SP Forum Meeting Minutes

(most recent meeting first)

Meeting: February 17, 2022 @1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern

Attendees: Jaime Camboriza, Davide Del Vento, Craig Earley, Jeremy Fischer, Vikram Gazula, Jim Griffioen, Robert Harrison, John Huffman, Doug Jennewein, Honggao Liu, Ruth Marinshaw, Linh Ngo, Sudhakar Pamidighantam, Sheri Sanders, Sergiu Sanielevici, Joe Schoonover, Anita Schwartz, Eva Siegmann, Preston Smith, Carol Song, Dan Stanzione, Mary Thomas, Grigori Yourganov

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. SP Coordination Updates (Tabitha Samuel) - Ookami will soon be an allocable resource through the XRAC process
3. Ookami presentation and discussion (Robert Harrison and Eva Siegmann)
   - Ookami is a testbed system, up for 2 years, 1 year operating as a testbed; 5 year project, + 1 additional year to ops
   - mid-2022 move into production,
   - Move to L2 SP (Oct'22) — 90% allocations dedicated to XSEDE
   - slides on Ookami (Japanese for wolf); motivated by Fugaku
   - located at StonyBrook, NSF funded
   - 1.5 million node-hrs/year; 32GB@1TB/sec
   - 211 users (90% US, 93% academic). List of the 71 current projects @ https://www.stonybrook.edu//ookami/projects
   - support:
     - website https://www.stonybrook.edu//ookami/
     - email
     - ticketing system (https://iacs.supportsystem.com/)
     - biweekly office hours (Tues 10am, Thur 2);
     - slack

Qs:

- SVE compilers are getting better; performance is not what was expected
- TACC: still waiting for the Fujitsu compiler; how does it compare to ARM compiler?
  - Fujitsu and CRAY are generating good SVE code
  - Suggested by Robert: Fujitsu ARM compiler is more standard, so better place to start
  - Lack of vectorized math is factor 40x different
  - e.g. memory bound code not looking great
  - ARM compiler getting better for TACC: everything compiles now they are working on optimization
- apps which work best?
  - thread scaling is good for large memory BW
  - issue: short vectors add to instruction latency and power consumption
  - good with apps operating on long vectors
- how are legacy codes doing (in particular chemistry)?
  - most "out of the box" codes are working fine
  - for well-vectorized codes, they have reasonably competitive code
  - vectorized scalar not doing that well.
- How is NWChem working?
  - very well; Fujitsu compiler is giving good performance
  - expect different perf between mat-mat-mult and vectorization of FP operations
- training
  - webinars on ARM vectorization and profiling tools
- Data and Testbed?
  - each node has SSD (512GB)
  - high-bandwidth/local storage (talking with NSF (Bob Chadduck) to expand to multi-terabytes)
- Modern (2008) fortran support/what features will Fujitsu support
  - ARM compiler (C/C++) is good
  - Cray is best (C++ 17 support)
  - Fujitsu — challenging
- Are commercial vendors working on compiling software for the system?
  - they have 1: Parallelware Analyzer; testing on Ookami
  - VAPS, working with XDMOD team to get "top 10 or 15"
- Are they expecting a lot of startup allocation requests?
  - Yes. They expect a lot of exploration application

4. Roundtable
   - Joe Schoonover noted that Fluid Numerics is working with AMD to have a co-located "lunch & learn" on HIP and OpenMP at PEARC22

5. Next meeting: March 3, 2022 – seeking volunteers to present.
6. March 17, 2022 meeting - Mary Thomas is organizing a panel or discussion around training

Meeting: January 6, 2022 @1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern
Agenda:
1. Welcome
2. SP Forum leadership for remainder of XSEDE project
3. Roundtable discussion
4. Next meeting: January 20, 2022

Meeting: December 8, 2021 @1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern
1. Welcome
2. XSEDE Evaluation Team Activities - Julie Wernert
3. Roundtable
4. Next meeting: January 6, 2022

Meeting: October 29 @1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern
1. Welcome
2. XSEDE’s YouTube channel (Susan Mehringer)
3. Featured L3: Arizona State (Doug Jennewein)
4. XSEDE Program Updates (John Towns/Tim B)
5. ROI Survey Reminder
6. Next meeting: November 11, 2021

Meeting: July 8, 2021 @1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern
Agenda:
1. Welcome
2. Dana Brunson, Internet2: New Center of Excellence
3. John or Tim: XSEDE annual review recap
4. Roundtable (all)
5. Next meeting: August 5: Terminology Training

Meeting: June 10, 2021 @1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern
1. Welcome
2. David Wheeler, XSEDE Data Transfer Service (DTS) Engagement
3. Ruth Marinshaw: Fluid Numerics’ SP Forum membership application update
4. Newest SPs: updates on onboarding and allocation processes
5. John or Tim: XSEDE annual review recap
6. Roundtable (all)

Meeting: May 27, 2021 @1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern
1. Welcome
2. Honggao Liu: Texas A&M’s FASTER system and HPC activities
3. Ruth Marinshaw: Fluid Numerics’ SP Forum membership application
4. Tim: XSEDE program updates

Meeting: April 15, 2021 @1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern
Attendees: 20
1. Welcome
2. CC’ CyberTeam from Utah, Colorado and Colorado State (RMACC): “Creating a Community of Regional Data and Workflow Cyberinfrastructure Facilitators”. (Brett Milash, Andrew Monaghan, Mara Sedlins)
3. SP Coordination: working towards a single source of SP info (Tabitha Samuel)
4. XSEDE News (Tim Boerner)
5. Reminder to sign up to review XSEDE’s plans for the coming year (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1R--DEoo0_A7aeo2n4fYiqpa9Gp7dQpe7AZ8MnHmBM/edit)
6. Roundtable (all)
Meeting: April 1, 2021 @1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern

Attendees: 30

1. Welcome
2. XSEDE Terminology Task Force - Linda Akli & Susan Mehringer
   a. Status: list, docs, outreach (Slides at events)
      • Subtasks:
        • intake/review/add new terms;
        • publicity/post list;
        • training/orientation; internal communications; tracking metrics/records
      • Next: XSEDE rollout
   b. Each event has pre-slides to show
   c. Terminology Statement is now linked on bottom of home site
   d. Replacement terms:
      • master branch —> main branch
      • white paper —> position paper, publications, etc.
      • other word: disabled, brown bag, sanity check
      • NIPS project —> changed acronym —> NaIP
3. PY11 Planning - Tim Boerner
   a. Annual project planning exercise (Sept 1 - Aug 31), start 6 months before; in time for June NSF meetings
   b. Goals: what would people do/not do with ±5% change in budget?
   c. looking for input from L3/L2 program areas... what should XSEDE do next year for the SP?
   d. Leslie Froeschl will put out a link to a google doc describing what they are seeking
4. XSEDE transition and spin down - John Towns
   a. NSF ACCESS; does not cover all XSEDE activity along with reduced support some existing activities
   b. creates risks for XSEDE and SPs in final deliverables
   c. May be a slightly higher risk near the end of XSEDE.
   d. how to prepare for transition?
      • L1 SPs; having discussions with program officers about what to do after XSEDE services disappear? (sergio)
      • Concern for areas without an obvious continuation
      • XSEDE may be understaffed — staff may move on to other positions
      • could SPs possibly find staff who can step in and finish project tasks?
      • will impact deliverables and support
   e. How are L1 SPs planning for end of XSEDE?
   f. what are the gaps in service — can we identify them?
      • support
      • training —> what will replace this?
      • user portal
      • allocation systems
      • ECSS —> end of ECSS will be a big gap in funding
      • Campus Champions
      • PEARC
   g. what types of mitigate plans should be put in place?
5. Next Meeting agenda: SP data cleanup and RMACC CC* CyberTeam presentation
6. Roundtable (all)

Meeting: March 18, 2021 @1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern

1. Rockfish - a resource coming to XSEDE mid-2021 (Jaime Comboriza, JHU)
2. XSEDE News (Tim B or John T)
3. Roundtable (all)

(Meeting: January 7, 2021 @1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern

1. Welcome new SP Forum members
2. Site Update: Stanford
3. XSEDE Project news (Tim B)
4. SP Coordination news (Tabitha Samuel)
5. SP Forum elections upcoming (Ruth)
6. Roundtable (all)

Meeting: December 17, 2020 @1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern

Attendees: Jon Anderson, Tim Boerner, Jaime Combariza, Keith Crabb, Matt Deaton, David Hancock, Andrew Keen, Ruth Marinshaw, Kenton McHenry, Sudhakar Pamidighantam, Tabitha Samuel, Carol Song, Sergiu Sanielevici, Dan Stanzione, Mary Thomas, John Towns, Jim Wilgenbusch, Paul Williams
Meeting: October 29@1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern

Agenda

1. Announcements (Ruth Marinshaw)
   - Chet Langin is retiring from SIU; Matt Deaton and/or Jerry Richards will represent SIU as an L3 SP Forum member.

2. L3 Update: The Minnesota Supercomputing Institute (Jim Wilgenbusch, Director of Research Computing)
   - MSI’s Research Computing team provides access to diverse data & computing services; training and support via tutorials and other means across 2 campuses and 6 colleges; dedicated staff expertise and support written into grants; and deploy and test novel services. In addition, they provide seed funding for informatics research projects as well as a graduate assistantship program for Informatics students.
   - Key service area of focus is U-Spatial (https://thespatialuniversity.umn.edu) with expertise in GIS, remote sensing and spatial computing
   - HPC resources include 2 HPC clusters, storage (5 PB high performance, 6 PB second tier, 30 PB tape library), interactive computing (Citrix, DCS Nice, Open Stack-based secure cloud), Galaxy, Jupyter Hub and custom web interfaces, databases and applications
   - 75% of compute resources are used by Engr, Chem and Physics; 50% of the storage is used by Biology, Genetics & Health Sciences.
   - New major systems are purchased every 5 years. Next system coming spring 2021. Also have a condo-like option to buy in with a one time fee that covers equipment purchase as well as staffing to support those systems for 5 years.
   - Secure computing environment has 42TB VM block storage, 1 PB NFS storage, and nodes have 2TB SSD per node for job-allocated local scratch.
   - MSI has 45 FT staff; UM’s Informatics Institute (UMII) has 8 FTE; U-Spatial has 10.
   - Jim reports to the VPR; the MSI, UMII and U-Spatial programs report to him. There is a substantial governance structure associated with CI services.

