

March 8, 2022

# Terminology Task Force

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# XSEDE

Extreme Science and Engineering  
Discovery Environment



Supported by OAC 15-48562.

# General Updates

- This quarter the TTF focused on Sitebulb acquisition, testing, training
- XSEDE.org/Terminology – 37 suggestions have been processed since May 1, 2021
- Documentation - Gather & refine
  - Xsede.org/terminology – formatting improvements, link to professional communication terms
  - Staff wiki → Organization → Terminology Task Force
  - Links to TTF docs in drive and Sitebulb docs in wiki
- Plans:
  - Assignments - clean up materials
  - PEARC22 BoF submission
  - Report

# Update Plans

- **2.1 CEE**
- Website and XUP: Susan Lindsey
- Training materials:
  - HPC Monthly Workshops – John Urbanic
  - YouTube – John Urbanic
  - Badges – Sandie Kappes
  - CI-Tutor – Sandie Kappes
  - Roadmaps – TBD
  - CVW – Susan Mehringer
  - General (New staff guide, new user training, etc) – Susan Mehringer
- Campus Champion materials: Dana Brunson
- Broadening Participation, including student program materials: Linda Akli
- Educational materials: Kate Cahill
- **2.2 ECSS**
- Software with baked-in terminology: Jay Alameda and Sergiu Sanielevici
- Other ECSS materials; Jay Alameda
- **2.3 XCI:**
- All XCI materials, Shava Smallen and Tabitha Samuel
- **2.4 Ops**
- All Ops materials, Scott Wells
- **2.5 RAS**
- All RAS materials, Stephen Deems
- **2.6 Program Office**
- ER materials, Dina Meeks
- SP&E materials, Lizanne DeStefano
- Wiki/Program documents/Reports, Deb Nigra

# Software Tools

- Software chosen: sitebulb.com
- 25 licenses: For task assignees and others as needed
- Training: Held 3/4/2022. Recording will be available soon
- Documentation: <https://confluence.xsede.org/display/XT/Search+Tools+for+XSEDE+Terminology+List>
- There will be problems! E.g. materials that are hard to search or terms that are difficult to replace.
  - Discuss at our bi-weekly meetings
  - Send email to [terminology@xsede.org](mailto:terminology@xsede.org)

# Mini Case Study

- Using Sitebulb, searched ~1500 Cornell Virtual Workshop web pages
- 10 terms on the list were found:
  - 5 or fewer: tarball, rule of thumb, American, abort, black box, First-class citizen
  - 24 occurrences of “master”
  - 116 occurrences of “native”
  - 175 occurrences of “submit”
  - 1591 occurrences of “user”
- Learned:
  - Need to look at each case
  - Authors want best replacement
  - “In context” not always clear

# Guidance for Replacing “User”

- ***Portal.xsede.org has 90,284 occurrences, xsede.org has 84,998 occurrences***
- Finding substitutes is difficult:
  - Embedded: “Only root or users with [sudo](#) privileges can use the useradd command to create new user accounts.”
  - Specifically describing the person logging in and executing commands; our suggested replacement, customer, is not an accurate replacement
  - Option - Reword: *(this takes time and thought)*  
"This mechanism is enabled so that all users get fair access to the compute resources."  
→ "This mechanism is enabled so that all get fair access to the compute resources."
  - Option – Replace: *(there is no one-size-fits-all replacement term)*  
"This mechanism is enabled so that all *clients? people?* get fair access to the compute resources."

## Task Force recommendation:

- Leave existing materials as-is
- Avoid (when possible) in all new materials and updates

# Appendix



# Discussion: Should XSEDE deprecate the use of the term 'user' in our communications?

From [xse.de.org/terminology](https://xse.de.org/terminology):

Term	Replacement	Bias	Context	Source
User (context-dependent)	customer	Implicit Bias	The phrase is criticised for its negative connotations and outdated use, and many argue that it has no place in a modern UX terminology or in broader business language.	<a href="#">UX terminology: Is it time we dropped the term 'users'?</a>

- 2 of 3 Oxford dictionary definitions for 'user' have negative connotations
- 'user' is standard in UX terminology, change may cause confusion. Ok in context?
- Alternatives? Customer, Researcher, Individual, Person, Entity...
- When should we replace, and with which term(s)?

<https://www.parkersoftware.com/blog/ux-terminology-time-dropped-term-users/>