

ISTeC Executive Committee Meeting

02/11/08

Minutes

Attendees: H.J. Siegel, J. Folkestad, T. McCune, L. Troup, J. Switzer, R. Kwok, S. Bailey (for Pat Burns), M. Stroub

1. Ideas for Spring 2008 IAC agenda discussed.
2. IS&T brochure for VPR
 - A. Jim Folkestad supplied the final stage of the brochure for final edit. Committee will supply any final comments by COB Friday, 2/15/08. Brochure will be presented to Bill Farland (VPRIT) for comment and review. Goal is to have VPRIT office coordinate and pay for publication.
3. CSU/CSIA Scholarship Fund raising
 - A. CSIA holding fundraising event on 3/11/08 for CSU scholarship. H.J. is planning on attending and any others are welcome.
4. ISTE C People-Animals-Robots (PAR) Lab status – from H.J. Siegel
Status and To Do List – Sunday 2/10/2008
 - A. **OT Dept.:** On Friday (2/8/08), HJ met with Karen Spencer (Interim Chair of the OT Dept.). She (1) stressed that her department is more service-based than long-term research-based, (2) expressed concern that PAR is a solution looking for a problem, and that OT was used to finding solutions for problems, and (3) her faculty have a meeting when we scheduled our first PAR research workshop (2/27/08). After a pleasant 90 minute meeting, we agreed (1) there are research problems that are relevant to PAR and some of her faculty (e.g., paralyzed person needs robotic help for access and mobility, and poly-trauma – of interest to the military); (2) PAR is a immense solution space, as opposed to just a solution – and we need to design solutions within that immense solution space for important problems; and (3) she has very kindly agrees to try to move her OT faculty meeting to later in the afternoon after our PAR workshop (given all the trouble we had finding a time when the five PAR coordinators (Jerry [Potter], HJ, Lucy [Troup], Tony [Maciejewski], and Ron [Sega]) could get together [*Karen* - please note that the PAR workshop will be noon-2pm at an off-campus site, so if you could hold your OT faculty meeting from 2:30 – 4:30 that would be wonderful].
 - B. **Contacts to make:** Jerry has agreed to contact the following people to tell them about PAR and explore their interest.
 - 1) Ben and Georgia Granger, social work, HABIC (Human Animal Bond in Colorado). This group is connected with CSU. Recommended by Karen Spencer.
 - 2) CSU Center for Aging, Manfred Diehl. Recommended by Karen Spencer.
 - 3) Agribility – includes environment control, mobility. Bob Fetch. CSU group. Recommended by Karen Spencer.
 - 4) Two VMBS faculty members that Christine Hardy suggested – Temple Grandin and Jenny Jaamtgard.
 - C. **College of Business:** HJ is working with the Dean's Office for the College of Business to give a PAR presentation to that group. Will try to do this meeting within next week or so.
 - D. **Psychology Dept.** Lucy is working with the Psychology Dept. Chair Ernie Chavez to set up a meeting to discuss PAR with potentially interested Psychology faculty. Need to have this meeting within next week or so.
 - E. **PAR Meetings**
 - 1) Plans:
 - i. First ISTE C PAR workshop - to build project teams:
Wednesday 2/27/08, noon to 2pm (location to be announced).
Each project team will need to identify a leader to organize the follow up meetings to prepare for the second ISTE C PAR workshop.
Possible speakers (we will solicit more); presentations will need to be limited to about 5 minutes each to leave time for discussions:
 - a) HJ gives 10 minute PAR goals overview – so audience realizes we are focusing on how people, animals, and/or robots can work together to help disabled, elderly, disaster management, homeland, military – this overview is critical so group is focused – this information will be in workshop announcements.