3. XSEDE News (Tim Boerner)
   - The XSEDE Quarterly Staff meetings were held last week
   - Working on diagrams to illustrate the interconnections between the various XSEDE program areas

4. Coming in January: SP Forum Elections


For completeness, the options we discussed included:

1) create SP specific OOD portals managed by the site to server their XSEDE resources only, ie if a VT investigator had access to PSU XSEDE resources, they would go to ood.xsede.psu.edu

2) create a master XSEDE OOD portal that contained the connectors to the various SP resources, ie a VT investigator would go to ood.xsede.org and be able to submit to the resource they were allocated on, ie xsede.psu

3) create a SP specific OOD portal that served researchers from that SP but served as a portal to BOTH the local resources (simply PSU for instance) AND the XSEDE resources (local and remote, but moderated by what the user had access to), ie the user would navigate to ood.psu.edu and be able to see and hit any resource they have access to including local and XSEDE. We do think there should be some consistency across SPs.

Draft use cases were reviewed and discussed based on this document: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Vs87wUkRP9gPLP3ZC4JdE6YEdXhKo5RUGWZLqIaEdY/edit

Key questions explored were what would OOD do for users? Should XSEDE do this and, if so, how? It was noted that several SPs have already adopted OOD. Among the use cases that are compelling is that of training - participants don’t have to download and configure a tool like Putty, etc. SDSC noted that it has configured systems to use federated authentication. OOD is also a powerful way to provide access to Jupyter notebooks and to applications like Matlab and Ansys. The OOD developers are discussing integration with Globus.
A vigorous discussion was held, with Forum members ultimately supportive of the recommendation from OOD and XRAS.

The forum will not meet again until December, given Supercomputing and Thanksgiving.

Meeting: October 15@1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern

Attendees: Jon Anderson, Jaime Cambariza, Kevin Colby, Jeremy Fischer, Dave Hart, Dave Hancock, John Huffman, Andrew Keen, Chet Langin, Rob Light, John Lowe, Ruth Marinshaw, Tabitha Samuel, Sergiu Sanielevici, Anita Schwartz, Carol Song, Mary Thomas, Nathan Tolbert, 14 others

Agenda

1. XSEDE’s RAS team discusses an updated AMIE environment for usage data and pushing project info out to SPs (Dave Hart, Rob Light)
   - AMIE - XSEDE’s account management and information exchange. Work is in progress to overhaul its infrastructure and database and to improve analytics
   - current: data transport using XML via SSH or rabbitMQ
   - new features – target date is the end of this program year
   - new -- Rest API
     - transactions are mostly the same:
       - e.g. request_project_create
     - notify_project_usage now has its own API
     - some SPs are starting to use
   - legacy AMIE required SPs to maintain a local DB
     - new version does not need localDB,
     - use new API to query
     - jobs sent to XDCDB individually via AMIE, very slow (transmission and processing --> bottleneck)
       - e.g.: 100,000 tiny jobs in 1 day; and this impacted all jobs
     - new usage API, restful; different URL; but same AMIE auth system
       - non-blocking transactions; uses AWS lambda so easy to scale functions so can handle different loads
     - currently process 1 million jobs / month (5400 jobs/hour)
     - new API can process this in 2 hours
   - new: POST / usage API
     - post many jobs at once
     - queues all jobs for async. processing
     - jobs that fail return with error msg
     - POSTing jobs already in the database will be replaces automatically (no longer manual)
   - GET /usage/ status
     - From and TO dates; sound of job records; sum of charge for each SP
     - provides list of records that did not load --> error log table
     - if job fails, SP can repost again
   - Usage API — avail soon
     - GET usage_summary, ....
     - different job attributes (CPU, GPU, storage, ...)
   - AMIE Client library posted on GitHub:
   - Other tasks in redesign:
     - redesign entire system
     - simplifying: remove use of/mention of the Grid term
     - schema design changes to make action processing simpler;
       - keep balance for each allocation not person, like bank account; job storage --> more flexible and faster
     - schemas for people and organizations --> right now they are embedded in accounting
     - changes will mostly be invisible to SPs
   - RDR redesign: resource description repository
     - simpler resource entry; better schema for describing resources

Overall, everyone was very pleased with the new system. The SP Forum gave the presenters the closest thing to a standing ovation that could be done via zoom

2. SP Coordination (Tabitha Samuel) - Working on SP checklist updates as well as a software/services baseline. There is also a Slack channel now for SP sys admins.

Meeting: September 17@1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern

Attendees: Jon Anderson, Tim Boerner, Jeremy Fischer, Ron Hawkins, John Huffman, Kyle Hutson, Ruth Marinshaw, Addis O’Connor, Sudhakar Pamidighantam, Tabitha Samuel, Anita Schwartz, Carol Song, Sergiu Sanielevici, Derek Simmel, Preston Smith, Dan Stanzione, Barr von Oehsen

Agenda

1. Cybersecurity Updates (Derek Simmel)
   - No XSEDE systems were broken into but a couple of user accounts were compromised
   - Cooperation with info sharing with European HPC community
   - Use Zeek security monitoring (https://zeek.org/): XSEDE monitors and coordinates communication between allocated SPs
   - L3s are, though, welcome to participate in XSEDE’s security community and meetings; contact derek (dsmmel@psc.edu) to be added to the meetings and email list
   - Question about gateway users and potential vulnerabilities/concerns; vigilance in all aspects of information security was recommended
   - Discussion of persistent intruder threats
Derek gave a brief overview of REN-ISAC (https://www.ren-isac.net/) for those who weren’t familiar and strongly encouraged sites to be sure their campus participates in some way.

2. XSEDE Update (Tim Boerner)
   ▪ Relatively quiet right now
   ▪ Supplemental year extension for XSEDE was approved
   ▪ The XAB (XSEDE Advisory Board) discussed a new phase of the COVID-19 HPC Consortium to rebalance the portfolio. Discussions are ongoing with the NSF.
   ▪ The XSEDE quarterly staff meetings were held September 1 and 2.


**Meeting: August 20@1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern**

*Agenda:*

1. Open OnDemand (Alan Chalker and Bob Settlage)
2. XSEDE program news and updates (John Towns/Tim Boerner)
3. Roundtable (all)

**Meeting: July 23 @1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern**

*Agenda:*

1. Research Computing/Cyberinfrastructure Services at Rutgers (Barr von Oehsen)
2. XSEDE program news and updates (John Towns/Tim Boerner)
3. Roundtable (all)

*The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, August 20.*

**Meeting: July 9@1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern**

*Agenda:*

1. Overview of Delta, recently awarded to NCSA (Tim Boerner)
2. Discussion of Panel report from annual NSF review of XSEDE (Tim Boerner)
3. SP Coordination and operations updates (Victor Hazelwood)
4. Roundtable (all)

*The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, July 23.*

**Meeting: June 11@1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern**

*Agenda:*

1. Overviews of 5 recently awarded new and exciting CI systems
   a. NeoCortex - AI Supercomputer, PSC (Paola Buitrago)
   b. Jetstream 2 - Indiana University Pervasive Technology Institute (Dave Hancock)
   c. Anvil - Purdue University ITaP Research Computing (Carol Song)
   d. Voyager - SDSC (Amit Majumdar)
2. Annual NSF review of XSEDE (Tim Boerner)

**Meeting: May 14 @1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern**

*Agenda:*

1. Welcome
2. Tim Boerner - SP Forum discussion of proposed XSEDE PY10 Program plans. See https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-frL9CH6-JS_GYSzOlZdzZ7t5_kHunICeERVFdWo2s/edit - look for the yellow highlighted sections and please comment in advance.
3. Victor Hazelwood - XSEDE Operations and SP Coordination Updates
4. Open topics - suggestion that all SPs be vigilant in terms of monitoring their systems in light of misuse of many European HPC sites.
Meeting: April 30 @1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern

Attendees: Amit Amrikar, Jon Anderson, Tim Boerner, Jaime Combariza, Tom Doak, Jeremy Fischer, Dave Hart, John Huffman, Andy Keen, Chet Langin, Julia Levites, Ruth Marinshaw, Kenton McHenry, Susan Mehringer, Tim Middlekoop, Andi Moore, Sudhakar Pamidighantam, Sergiu Sanielevici, Anita Schwartz, Carol Song, Mary Thomas, Barr von Oehsen, Cindy Wong,

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Mary Thomas- Pivoting from in-person to online events: SDSC's experience with hosting an NVIDIA-sponsored remote GPU Hackathon. With the participation of two partners from NVIDIA, Mary led a discussion of how SDSC approached turning what was intended to be an in-person GPU hackathon into a remote-only event. The program included 2 mini-days, with 7 teams formed from 49 people participating from 12 different institutions. At least 20 volunteer mentors were also involved. Other SP Forum attendees noted that hosting technical sessions like this requires a high ratio of mentors:participant, similar to what SDSC has experienced. Tom Doak shared experiences using Canvas as a platform to host a remote R for Biologists seminar. Lots of discussion and lessons learned.
3. Chet Langin- Pros and cons of moving from an SP L3 to an L2 for a shared multi-campus HPC resource
4. Victor Hazelwood (if available) - XSEDE Operations and SP Coordination Updates

Meeting: April 16 @1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern

Attendees: Amit Amrikar, Jon Anderson, Tim Boerner, Tom Doak, Jeremy Fischer, Dave Hancock, Victor Hazelwood, John Huffman, Matt Jones, Andrew Keen, Chet Langin, Ruth Marinshaw, Kenton McHenry, Tim Middlekoop, Sudhakar Pamidighantam, Jeff Pummill, Sergui Sanielevici, Anita Schwartz, Carol Song, Dan Stanzione, Mary Thomas

Welcome

1. Matt Jones (University at Buffalo's Center for Computational Research) - Update on Ookami, the NSF-funded ARM-based system
   - Ookami (ARM + SVE); NSF testbed program; PI Robert Harrison from Stonybrook, A64 FX processor
   - Anticipate installation in Q3 2020
   - 48 cores per system, 176 nodes, .5 PFlops; Post-K system;
   - not using tofu interconnect, so need to use IB interconnect. Tofu interconnect not being offered outside Japan until 2021.
   - based on profiling done earlier, believe roughly 86% of XSEDE jobs would 'fit' in terms of footprint
   - high CPU to memory BW so looking at applications needed higher memory BW
     • a lot of chemistry applications
   - integrate with XSEDE Fall 2020 (maybe)
   - Testbed (~2year)
   - Green 500 / 150 th in Top500 (SC19); 160/170 Watts/node
   - Fujitsu investing in SPACK; on track for shipping;
   - paper referenced: “A workload analysis of NSF’s Innovative HPC Resources Using XDMoD”, N.A. Simakov, et. al., arXiv
   - Q3 2020 initial deployment;
   - XSEDE integration may be sooner than originally scheduled; startup allocations in 2021 (maybe?)
     In terms of support for users, talking with the team at MolSSI (https://molssi.org/)
   - Tim Boerner - XSEDE program updates, XSEDE response to COVID-19, etc.
     • Tim is XSEDE deputy proj. director as of early/mid-March
     • project year 10 planning; annual review will be remote in June, versus the typical F2F review at NSF
     • working on program plan for next year; needs SPForum input;
     • NSF invited XSEDE to work on a proposal to extend XSEDE 20 into a project year #6
     • in terms of support for users, talking with the team at MolSSI (https://molssi.org/)
     • XSEDE/XRAs coordinating this effort, quick response/quick allocation; JTownes matching
     • 65-70% success rate for applications; everything picked has been matched, 3-4 on big cloud, doe 3-4, NSF has 6-10; SDSC has 4; Pitts has 3, 2 @LLNL; 10-12 providers
     • using portal to manage Covid processes and applications
     • Dan Stanzione noted that TACC is hosting a number of other COVID-19 related projects outside those allocated through the HPC Consortium
     • operations are 'normal' across all XSEDEsystems.

