project, noting that the project was on schedule and that the migration would be expected to start in late September. It was agreed that a flexible approach to migration should be adopted, as proposed by IS, which would aim to balance the wait times on both the 'migrated' and the 'unmigrated' parts of the cluster through selective migration of users based on workload volume and support requirements.

It was agreed that the group should meet again a week or so ahead of the migration, to consider a more detailed proposed from the IS team (**NEW ACTION 50, see below**).

6. Date of next meeting

See above.

7. AOB

It was queried whether emails sent to the rc-support email address are reliably picked up by individuals; CG reported that a rota system is in place and advised that resource levels within the team are now sufficient to provide a much more reliable 'helpdesk' service.

*Clare Gryce
Research Computing Services Group Manager (ISD)
2nd September 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
33c	RAM usage by jobs on the Unity Altix 4700 to be monitored and reported to CRAG each month.	DONE	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

39	Daniel Hulme to be advised to join Mathematics Consortium; CRAG to facilitate.	DONE by BCS	JAY
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	
42	Implement changes to job handling agreed at May meeting	DONE	CG
43	Implement 3 day wall clock time for all jobs on Unity.	DONE	TJ
44	Scatter plot to be provided showing Legion wait times against requested wall clock times.	IN PROGRESS – Scatter 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.		CG
46	Max RAM usage per job and Mean RAM usage per job to be added to summary Unity stats.		CG
47	Send form for requesting additional resources to Alan Sokal.		CG
48	Request clarification on request for additional resources from Ian Eames.		CG
49	Prioritise jobs as per request from Julien Harou.		CG
50	Next meeting to be held a week prior to Upgrade project service migration.		CG