- b) Ron talk about potential funding agencies and their interests. May include homeland security, Veterans Administration, Colorado military bases, NIH.
 - c) Jerry will talk about competition at other institutions.
 - d) Jerry will talk about “umbrella” aspect.
 - e) Bruce Draper and Stephen Hayne have some ideas to present.
 - f) Lucy may want to talk about HCI or other topics.
 - g) HJ will want to talk about system robustness.
 - ii. Second ISTeC PAR workshop - for project teams that have been meeting separately since the first workshop to come together to present their proposed projects and list of project team members to the whole PAR group, and to pass to HJ two slides (approximately) per project that he can use to present to Dr. van Tilborg on Monday 4/7 (as well as to other campus groups and funding agencies):
Friday 3/28/08, noon to 2pm (location to be announced)
 - iii. Presentation of ISTeC PAR concept and projects to Dr. van Tilborg:
Monday 4/7/08, 9 to 10 a.m. (location to be announced; HJ will arrange)
- 2) Logistics for workshops
- i. The following faculty involved in ISTeC PAR have indicated they can come at these dates and times to the PAR workshops:
Jerry Potter, HJ Siegel, Lucy Troup, Tony Maciejewski, Ron Sega, Stephen Hayne. and Bruce Draper.
Please inform any other people who may be interested in attending the two PAR workshops.
Jerry will prepare an email to send out to attract attendees to these two workshops. This will need to include times and locations, who will be speaking, lunch will be available, pointer to PAR slides on ISTeC website, expected goals of workshops, focus of PAR research, etc. [*Jerry* - please contact Stephen Hayne about the location, MaryAnn about the lunch, Ron about potential funding agencies we may be able to list as possible targets, potential workshop speakers and talk titles from among the list of interested people on our slides and any others we can think of, draft of email announcement for the coordinators to review, a simple letter size poster based on the email.]
 - ii. For the meeting with Dr. van Tilborg, we should limit the attendees to be by invitation to keep the size of the group manageable.
5. High-Performance Computing (HPC) inventory – status report – Ricky (10 minutes)
- A. HPC survey web site established: <http://www.engr.colostate.edu/~kwok/HPC>
 - B. Discussions
 - i. Discussed with Mark Ritschard in late December on the usage and capability details about the CoGrid system
 - ii. Discussed with James Cox in late December on the usage and capability details about the HP Half Dome system
 - iii. Discussed with Richard Casey and Tom Holtzer in early January on the usage and capability details about the Apple cluster in Bioinformatics Center
 - C. Survey form finalized and has been converted to a Web form by MaryAnn:
http://istec.colostate.edu/groups_research/hpc_survey/hpc_survey.cfm
 - i. Comments on survey to Rickey by COB 3/15/08. Will complete survey and distribute thereafter.
Comments received:
Bruce Draper (CS) suggested to add questions related to:
 - a) Real time computing (e.g., People need to process data in real-time, so that for instance a robot can take an action that will alter the next image.)
 - b) Development of new algorithms (i.e., People need access to a general-purpose platform with a standard OS, and people need to be able to install tools as they need them.)
 Pat Burns (VP-IT) suggested to add “Are your needs for advanced visualization being met 1) now, 2) in the future”

- D. Discussed with Mark Van Der Woerd of Biochemistry about his usage of the HP Half Dome System.
 - i. He explained to me in great detail about his group's current work on bio-molecular modeling of some protein structure that requires HPC.
 - ii. Currently he is getting good results from the HP Half Dome system (using 8 processors in an “embarrassingly parallel” manner).
 - iii. In the future he will definitely need more computing power because he has teamed up with many people in CSU (and outside CSU, such as Lawrence Livermore National Lab) in CS (e.g., Michelle Strout and Jim Bieman) and Math to develop a multi-million proposal to expand the bio-molecular efforts.
 - iv. One of the major tasks is to develop from scratch a whole new piece of software that can perform massively parallel simulations. The motivation for this task is that currently there is only one software package available for this kind of research and based on his experience in using it on the HP Half Dome system, the performance is not that satisfactory.
- E. I have also summarized Mark’s SAXS (Small Angle X-Ray Scattering) research so that the summary can be posted on the HPC Survey Web site. The summary is now pending approval from Mark.
- F. Michael Kirby has also given me useful information about his cluster. I am still working on it.
- G. Through the HPC Survey, Richard Casey of Bioinformatics center has just expressed interests in using the Sun cluster in CoGrid for his bioinformatics computations. I have coordinated with Mark Ritschard about his request.
- H. Upcoming Actions:
 - i. Will finalize the Web survey form soon and broadcast it to CSU community (Response date is set to February 29 tentatively)
 - ii. Will talk to Dr William Gray in Atmospheric Sciences soon (about his HPC related activities in his Tropical Meteorology research)
 - iii. Will talk to Ross Madden and Michelle Strout to check their planned usage of the HP Half Dome system soon
 - iv. Will talk to Karolin Luger (Biochemistry & Molecular Biology) about her earlier usage of the HP Half Dome
 - v. Will talk to people in Business School who has used the HP Half Dome soon

Next meeting 2/25/08 - possible topics:

1. Legos Robotic support – Lucy
2. New threefold plans – HJ
3. Furniture fund for ISTeC space in new CS building - Tim

Future meetings:

1. FITness update - Pete Seel, EAC
2. IBM LA Grid update – H.J.
3. IBM World Community grid update – Pat
4. Portal Status – Jim
5. Coffee with CSU Seminars – HJ
6. Google/IBM proposal to NSF
7. ISP in IS&T – status – Pete
8. Computational Science (Grad 510, 511) – Pat
9. ISTeC Distinguished Lecture Status Report - H.J.
10. Should ISTeC organize a tutorial week as a fund raiser for us? - HJ