   - XSEDE pandemic planning questionnaire to allocated SPs —> all sites are fully operational; staff working from home; only OSG had some impact
   - From COVID point of view XSEDE is helping the national infrastructure
   - Campus bridging: NCGAS (https://ncgas.org/about.php) computational tools
   - Has the covid work affected any other allocated projects?
   - 34 applications overall working on COVID-19
   - Epidemiologists required the most handholding - new to HPC
   - 20% of TACC cycles went to COVID-19; 300K hours on TACC
   - Those COVID-related jobs have top priority
   - Frontera can be used for PHI-containing projects; talk to Dan.
   - Tom Doak/David Hancock had 400 people take an online Biology course – lots of interest in genomics and genome analysis as people pivot to do COVID-19 research.
4. Open topics

Meeting: March 19 @1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern

1. Welcome
2. Dana Brunson - Internet2 community engagement and program overview
3. Nick Nystrom - Bridges-2
4. XSEDE program updates, XSEDE response to COVID-19, XSEDE Staff Quarterly meeting

Meeting: February 20 @1PM Pacific

1. Welcome
2. Gerard Lemson, JHU Institute for Data Intensive Engineering and Science - Gerard will talk with us about SciServer, a collaborative environment for server-side analysis with extremely large datasets
3. John Towns if available - XSEDE program updates, XSEDE response to OAC Blueprint, news, words of wisdom, etc.
4. Open topics

Meeting: February 6 @1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern


Agenda:

1. Welcome - Sudhakar will be representing the Science Gateways Community Institute this semester.
2. Rick Mohr: XSEDE DTS team consultation services for optimizing and troubleshooting data workflows (slides available at https://confluence.xsede.org/download/attachments/5735148/DTS-SP-Forum-Presentation%282%29.pptx?version=1&modificationDate=1582221553979&api=v2)

Data Transfer Services:
- perfsonar, gridFTP logging, internet2 metrics,
- new tech: Zettar
- consultation services: new program by DTS
  - work with DTS, like ECSS, 3-4 months
  - network performance, configuration, etc.
- beta project: UCol data transfer problems;
- found DTN bottlenecks and fixed them
- send requests to
  - rmohr@utk.edu, CC tboerner@illinois.edu
  - Subject: DTS Consultation
- Questions:
  - Can users and SP’s submit a ticket to XSEDE consult?
    - Yes, that should work, RTS ticket also
  - Can (Jon Anderson) talk about experience working with DTS
  - work done by others; DTS did alleviate the bottlenecks, now looking at new node
  - Q about best practices outcomes? based on summary/outcomes of engagements
    - Some of the best practice materials on faster data transfer is available at fasterdata.es.net provided by DOE Energy Science Network
  - Will DTS help anyone in the XSEDE ecosystem?
    - yes, services mostly limited by staff time - large time commitment
  - Have you published any of this work?
    - not yet, just focussed on the pilot project
  - suggestion to do a PEARC paper or a BOF

3. Shava Smallen, Rich Knepper, JP Navarro: XCI (XSEDE Cyberinfrastructure Integration) activities. Slides are available at https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ykwin3U1BwOzNh1WlR3elubxWbdjxWB7mbhQcfl5U
- UREP(Use Requirements Evaluation and Prioritization): Requirement, analysis, and capabilities group
  - 1/3 SP Forum; 1/3 Campus Championss; rest from other areas of XSEDE
- 11/19 UREP Results
  - 10 use cases. Top ones:
    - documentation for containers by SP sites, provide a 1-stop page
    - Vulnerability consulting and resolution assistance
    - Enhancing SW and data sharing using CVMFS (enables sharing of read only data), from OSG
      - remote login;
      - security (CI Silver CAs; CoManage for groups);
      - CI discovery and information access: cloud images and container discovery; training discovery; scheduler job info, etc.
      - data capabilities: data analytics, metadata manage, globus tools
      - report: https://software.xsede.org/node/3421/rating
- Recent needs gathering efforts:
  - face-to-face sessions with XSEDE community: 7/15/19 SP Forum @ Stanford; PEARC 19 BOF; 12/4/19 quarterly mtg
  - https://software.xsede.org/node/add/need — users can submit and issues will be tracked
  - ECSS and XCI
    - https://software.xsede.org/expanding-xseed-software-through-collaboration
4. Dan Stanzione: Frontera Update
TACC/Frontera:
- allocations:
  - Leadership Resource Alloc (LRAC) (used to be PRAC, but deadline passed) (1/17/20)
  - Pathways: small allocations, independent of XSEDE request (3/8)
  - Large-Scale Community Partnerships (LSCP):
    - up to 3 years; software institutes, large community code providers or gateways; merit review
  - Discretionary (rolling)
  - Fellowships (2/7/20)
  - questions:
    - how can we know everyone who got allocations? previously 37 PRAC awards last year were NSF awards, so they are on NSF; newer awards will be published on TACC website, estimate 25-30 large.
    - Training: online training dev with Cornell; also doing some webinars, etc.

5. Rick McMullen: ROI data requests from L2 and L3 Service Providers
6. Reminder to read and ponder XSEDE's response to the NSF CI Blueprint (attached to this week's meeting reminder)

Meeting: January 23 @1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern

Attendees: Jon Anderson, Jaime Cobariza, Jeremy Fischer, Nathan Gregg, Dave Hart, Victor Hazelwood, Ryan Johnson, Andrew Keen, Chet Langin, Ruth Marinshaw, Sergiu Sanielivici, Anita Schwartz, Carol Song, Dan Stanzione, Mary Thomas, and a few more

1. Welcome - welcome to Ryan Johnson, the new SP Forum representative for the University of South Dakota.
2. SSO Hub Grace period: Dave Hart, in his role as XSEDE’s RAS Director, sought input from SP Forum members regarding a proposed 90 day grace period for SSO Hub login access post-expiry of an allocation. This action was prioritized by the XSEDE UREP (User committee). Most SPs offer a grace period at the end of an allocation period to allow users to archive and clean up their work. The SSO Hub currently does not have such a grace period; rather, when an allocation ends, so does SSO Hub login access. His proposal is for RAS to modify the query currently used to enable SSO Hub logins to allow for a 90 day grace period. Forum members agreed that this is a reasonable policy change.
3. Fields of Science: Dave Hart led a discussion of the need to update XSEDE’s current Field of Science (FOS) list. The current list is limited to domains funded by NSF, even though XSEDE allows research supported by any agency. The current FOS list has 163 possible options. He noted that some represent NSF programs that no longer exist, and many of the 163 entries aren’t fields of science at all. There is a ‘standard’ FOS hierarchy that is maintained by the OECD; it is used by European projects and perhaps others. XSEDE’s proposed updated FOS list would expand only on Natural Sciences; the complete list would then have ~90 options (versus today’s 163). Forum members discussed the hierarchy, implications of having more granularity in some areas and less in others (for example, there are currently 5 flavors of Astronomical Sciences; with the new taxonomy, there would be one.) SP members noted that being able to produce metrics based on FOS is essential to them. There was some discussion of the timing of the change; if effort is substantial, is it worthwhile given the relatively short remaining time for the XSEDE project’s funding. In general, members were very supportive of the proposed change.
4. Post-SU Approach to Sizing Allocations: Dave Hart began a discussion of the need to size allocations differently as a number of resources that are allocated (or will be) are not traditional compute resources. And the Normalized Unit (NU) doesn’t work for GPU-based systems, storage, or memory-based units. Given time constraints, he will come back to the SP Forum to continue what was shaping up to be a very interesting discussion.
5. Elections for Calendar Year 2020 SP Forum Leadership: SP Forum Leaders were elected for calendar year 2020. They are: L3 representative - Chet Langin; L2 representative - Carol Song; XAB representatives — Jon Anderson and Dave Hancock; Vice Chair - Mary Thomas; Chair - Ruth Marinshaw
6. Discussion of proposed changes to SP Forum and XSEDE Federation membership document - The SP Forum’s discussion centered around proposed modifications to the L1 and L2 categories of membership. The proposed change with the highest impact is to treat a resource that is allocated through XSEDE in any way - partially or fully - as L1 resources. The group voted to accept the proposed changes to the Requesting Membership in the XSEDE Federation document, with a suggestion that consideration later be given to streamlining further, perhaps combining L2 and L3. Ruth will share this with the XSEDE SMT; the SMT had discussed the proposed changes at some length in the fall of 2018.
7. Roundtable: updates from any/all SPs: Reminder to complete SP Survey by 2/13/2020 (email each SP member would have received from TACC/Frontera: Rich: How would a campus or L3 SP request campus bridging help? ?rich.knepper@cornell.edu and use “CRI help requested”
8. Next meeting: February 6, 2020, same meeting coordinates as always.

Meeting: December 12, 2019 @1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern

Attendees: Linda Akil, Jaime Cobariza, Lizanne DeStefano, Tom Doak, Jeremy Fischer, Victor Hazelwood, Andrew Keen, Chet Langin, Ruth Marinshaw, Tim Middlekoop, Marlon Pierce, Sergiu Sanielivici, Mike Showerman, Preston Smith, Dan Stanzione, John Towns

1. Welcome
2. Code of Conduct: Lizanne DeStefano and others
3. XSEDE program, operations and SP coordination updates: John Towns and Victor Hazelwood
4. Nominations for SP Forum leadership positions for 2020
5. Roundtable: updates from any/all SPs
Meeting: November 14, 2019

Attendees:

Agenda:

1. Welcome - Ruth Marinshaw
2. Open Storage Network - Kenton McHenry. Kenton described the Open Storage Network (OSN) as a pilot NSF effort to establish a missing piece of the distributed national CI ecosystem – distributed storage. This pilot was funded to help address unmet storage needs around active datasets, in close proximity to computational resources, and with an eye towards better leveraging previous NSF CI investments (such as Track 1 and 2 systems, Gateways, Big Data Hubs, etc.). He anticipates that many of the active datasets to be hosted in OSN till be those from small projects. He and the other OSN PIs are working with XSEDE staff on integrations needed for OSN storage to be allocated through the XRAC process. Hardware has been delivered to most sites. SP Forum members and other attendees asked about ECSS training, sustainability model for the PODS (building blocks), user community training, and more. The anticipated timeline for ‘go live’ is Summer 2020.
3. XSEDE program, operations and SP coordination updates
4. SC19 - recap of ‘known’ XSEDE-related presentations and events at SC19, including Discover More with XSEDE, Champions meeting, and Breakfast with ECSS and Champions. In addition, as part of the XSEDE ROI effort, there will be an L3 feedback session at the IU booth (SPs received an email about that earlier on November 14.)
5. Roundtable: updates from any/all SPs - We will not meet on November 28 as it coincides with Thanksgiving. Ruth, Jon, Tom D, Mary and Dave H will, as they can find time, start working on draft modifications to the SP Forum’s charter and other operating documents.

Next meeting: December 12, 2019

Meeting: October 17, 2019

Agenda:

1. Preston Smith, Executive Director of IT Research Services and Support, will provide the SP Forum with an overview and update on Purdue’s cyberinfrastructure systems, services and activities. Purdue is an L2 member of the SP Forum.
2. Victor H. will have an XSEDE Operations and SP coordination update.
3. Follow-up from October 3 meeting: SP Forum interest in communicating to NSF Program Officer about XSEDE follow-on
4. Review and initial discussion of the SP Forum Charter, especially the membership levels. Please take time, in advance of the meeting to read through the current charter in advance; you can find it at https://www.idealss.illinois.edu/handle/2142/49980 . Please also review https://confluence.xsede.org/download/attachments/1671600/Requesting%20Membership%20ir%20the%20XSEDE%20Federation-v3.00.docx?version=1&modificationDate=1544499345000&api=v2 .

Meeting: October 3, 2019

Attendees:
Jon Anderson, Jaime Cobariza, Jeremy Fischer, Dave Hancock, Victor Hazelwood, Andrew Keen, Chet Langin, Tom Maiden, Ruth Marinshaw, Susan Mehringer, Marlon Pierce, Sergiu Sanielivici, Anita Schwartz, Mike Showerman, Carol Song, Dan Stanzione, John Towns.

Agenda:

1. Susan Mehringer, Cornell University and XSEDE Training lead - Susan provided an overview of the breadth of XSEDE’s training programs, see https://portal.xsede.org/training/overview as a starting point. Training offerings are provided through multiple delivery methods and locations. The course catalog details in person and multicast offerings. In person trainings are offered mostly monthly as multicast webinars coordinated through PSC with up to 25 participating sites for each training for up to 500 total participants. There are also training videos available on You Tub through the XSEDE channel. She noted that XSEDE offers many other training opportunities through ECSS, broadening participation activities, and many SPs also provide training. Advancements with Big Data is relatively new and there’s lots of interest in Python. Participants discussed some of the advantages of in-person training versus standard webcasting of trainings. Technical challenges include issues with slides across an entire day; data also show that from a content retention perspective, in-person training with an on-site mentor available to assist is advantageous. For those who cannot host or attend in person, we can point them to the videos and exercises. There was discussion around the management of remote site registrations, with general consensus that overbooking is a reasonable strategy. Forum members suggested it would be useful to have a training course focused on SLURM.
2. John Towns - XSEDE is now in the early part of year 4 of its 5 year program; then what? There is assurance from NSF that there will be some type of follow on but no details are available yet. Several people anticipate that the next solicitation may actually be multiple solicitations; pros and cons of that were discussed. The Forum will discuss whether to author a letter of concern to NSF Program Officer Bob Chadduck regarding the urgency, from a community perspective, of issuing the solicitations now. John also would like to come back to the SP Forum soon for a more detailed discussion of new collaborations between XSEDE, PRACE and Japan; soon there will be a release of a call for researchers who have collaborations with those sites to request start-up allocations on SPs.

Next meeting: October 17, 2019

Meeting: September 5, 2019
Attendees:
Amit Amritkar, Jon Anderson, Jaime Cobariza, Tom Doak, Jeremy Fischer, Dave Hancock, Victor Hazelwood, Doug Jennewein, Andrew Keen, Chet Langin, Ruth Marinshaw, Rick McMullen, Tim Middlekoop, Marlon Pierce, Sergiu Sanielivici, Anita Schwartz, Mike Showerman, Shawn Strande, Mary Thomas

Agenda:
1. Welcome, introduction of new SP Forum L3 member University of Houston Data Sciences Institute - Represented on the SP Forum by Amit Amritkar.
2. Service Provider Update: SDSC - Shawn Strande provided an overview of the recently awarded SDSC compute resource, EXPANSE, that will be allocated through XSEDE. EXPANSE is an evolution of COMET with a number of enhancements and new features. Among those are cloud integration (SLURM plus in-house enhancements plus Terraform). SDSC also has a new CC* award, Triton Stratus.
3. XSEDE Operations and SP coordination update - Victor noted that with the recent NSF compute awards, there will be new types of resources as Service Providers, specifically the ARM-based system. He and others from XSEDE are in discussions with a group that may want to be an SP to allocate and share datasets, rather than allocate compute cycles. This would represent yet another new resource type. Jaime noted that JHU also has a resource that 'serves' datasets. NICS/UTK was the recipient of an MRI award for secure packet capturing; perhaps a "data serving" SP could be used by that project, for example, to publish and share data.
4. Scheduling Service Provider updates for remainder of the year - we will continue a series of presentations from various SPs, with Purdue scheduled for 10/17 and NICS perhaps 10/3 or later. Ruth will reach out to Nick at PSC to request an update on Bridges2.
5. Open Topics - Jon inquired about hosting remote workshops for XSEDE and who the POC was; he was pointed to Tom Maiden. There were also suggestions to have ECSS talk about reaching out to researchers and how to break down barriers. The Forum also had updates from several members regarding this morning's NSF webinar on NSF 19-534.

Next meeting: October 3, 2019

Meeting: August 8, 2019

minutes to be added

Victor Hazelwood - continuation of discussion of standardizing SP ticket handling procedures for allocated resources

Jon Anderson - How are SP's handling/experiencing these things?

a. IGTF certs for use with XSEDE and OSG
b. Alternatives to GSI-SSH for federated authentication
c. Alternatives to Globus under consideration? Fact or fiction?

Recap of SP Forum lunch discussion at PEARC19

Meeting: July 25, 2019

Agenda below; minutes coming soon

XSEDE program updates (John Towns)

Gauging SP interest in participating in XSEDE External Relations Scavenger Hunt at SC19 (Ruth Marinshaw on behalf of Hannah Remmert and Leslie Froeschl)

PEARC19 lunch gathering (Ruth Marinshaw)

Next subsequent meeting: Thursday, August 8, 2019

Meeting: July 11, 2019 @ 1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern

Attendees: Jon Anderson, Jaime Cobariza, Chet Langin, Tom Maiden, Ruth Marinshaw, Rick McMullin, Sergiu Sanielivici, Anita Schwartz, Mike Showerman, Dan Stanzione, Mary Thomas

Agenda:

Victor Hazelwood: Continued Discussion of SP ticket handling standards. The group had a vigorous discussion of possible approaches to standardizing how tickets are triaged and cleared across the various allocated SPs. Tickets come in to the XSEDE XOC; the XOC answers any tickets that they can. If they cannot answer, then the XOC "tags" each ticket for the appropriate SP and moves the ticket to the right bucket (sort of like ticket queue) in the RT ticket system. However, not all SPs run their own RT system. It was noted that in some cases, the "tagged" tickets get duplicated in the assigned SP's own local ticket system. Tickets may get resolved in that, but sometimes folks forget to go back and close the original ticket in the XSEDE XOC's RT system. A number of questions were asked including the feasibility of different proposed approaches to automatically closing the XOC's RT ticket when a local ticket is resolved. Victor will investigate and come back to the group after PEARC to share what he has learned.

Sergiu Sanielivici: XSEDE Novel and Innovative Projects (NIP) effort: Sergiu provided an overview of XSEDE's NIP projects, noting that NIP provides advice and lightweight consulting. He shared a set of informative slides that will be uploaded to the SP Forum's wiki. He specifically asked SP Forum members to reach out to him if they encounter projects that could benefit from NIP.
Dan Stanzione: Update on TACC GP/GPU Cluster: In the remaining five minutes of the meeting. Dan provided a lightning fast overview of the GPU makeup of Frontier. He noted that the original proposal for Frontier had specified use of desktop GPUs. However, between the time of proposal submission and award, NVIDIA widely promulgated a EULA in which the terms and conditions precluded wide usage of desktop GPUs in data centers. Recently, NVIDIA developed a program to offer Quadro RT GPUs at competitive prices. Frontier with have RTX5000s (my notes say 96+360 as of 9/1/19 but I will confirm with Dan). In addition, TACC's Longhorn system (IBM P9s, similar to Sierra) will have 448 V100 GPUs. Part of Longhorn is intended to be available to NSF projects.

Reminder of XCI request for in-depth discussions of user needs with each XP and also the opportunity to talk with the XCI team at PEARC19.

Meeting Frequency discussion was deferred to the next meeting.

Next subsequent meeting: Thursday, July 25

Meeting: June 27, 2019 @ 1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern

Attendees:
Jaime Cobarriza, Tom Doak, Dave Hancock, Andrew Keen, Chet Langin, Tom Maiden, Ruth Marinshaw, Henry Neeman, Marlon Pierce, Hannah Remmert, Sergiu Sanielevici, Anita Schwartz, Mike Showerman, Carol Song, Dan Stanzione, Craig Stewart, Mary Thomas

Craig Stewart: SP ROI survey reminder: Please complete the survey. If you have more than 1 person who represents your SP, the survey was probably sent to ONE of you. Please get together across your site, provide answers and submit. As a follow-up, Craig will also resend his ROI paper on utility in cloud computing to the SP Forum list.

Hannah Remmert - XSEDE External Relations: Discussion of XSEDE communications and resources. Hannah provided an excellent overview of the following to SP Forum members:

a. Informational materials about XSEDE that SPs can request for their centers
b. Standard XSEDE logos and information about the project which can be used on their websites
c. Resources which can be used to communicate about the project, such as our new “What is XSEDE?” video
d. Contributing to our monthly newsletters by emailing er@xsede.org.

Of specific interest to the forum were her tips that: logos matter - if you are going to cite or reference XSEDE, use the right logo! And personal relationships make a huge difference in promoting activities. She is available as a resource to the SPs regarding all XSEDE communications and resources.

All: Initial discussion with SPs regarding ticket standards for SPs along these lines (examples only): How old is too old for an unresolved ticket in any state and therefore changed to a non-open state:

a. How old is too old for an unresolved ticket in any state and therefore changed to a non-open state?

b. What is the reasonable amount of time that a ticket should be allowed to be in user wait that the ticket should then be changed to state of abandoned?

c. What is the reasonable amount of time that a ticket should be allowed to be in internal wait that the ticket should then be changed to state of abandoned?

d. If a ticket is waiting for a 3rd party interaction (separate submission about a problem to a vendor, for example) should that be an internal wait state or some other and how long to wait for that?

Various Service Providers contributed a number of perspectives on this topic:

- Tom Maiden at PSC: They don't specifically use XSEDE for their ticketing system. Their internal goal is to respond (not necessarily resolve) within one business hour. How long is too long for a ticket to be open? Agrees we should standardize across SPs. For example, set an expectation with quarterly boundaries. If something is not resolved/solved in a given quarter, close it and then re-open as solutions are presented or discovered.
- Dave Hancock and Jetstream: started out using their own RT instance, then moved to XSEDE's ticketing system.
- SDSC: currently using XSEDE's system.
- Carol Song and Purdue: now using Purdue's central IT solution.
- NCSA: leverage a heavier-handed management approach over tickets: weekly review of open tickets. Asked if the current XSEDE ticketing system differentiates by ticket type?
- PSC: What do we consider a "stale" ticket? Perhaps "if 7 days elapse with no communication from the submitter"? If an answer is proposed, should we then close the ticket?
- PSC (Tom) again: should we use a basic "open-close" system or one with more states? Perhaps there are ticket assignment status categories that are underutilized.
- Discussion around the value of a "sleep" state for tickets but general thinking that that is not an option.
- Johns Hopkins noted that it is difficult to allocate SP human resources to ticket resolution. Do you charge at your site for problem solving beyond a certain level? Stanford and Oklahoma said that at their sites, this isn't practical. IU has a "for fee"option if a ticket request will take >2 weeks to resolve and the reported issue is not a system-specific problem. Purdue uses as CRM to track engagements like this for more extensive support /help requests.

Discussion to continue at the next SP Forum call.

Observations and brief report out from NSF annual review of XSEDE: Ruth, as SP Forum chair, was invited to attend and participate in the June NSF panel review of XSEDE. She reported briefly on the comprehensive nature of the XSEDE program, the extent to which XSEDE clearly demonstrated large scale collaboration and success over many participating sites and programs, and the panel’s seeming consensus around the value of the XSEDE program and its value to the national CI community. More to come from John when he is next available.
XCI request: Ruth described (and then followed up with an email to the SP Forum) a request from the XSEDE XCI team for help identifying team members whom XCI could interview to understand and collect user needs information. XCI is making this request as an explicit follow up to a recommendation from the SP Forum. XCI will also have a BOF on this topic at PEARC19 (Monday, 7/29, 5:15 pm). All SPs are asked to participate in the interview and are encouraged to participate in the BOF as available.

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 11, 2019. Topics to include XSEDE NIP (Novel and Innovative Programs) request for input from the SP Forum and continued discussion of ticket standards. SPs should identify an operations team member to attend to address the latter if the official SP Forum site rep is less familiar with their site’s approach and needs.

Meeting: May 16, 2019 @ 1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern

Attendees:

Jaime Cobaniza, Tom Doak, Dave Hancock, Doug Jennewein, Andrew Keen, Chet Langin, Ruth Marinshaw, Tim Middlekoop, JP Navarro, Sergiu Sanielevici (for Robin Scibek), Mike Showerman, Shava Smallen, Carol Song, Dan Stanzione, Craig Stewart, Mary Thomas, Nancy Wilkins

1. Craig Stewart - Craig is working with others on an expansion of earlier work (shared with SP Forum after the meeting) to perform an ROI analysis for XSEDE. He requests information from each SP and intends to send a survey out to each SP representative by the time of the XSEDE annual review in June. Past information showed a trend for L3s to report an increased value of XSEDE. Participation rates in the last survey were high - 100% Level 1 SPs and 2/3 of L2s and L3s. Craig described some of the methodology previously used to calculate value, for example, from ECSS and training videos. He asked SPs to think about the question “If XSEDE services did not exist, how many additional FTE would you need to add to provide similar services to your users?” Discussion focused on how to untangle, in the context of a survey, what aspects of resources, programs and value derive specifically from things delivered by XSEDE versus those that are provided by SPs themselves or other sources. Often these are related and overlap. A goal is to tease out the specific value of XSEDE to SP operations. Craig will make some refinements to the survey, based on the discussion, prior to sending it out. SP representatives will have approximately one month to complete it.

2. J.P. Navarro and Shava Smallen: The various aspects of XCI (XSEDE Cyberinfrastructure Integration) were described by JP and Shava. The XCI hopes to improve tools and would like to get additional feedback from SPs regarding what would be most helpful. That information might be gathered through breakouts at quarterly meetings and/or at other venues where many SPs are represented, such as PEARC. SP Forum representatives were asked to check with their operational staff to solicit input on what is needed that XCI might deliver. An example of a value added service provided through XCI is the SSO Hub. XCI also is interested in identifying SPs that would like to be early testers of work XCI is doing with OpenStack.

3. Updates to https://www.xsede.org/web/site/about/governance/spf

4. Next meeting: Thursday, May 30 (Ruth will not be able to attend) if there are agenda items; otherwise, we will next meet again in late June (not June 13, as that is the wrap-up day for the XSEDE annual review.)

Meeting: May 2, 2019 @ 1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern

Attendees:

Jon Anderson, Dan Andreesen, Alan Chalker, Jaime Cobaniza, Nathan Gregg, Dave Hancock, Victor Hazlewood, Christopher Irving, Andrew Keen, Chet Langin, Ruth Marinshaw, Henry Neeman, Anita Schwartz, Robin Scibek, Carol Song, Dan Stanzione, Craig Stewart, Mary Thomas, John Towns, Shemeema Oottikkal

1. Victor Hazlewood - XSEDE engineering updates: The process of adding non-allocated SP member information to the RDR is almost complete; he noted that having an entry in the RDR is the only requirement for L3 SP Forum members. He is going through the checklist with each allocated SP now to ensure that everything is up to date. Many (40-50) XSEDE Enterprise Services have been migrated to AWS. Also, software.xsede.edu has been updated – note that this is a great resource for service providers / campuses beyond XSEDE, as it is a repository of tools that XSEDE provides for the community.

2. Alan Chalker and others - Open OnDemand: OpenOnDemand provides a plugin-free, graphical desktop environment as an interface to HPC resources. Originally funded by a 3 year NSF SI2 award, the project team recently was awarded a 5 year CSSI to continue development. Their roadmap includes integration with OpenXDMod and additional templates. SP Forum members asked many questions and had suggestions around features that would be of use. Alan requests feedback from the SP Forum on prioritization and features; this is something that Ruth and Alan will follow up on. Craig Stewart noted that he will connect with Alan to discuss ways that the XSEDE common software repo tools might be “templated” for use with this.

3. John Towns - Quarterly XAB meeting recap, with concern about what next summer’s allocable resources will look like (summer of 2020), as some SP awards may be ending. New resources for XSEDE may be online by October 2020. Will there be a resource gap between those? John thanked the SP Forum for its comments to NSF regarding the follow-on to XSEDE. XSEDE’s annual review will be June 11-13.

4. Other news from SP Forum members

5. Next meeting: May 16, 2019: Craig Stewart: ROI analysis for XSEDE (info and requests coming to SPs); Dave Lifka to discuss XCI (XSEDE Cyberinfrastructure Integration) activities and plans (https://www.xsede.org/ecosystem/ci-integration)

Meeting: April 18, 2019 @ 1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern

Attendees:

Jaime Combariza, Dan Andreesen, Trevor Cooper, Steve Brandt, Ester Soriano, Doug Jennewein, Chet Langin, Burt Cubbison, Mike Showerman, M. Shapiro, Alina Banerjee, Jon Anderson, Dave Hancock, Dave Hart, N. Wolter, S. Peckins, Anita Schwartz, Carol Song, Dan Stanzione, Ruth Marinshaw
1. XSEDE Accounting system input gathering: Dave Hart, Ester Soriano, Burt Cubberson, S. Peckins and Alina attended the SP Forum meeting to discuss potential redesign of XSEDE accounting system and solicit input from all service providers about that. The RAS team is considering revamping of the accounting system in the upcoming year; are there specific needs? What is working and what isn’t? Steve Brandt (LSU) noted that he had found it difficult to use, but once it was running, it mostly just worked. Perhaps it would make sense to make the old (current) accounting system easier to use rather than rewriting. Suggestions were made that the team consider creating docker images, packaging the tools so as not to superimpose, etc. Jonathon Anderson (Colorado) noted some possible areas for improvement to the AMIE system, in that it feels too stateful. He would like to see a REST endpoint to query rather than getting XML off/on a message queue. This would make the overhead of polling go away. Jon went on to note that it is in XSEDE’s interest to make onboarding to and use of AMIE easy, and a REST interface would facilitate that. Colorado also uses AMIE for accounts only but have other tooling for allocating resources. There was an inquiry about integration with/share with ColdFront. Dave Hart described the importance of the system beyond accounts; for resource allocation tracking, the data must be exact, and SPs must be willing to send their data in a timely fashion. The different responsibilities of RAS versus SPs around accounting and allocation charges was discussed. A suggestion was made that SPs (perhaps mostly L3s) would be interested in sending their own system data to XSEDE if the data could then be mined with XDMed rather than the L3s having to run their own instances of XDMed. The RAS team would like to continue to receive input around this topic, so Dave Hart will coordinate with Ruth to set up a shared google doc as a collaboration mechanism. Once set up, SPs are encouraged to have their “boots on the ground” accounting/allocation staff provide input.

2. Jetstream overview and update: Dave Hancock, the PI for Jetstream and Director of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure at IU, and Jeremy Fischer updated the SP Forum on Jetstream, which is close to ending its 3rd year of operations. An NSF-funded cloud environment, it is intended to function at the boundary of traditional HPC and cloud, surfacing on-demand interactive computing as well as persistent services like gateways. He noted that Jetstream has had significant use for teaching. Unlike traditional HPC clusters, Jetstream has no shared filesystem and no high-end interconnect. GPUs will be added in the coming year. A key use for the OpenStack-based Jetstream is as a prototype environment – you can build your environment with your own tooling or use “featured” resources that have been curated by IU. In terms of information security, IDS clusters scan the system heavily (network-based scans, not scanning the state of the image as it runs). The range of disciplines supported on Jetstream is broad, including 28 social science projects and 19 neuroscience. As of March 2019, Jetstream had 415 active XSEDE projects. Of note is that use by various engineering communities has grown as Matlab and SimuLink can be run on Jetstream without the users having to have their own licenses. Also, Johns Hopkins is partnering with them to provide access to Galaxy. Other Jetstream gateways include OpenNMR and ChemCompute. Jetstream access has been extended to November 2020. When asked about multiyear allocations, Dave noted that such allocations are a function of XSEDE policies, not local policies.

3. Next meeting: May 2, 2019

Meeting: April 4, 2019 1 pm Pacific/4 pm Eastern

Attendees:
Jaime Combariza, Tom Doak, Dan Andreessen, Henry Neeman, Robin S, Dan Stanzione, Anita, Mike Showerman, Jon Anderson, Nancy Wilkins, Ruth Marinshaw

1. Tom Doak - NCGAS description and discussion: NCGAS is an NSF-funded program focused on service delivery for genomics, typically for biologists and bioinformatics. It was funded through a DBI award in collaboration with PSC. Large NCGAS jobs are run on Bridges. PSC is the lead on the microbiome work and a partner on gene pattern hosting. Four FTE for NCGAS are organizationally located within IU’s Research Technologies department, physical co-location with them provides for many opportunities for internal collaboration. Tom noted that genomic analyses are often computationally demanding and the community is growing rapidly. NCGAS provides a curated set of applications for that community and access to large-scale HPC. Any NSF-funded researcher can use NCGAS’s services but writing an allocation request to NCGAS; most users are biologists. Galaxy runs are primarily done on Jetstream, larger HPC runs on Bridges. NCGAS has community allocations on both of those. A key value provided by NCGAS is that carefully curated collection of applications, with a focus on ensuring that those applications are interoperable between the HPC resources at IU and at PSC. NCGAS is also tasked to be domestic champions for bioinformatics. To learn more, go to ncgas.org; at that site, there is an opportunity to submit an allocation request. In terms of authentication, users get affiliate IDs at IU.

2. Ruth Marinshaw - XSEDE engineering updates sent by Victor H: There are no new items deployed in the xsede engineering process to announce. There are two currently in the works: new Globus OpenSSH and Globus Connect version 5. Currently working with the two new level 3 SPs to get them an entry in RDR.

3. All - what's on your mind? Roundtable discussion/opportunity to share: no news was, well, no news.

4. April 18 agenda topic reminders: Dave Hart/Ester Soriano from the XSEDE staff to solicit input about planned modifications to the XSEDE accounting system. Also, Dave Hancock and Jeremy Fischer will provide a Jetstream update.

Meeting: March 7, 2019 @ 1PM Pacific/4 pm Eastern

Minutes to be added by Vice Chair; meeting agenda is below

1. Dave Hart, XSEDE’s Resource Allocations Service (RAS) Director - ORCID integration with RAS: description, demo and discussion of what SPs need to do to participate.

2. Victor Hazlewood - how the XSEDE engineering process works (which groups are involved) and how activities from that process end up where they can be deployed to SPs

3. John Towns (if able to attend) - XSEDE updates

4. Future agenda topics, housekeeping/cleanup of lists, documents, etc.

Meeting: February 7, 2019 @ 1 PM PDT

Minutes to be added by Vice Chair; meeting agenda is below

1. Operations/SP Coordination update (Victor Hazlewood)

2. Current NSF solicitations (Track2 and mid-range CI) & discussion of impact, timing vs-a-vis current services (Dan Stanzione)

3. Reminder: Provide input NOW to NSF regarding the XSEDE follow-on (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Vzu7wsuEzudnXlm9bN-NH1m4BRF4wBMWnsendsawM17/edit)

4. Roundtable - anything you want to share with or ask your fellow SP Forum members? (All)
Next meeting: February 21, 2019: Among other topics, Dana Brunson will talk about her new role as Internet2's Executive Director for Research Engagement.

**Meeting: January 24, 2019**

* John Towns, XSEDE Program news: little to update us on, shared information regarding the (minimal) impact of the government shutdown on XSEDE operations thus far. There is a Forum email thread on this topic. If the shutdown extends for months, the situation may change.

* Shawn Strande: As immediate past SP Forum chair, Shawn had offered to collect and then summarize SP Forum input to the NSF as the agency considers what the XSEDE follow-on might look like. Ruth will share the Google Doc input link with the Forum again after today's call. He'll collect input until mid-February. Among the possible questions Forum members might consider providing input on:

- what are the key XSEDE program elements offered today that should continue?
- what, if anything, should be changed/improved in the allocation process?
- what value does XSEDE bring you today?

All meeting participants committed to providing input to Shawn either via the shared Google doc or in direct emails to him.

"Open Mic":
- Brainstorming around future agenda topics of interest
- Review of the purpose of the XAB and SP Forum representatives' roles on that

**New members:**

New SP Forum members Delaware and John Hopkins shared background on their programs and their perspectives on the value of the forum to them and their institutions
- what is the value of the forum to them?

**Next meeting:**

Thursday, February 7, 2019, 1 pm Pacific

**Meeting: January 10, 2019**

* XSEDE update (John Towns)
  a. Notice of service availability during government shutdown
* SP Forum leadership nominations
  a. Chair: Ruth Marinshaw (Stanford)
  b. Vice Chair: Mary Thomas (SDSC)
  c. L2: Thomas Doak (Indiana U/NCGAS). In tandem IU is submitting a request to move NCGAS from L3 to L2 SP
  d. L3: **None tendered**
  e. XAB Representatives: David Hancock (Indiana U), Jonathon Anderson (CU Boulder)
* Dana Brunson
  a. new position at i2
  b. research engagement role
* Providing input to NSF on the XSEDE follow-on
  a. [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Vzu7wsuEzudnXlm9bN-NH1m4BRF4wBmNSndawM171](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Vzu7wsuEzudnXlm9bN-NH1m4BRF4wBmNSndawM171)
  b. Or send info to Shawn Strande
  c. Shawn will try to synthesize group comments and present to the forum if there are competing viewpoints

**Next meeting:** January 24, 2019

**Meeting: December 13, 2018**

1. XSEDE update (John Towns)
2. Operations/SP Coordination update (Victor)
   a. updates / changes pending for rdr
3. SP Forum leadership nominations
   a. Hoping to have nominations in place before 2019
4. Providing input to NSF on the XSEDE follow-on.
   a. Shawn will create a google doc to accept comments from forum
   b. Changes include redefining L2 SPs, as well as other minor updates.
5. Discussion of proposed changes to Requesting Membership in the XSEDE Federation document.
   a. Changes include redefining L2 SPs, as well as other minor updates.
6. Around the table
7. Next meeting: January 10, 2019

**Meeting: November 29, 2018**

Attendees: Jonathon Anderson (CU Boulder); John Towns (NCSA); Shawn Strande (SDSC); Robin Scibek (PSC); Andrew Keen (Michigan State); Bob Stock (PSC); Carol Song (Purdue); Chet Largin (SIU); Dana Brunson; Daniel Andresen; David Hancock; Doug Jennewein; Mike Showerman (NCSA); Nancy Wilkins-Diehr; Ruth Marinshaw; Steve Brandt (LSU); Timothy Middelkoop; Tom Doak; Victor Hazlewood (UTK)
1. XSEDE update (John Towns)
   a. Submitted most recent interim project report, accepted by NSF
   b. NSF calls
      i. Cloud access
      ii. "track 2" solicitation
      iii. Many others
   c. Plans to provide a webpage to support with proposals to use XSEDE resources
      i. Available in a few weeks
      ii. Opportunity to request additional resources to be added to the list specified on the website
   d. Plans for follow-up to XSEDE-2
2. Operations/SP Coordination update (Victor)
   a. Looking at RDR
   b. Cleaning up
3. SP Forum nominations for 2019 (Shawn)
4. XSEDE and XRAC Quarterly meetings
5. SC'18: impressions, useful and cool things you learned
   a. IOS500 list for network performance
   b. PEARC event
6. Around the table
   a. Problems between OpenOnDemand and latest SLURM versions, requiring OOD patch

Meeting: November 1, 2018

1. No XSEDE update (John Towns not available)
2. Operations/SP Coordination update (Victor)
3. Dan Stanzione from the Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC) will give a presentation on the Frontera Leadership Class Computing Facility.
4. Dana Brunson from the Oklahoma State University will give an update on the Campus Champions program
5. Reminder: SP Forum meeting for Nov 14 is cancelled due to SC’18.
6. Opportunity to request additional resources to be added to the list specified on the website
7. Program and operations updates as people are available.

Meeting: October 18 2018

Attendees: Peter Uthuppuru (IU); David Hancock (IU); Charles McClary (IU); Steve Simms (IU); Jonathon Anderson (CU Boulder); Glenn Lockwood (IU); Robin Scibek (PSC); Shawn Strande (SDSC); Bob Stock (PSC); Carol Song (Purdue); Chet Langin (SIU); Dana Brunson (OSU); Daniel Andresen (KSU); David Hancock (IU); Jeremy Fischer (IU); Mike Showerman (NCSA); Nancy Wilkins-Diehr (SDSC/SGCI); Ronald Hawkins (SPSC); Ruth Marinshaw (Stanford); Stefan Thiell (Stanford); Steve Simms (IU); Tom Doak (NCGAS); Stewart Howard (IU)

1. Featured speaker: Glenn Lockwood from NERSC’s Advanced Technology Group will give a presentation Planning for the Future of Data, Storage, and I/O at NERSC
   a. Discussed options for XSEDE community to access NERSC systems; desire expressed to participate more through PERC
   b. Discussion about performance benefits of object store over POSIX FS for HPC scratch
   c. Discussion about viability / longevity of pure ssd in HPC scratch
2. XSEDE updates (John Towns, no new updates)
3. Operations/SP Coordination update (Victor, not available)
4. Update on revisions to Requesting Membership in the XSEDE Federation to accommodate changes to the L1 definition and associated requirements for integration.
5. Reminder for folks to add their SC’18 activities to the shared doc. The XSEDE Communications team is interested in this as well.
6. Program and operations updates as people are available.

Meeting: October 4 2018

Attendees: Daniel Andresen (KSU); Henry Neeman (OU); Shawn Strande (SDSC); Victor Hazlewood (UTK); Mike Showerman (NCSA); Doug Jennewein (USD); Jeremy Fischer (IU); Bob Stock (PSC); Chet Langin (SIU); Andrew Keen (Michigan State); Robin Scibek (PSC); Steve Brandt (LSU); Nancy Wilkins-Diehr (SDSC/SGCI); John Towns (NCSA);

1. XSEDE update: Nothing noteworthy to report. (John)
2. Operations/SP Coordination update: Victor reminded folks that he is working with sysadmins and PIs (or their delegates) on the annual update the SP Forum checklist (Victor)
3. Followup on SMT feedback on refining L1s as a Service Provider that is in whole or part allocable via XRAC. This topic consumed most of the meeting. There was general agreement (or at least no disagreement) about redefining L1s SPs this way. Shawn will provide a first draft edit of “Requesting the Membership int he XSEDE Federation” (https://www.ideals.illinois.edu/handle/2142/49981), which is the governing document for this.
4. Reminder for folks to add their SC’18 activities to this shared doc: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15VbE3BAAAsABEN5gw9T4jw2OegeNXS09HlFjdF8bqbg/edit#gid=0 The XSEDE Communications team is interested in this as well.

Meeting: September 20 2018

Attendees: Jonathon Anderson (CU Boulder); Henry Neeman (OU); Shawn Strande (SDSC); Victor Hazlewood (UTK); Dan Stanzione (TACC); Mike Showerman (NCSA); Daniel Andresen (KSU); Doug Jennewein (USD); Emre Brookes (UT); Jeremy Fischer (IU); John Towns (NCSA); Preston Smith (Purdue); Robin Scibek (PSC); Tom Doak (NCGAS)
1. Overview of the recent U of Oklahoma OURRstore award (Henry Neeman)
xseedespforum2018_talk_ournstore_neeman_20180920.pdf
   a. Grant funds initial infrastructure
   b. Institution funds power/cooling and extended warranties
   c. Researchers fund incremental media costs and shipping
   d. Incremental cost of tape is lowest of any storage medium

2. Discussion on Federated Logon (Jonathon Anderson)
   a. Maybe eduroam would be a good example?
   b. TACC always distributes passwd files from ldap to distribute load
   c. Recommended continued offline investigation

3. Discussion and move towards a vote to update the SP Forum charter to redefine SP Levels
   a. per an earlier proposal such that any Service Provider which is in whole or part allocable via XRAC will is an L1.
   b. This would mean changes to Stanford XSTREAM, OSG, and SuperMIC.
   c. In concert with this change, there would be some changes to the requirements for integration with XSEDE based on the experience of Stanford, et al. https://confluence.xsede.org/display/XT/XSEDE+Federation?preview=/1671600/9077678/SP%20Levels.pdf
   d. Concerns raised that these SPs aren't prepared with operational budget / staff to meet expectations for L1 (particularly for MRI systems)
   e. Concerns expressed about fractured user experience for allocated systems between L1 and L2 resources

4. We take up the promotion of NCGAS from and L3 to and L2 since by definition, NCGAS makes resources available to XSEDE.
   a. Shawn will review bylaws for process or move to vote
   b. alternative may be to decom the L3 and apply as a new L2

5. Small-scale, rapid access node hosting options a science gateway (Emre Brookes)
   a. UoI might be able to support this (John Towns)
   b. Tacc may be able to support this (Dan Stanzione)

Meeting: September 6, 2018

Attendees: Jonathon Anderson; John-Paul Navarro; Ruth Marinishaw; Sawn Strande; Tom Doak; unknown call-in participant; Mike Showerman (NCSA); Andrew R Keen; Bob Stock; Chet Largin, SIU; Dana Brunson; David Hancock; Jeremy Fischer; Nancy Wilkins-Diehr; Robin Scibek; sbrandt; Timothy Middelkoop

1. XSEDE Update (John Towns)
2. Operations Update (Victor Hazlewood)
3. Draft recommendations for SP Forum members about using RDR and IPF (JP Navarro)
   a. https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1pj4cWwhUcjTPJvUgbkuLBlBrTcTE174vmlm-YPgo09A8
   b. "SP will provide and maintain digital service/resource info in XSEDE Information Services"
   c. RDR, resource description repository
      i. manual entry for static information
      ii. all L1-3 SP
   d. IPF, information publishing framework
      i. automatic publication for dynamic
      ii. all L1-2 allocated SP
   e. New recommendation for which specific information:
      i. modules - future required for all
      ii. services - future required for all
      iii. batch config and state - future required for all
      iv. batch job events - future required for L1-L2, optional for L3
   f. concerns expressed about batch system and job event requirements

4. SP Forum member review and Charter discussion (Shawn Strande)
   a. SC '18 XSEDE PR and SP Forum member awareness (Shawn)
   b. SC '18 XSEDE PR and SP Forum member awareness (Shawn)
   c. Resource selector data is out-of-date (needs to be updated)
   d. SP definition alternatives presented

Meeting: August 9, 2018

Attendees: Jonathon Anderson; Ron Payne; Shawn Sprande; Tom Doak; Andrew Keen; Bob Stock; Carol Song; ChrisH; Dan Stanzione /TACC; Dana Brunson; David Hancock; Doug Jennewein; Mike Showerman (NCSs); sbrandt; Suranga; Victor; Furlani; rideleon

1. XSEDE Update (John Towns)
2. Operations Update
3. Tom Furlani ColdFront presentation (presentation link)
4. SP Forum membership and charter discussion (charter link)

Topic 1

Tom Furlani will give an overview of ColdFront. Here's a brief description of ColdFront and the types of functions it provides. (presentation is available from the agenda link above if you like to review in advance):

ColdFront is an open source resource allocation management tool for HPC centers that allows the management of Center resources and User allocations (or subscriptions). Functionality:

- HPC Center Staff: Approve allocations based on PI provided information; Collect external funding and publication data; Generate reports on research, publications and grant funding
- System Administration Staff: Managing faculty group accounts and access to resources
- Principal Investigators: Ability to easily add and delete users; Ability to easily report results, publication, and grant data
**Topic 2**

The application of BioBurst as an L3 spurred some discussion in the XSEDE Senior Management Team about the pros/cons of an L3 being a resource vs. an organization. I'll provide some background on the call, and hopefully John will be able to join as well since he has a lot of the SP Forum history. If you have some time, I'd suggest taking a read of the SP Forum Charter (Section E in particular), which is also linked at the agenda URL above. Noteworthy from that section: It is expected that most Level 3 SPs are organizations rather than tied to specific systems, and hence less likely to become ineligible as a Level 3 SP.

1. ColdFront - Furlani - An open-source HPC center allocation management and reporting system from University at Buffalo (need to get slides to share)
   a. Full release September 2018
   b. Only supports Slurm today, but other schedulers should be possible by developing new plugins
   c. xmod integration
   d. no AMIE integration / compatibility
2. XSEDE update
3. Membership issues in the SP Forum

**Meeting: July 25, 2018 (in person lunch meeting at PEARC ’187)**

(Meeting notes courtesy of Victor Hazlewood)

Attendees: Shawn Strande, SDSC; Victor Hazlewood, UT; Timothy Middelkoop, Missouri; Carol Song, Purdue; Thomas Houser, U Colorado; Chet Langin, SIU; David Hancock, IU; Jeremy Fisher, IU; Nathan Gregg, West Virginia; Andy Cain, MSU; Steve Brandt, LSU; David Swanson, Nebraska; Doug Jenwein, South Dakota; Dan Stanzione, TACC; Henry Neeman, OU

Discussion of UColorado, Boulder use of XSEDE services to solve their non-CSU non-UColorado users and their integration into RMACC-Summit regional compute resource.

Nathan Gregg asked about Export Control

Carol brought up a NSF funded CICI project that involved some sensitive information processing. There was a workshop at PEARC on that topic

- NSF Cybersecurity summit workshop is going to have a presentation on compliance
- Discussion of a best practices set of docs

Shawn brought up CASC thread on campus compute and storage policies

- Been some discussion on computing resources and storage policies
- Email from Ralph Roskies which compiled responses from 22 universities
- Dan, Henry, and Thomas gave their perspective on the allocation of university resources
- Henry mentioned the Sustainable Computing workshops (Lifka lead author on paper) Website at [http://www.cac.cornell.edu/srcc/](http://www.cac.cornell.edu/srcc/)
- It was mentioned CASC is mgmt. (high level), SP Forum is similar and Campus Champions are operational with some overlap at each

Another call for the XSEDE Operations Data Transfer Services are looking for volunteers for a pilot project to improve science data flows. The announcement is repeated below:

The XSEDE Data Transfer Services (DTS) group is exploring the possibility of offering ECSS-like services to level 2 & 3 SP sites. The idea would be to conduct a hands-on, limited-time engagement with a site to provide design and/or implementation assistance for projects critical to XSEDE users’ science workflows. Some examples might include:

- Network optimization and troubleshooting
- Parallel file system design and deployment
- Data transfer node configuration and optimization

To assess the feasibility of offering such a service, the DTS group is looking for one or two volunteers to participate in a pilot project. During the pilot project, DTS would work with the selected site to identify the scope of the project and allocate appropriate XSEDE staff resources. Once the pilot project is completed, a short review would be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the project.

Anyone interested in participating should send an email to Rick Mohr <rmohr@utk.edu> (and CC Tim Boerner <tboerner@illinois.edu> and Tabitha Samuel <tsamuel@utk.edu>) with a subject line that includes the string ‘XSEDE DTS Pilot Project’. The following information should be included:

- Name of your organization
- Name of project contact (who will help coordinate activities between XSEDE and the organization)
- Name of technical contact (who will help with technical work on the project, if different from project contact)
- Short description of the type of help the organization would like to receive from XSEDE

Applications should be submitted by June 30, 2018. Sites will be selected and notified by July 15, 2018.

**Meeting: July 12, 2018**

Attendees: 20 (names not captured)
1. Call for agenda items and logistics at PEARC SP Forum F2F meeting (Shawn)
   a. Face-to-Face meeting will be on Wednesday, July 25 from 12-1 in the Brigade room.
   b. Discussion of compute and storage allocations at different sites (continuing CASC email discussion)
2. XSEDE communications campaign wrap up. See draft document here: Resources and Documents.
   a. Existing collection of comments presented and approved for delivery
3. Operations update; Information Publishing Framework 1.4 and SP call to action (Victor Hazlewood, UTK)
   a. Available to use
   b. Going to send invitation to L3
   c. info.xsede.org and xsede.org website
   a. XCRI helps sites move to or stand up OpenHPC-based deployments
   b. Should be marketed via LCI
5. Tentative Future agenda items:
   a. 8/9: Tom Furlani, XDMoD and/or FreeRAS

Meeting: June 28, 2018

Attendees: Dana Brunson; Tom Doak; Kristin Williamson; Victor; Bob Stock; Steve Duensing; Rob at PSC; Ken Chiacchia; Robin Scibek; Dave Hart; David Hancock; Mike Showerman; Alex (Dave entourage); Dan Andrenes; Tim Middelkoop

1. XSEDE update (John Towns)
   a. XSEDE communications campaign concept discussion (Kristin Williamson, UIUC)
   b. Send feedback about the Communications campaign to Dana or Shawn.
   c. Slides that outline the concept are here: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1arG-6iQ6yhg7wvQH4_IIAjnBemRWQLF6A_IOErPHJI/edit?usp=sharing
   d. Nov 1 target date
   e. Comments:
      i. "Really looking forward to a well-made 'What is XSEDE'
      ii. "really likes 'Discovered with XSEDE'
      iii. "ER looked and thought it was well-planned"
2. RDR Resource Selector (Dave Hart, NCAR)
   a. SP controls what it says.
   b. It pointing to un-allocated resources they may want to include a spot that explains who is eligible to use them. See docs.
   c. Dave will send out link to docs again.
   d. It will end up working with orcid.
   e. Everybody needs to update their entries and add logo (200x200)
   f. If an SP Forum representative can't access the RDR to edit their resources, please contact Victor and he'll get that updated.
   g. If in doubt contact Victor vhazlewo@utk.edu
   h. The beta Resource Selector is "live" at https://portal.xsede.org/test-resource
   i. The RDR is at https://rdr.xsede.org/
   j. And here is the Google Doc I've started with instructions on how to update the fields in the RDR that the Resource Selector is currently displaying. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Yu7CN9DxcBDyqxT84xzKSGRaqFCCdkxgZAG-qV5o28/edit?usp=sharing
4. Tentative Future agenda items:
5. TBD: XDMoD overview + study of NSF innovation systems (Tom Furlani, U of Buffalo)

Meeting: June 14, 2018

Attendees: Jonathon Anderson (CU Boulder); Shawn Strande (SDSC); Ruth Marinshaw (Stanford); Andrew Keen (Michigan State University); Bob Stock (PSC); Chet Langan (SIU); Dan Stanzione (TACC); Dana Brunson (Oklahoma State University); David Swanson (University of Nebraska); Henry Neeman (University of Oklahoma); John Towns (NCSCA); JP Navarro (Argonne National Lab); Robin Scibek (PSC); Sergiu Sanielevici (PSC); Thomas Doak (Indiana University); Thomas Hauser (CU Boulder); Victor Hazlewood (UTK); Frank Wuertwein, UCSD; Rick Mohr, (UTK)
Meeting: May 17, 2018

Attendees: Jonathon Anderson (CU Boulder); Dan Stanzione (TACC); John Towns (NCSA); Shawn Strands (SDSC); Andrew R Keen (Michigan State U); Bob Stock (PSC); Chris Hempel (TACC); Carol Song (Purdue); Dana Brunson (Oklahoma State U); Daniel Andresen (?); Doug Jennewein (U South Dakota); Jeremy Fischer (IU); Nancy Wilkins-Diehr (SDSC); Robin Scibek (PSC); Suranga Edirisnghe (Georgia State U); Thomas Doak (Indiana U); Timothy Middelkoop (University of Missouri)

1. XSEDE update (John Towns)
   a. Debrief on NSF review
      i. The review went "extremely" well
      ii. Panel pleased with our progress
      iii. More detailed report with recommendations to be received next week; our response to follow

2. Introducing Chet Langin from Southern Illinois University (SIU)
   a. Carbondale, IL, active with campus champions for 2.5 years
   b. 40 node cluster, ~800 haswell cpu, 2 himem nodes, 1 gpu node
   c. About 30 user departments on campus, including physics, engineering, cs, biology

3. Open Science Grid - the next phase (Frank Wuertwein, UCSD)
   a. See slide presentation, OSG-SFForum[14June18].pdf
   b. Q: What would be the first thing to do to contribute? A: Send an email to fiwx@ucsd.edu and become a hosted CE.

4. Providing ECSS-like consulting for L2 and L3’s for Data Transfer Services (Rick Mohr, UTK)
   a. Opportunity to work closely with people familiar with XSEDE services
   b. Looking for interested pilot sites with thoughts on what kinds of consulting they could benefit from
   c. Network and data services group has combined within XSEDE, trying to extend service and support from L1 to L2 and L3
   d. Questions about tracking network performance and utilization data; might be a topic for a future call or offline work

5. Novel and Innovative Projects support for Machine Learning projects (Sergiu Sanielevici, PSC)
   a. FOS Scope of NalIP
   b. Want to make sure we form a community of practice with similar projects that might come to the attention of L2 and L3 SP
   c. Call to action for SPs: if you come across projects relevant to NIP, contact sergiu@psc.edu

   a. Changes to resource description repository
   b. Almost all SPs added to RDR
      i. https://rdr.xsede.org
   c. Push for PY8 is to get all sites publishing at least one item (e.g., their cluster)

7. Tentative future agenda items:
   a. TBD: XDMod overview + study of NSF innovation systems (Tom Furlani, U of Buffalo)
   b. RDR Resource Selector (Dave Hart, NCAR)
   c. XSEDE communications campaign concept discussion (Kristin Williamson, UIUC)

Meeting: May 3, 2018

Attendees: Jonathon Anderson (CU Boulder); Dan Stanzione (TACC); John Towns (NCSA); Shawn Strands (SDSC); Andrew R Keen (Michigan State U); Bob Stock (PSC); Chris Hempel (TACC); Carol Song (Purdue); Dana Brunson (Oklahoma State U); Daniel Andresen (?); Doug Jennewein (U South Dakota); Jeremy Fischer (IU); Nancy Wilkins-Diehr (SDSC); Robin Scibek (PSC); Suranga Edirisnghe (Georgia State U); Thomas Doak (Indiana U); Timothy Middelkoop (University of Missouri)

1. XSEDE update (John Towns)
   a. working on completing and submitting annual NSF report; good progress, thanks to those who provided input
   b. quarterly meeting will be focused on reviewing content that will be presented from the report

2. Membership update
   a. University of Missouri, Research Computing Support Services (Timothy Middelkoop, Ph.D.; Director of Research Computing Support Services, Division of IT; Assistant Teaching Professor, Industrial Engineering (IMSE))
   b. Southern Illinois University, Office of Information Technology (Chet Langin, PhD; Research Coordinator, Office of Information Technology)
   c. UCSD BioBurst: Application sent back for further clarification

3. XSEDE Quarterly is June 6-7
   a. Opportunity for a slot to present. Let Shawn Strande know and he'll work with Ron Payne to get a slot.
   b. XSEDE Quarterly report is due by the 2nd of the month.

4. Tentative Future agenda items:

5. Straw poll on SPF meeting frequency (Monthly: 4; Every 2 weeks: 2; Every 2-weeks and cancel as needed: 6)
   a. Will go with every two weeks and cancel as needed.
   b. With no objection from attendees, the May 31 meeting is cancelled due to ~10 of the regular attendees being unavailable due to a conflicting workshop.

6. PEARC'18 SPF F2F meeting
   a. 13 SPF members confirmed so far
   b. please let Shawn know if you're attending asap, so he can reserve a room for the meeting

7. Perspectives on the rise of for-fee models of support for previously free software (e.g. Globus, Singularity, HDF5, etc). Would be interested in hearing what SP Forum perspectives are, how they're approaching, if there's anything we can/should do as a group to engage with these vendors.
   i. How are licenses negotiated for use by individual XSEDE sites, as opposed to just XSEDE central services? Can XSEDE negotiate license fees on behalf of the group for access by the individual sites? Maybe sites could join an existing XSEDE license without having to pay for multi-site licenses? How does this play into NSF priorities for "sustainability" in service funding? XSEDE serving as a single-point on licenses could be beneficial in reflecting site priorities to service upstream service providers (e.g., Globus).
   ii. What are other examples of software or services in use at sites that might inform how this could be addressed? Example of Matlab license changes in terms of physical presence vs system access

8. Tentative Future agenda items:
   a. June 14: NIP/ECSS and machine learning (Sergui Sanielevici, PSC)
   b. June 28: XDMod overview + study of NSF innovation systems (Tom Furlani, U of Buffalo)

9. Two-factor solution on Stampede, looking at a startup "Evo" that has an open platform with commercial support. Looking for a few volunteer beta sites. Contact Dan Stanzione with interest

10. Introductions from Timothy Middelkoop (new member). HPC center. Rebuilt infrastructure over last 4 years

11. PEARC will be opening nominations for new steering committee members
   a. 4-5 seats available. Nominations open in June, announcement forthcoming. Committee directs PEARC conference

12. New alternate contact for PSC, Robin Scibek
1. John Towns - XSEDE update
   a. Developing annual report and program plan.
   b. Still waiting for some information from SP forum (Update: This has been provided)
      i. Closure on PY8 forward-looking presentations
      ii. SP-forum statement of activities

2. Welcome the new SP Forum Vice Chair, Jonathon Anderson, CU Boulder
   a. jonathon.anderson@colorado.edu
   b. Tech. Team Lead for Research Computing
   c. L3 and regional resource RMACC Summit, partnership between CU Boulder, and CSU

3. Debrief on L2/L3 past/present Chair discussion
   a. Update mailing lists

4. Program Year 8 Plan Review by SP Forum: Reminder to send your written summaries to Shawn (Completed)
   a. Participation: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11IOzYeUClXyEZbW2DI0M4AI0R1t
   b. If you have notes, please send them in (To Shawn Strande by email if nothing else)

5. SP Forum meeting logistics
   a. Building the agenda
      i. L2 and L3 chairs should feel free to contribute agenda items
      ii. campus champion representative? / formal agenda item from campus champions
   b. Meeting frequency
      i. suggestions to go to 1/month
      ii. improve distribution of minutes to alleviate problems missing less-frequent meetings
      iii. might put out an informal poll

6. SP Coordination update - Victor Hazlewood
   a. Read / be aware of note from JP regarding Globus TK succession plan
   c. Statistics for SSO hub and Duo use
   d. Access to SSO hub for campus resources available

7. Discussion about the SP Forum Charter. There are a multiple versions out there. The one linked to the main SP Forum page (https://www.xsede.org/about/governance/spf) https://www.xsede.org/documents/10157/281380/SPF_Definition_v10.2_130716.pdf/3d16bfb5-a742-4cea-adfa-0c0d33be1a1c is an older version than this one: https://www.ideals.illinois.edu/handle/2142/49980
   a. A question raised: the older version notes that Campus Champions are L3’s by default. There's no such mention in the later version. The later version also has no details on what constitutes each level of an SP. Where is this information now located?

8. Blue Waters webinar take-aways - Dan Stanzione
   a. https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLO8UWE9gZITAMRvV7IS-6q3x1DrXXkmkR
   b. Monthly/quarterly outreach event
   c. 30 people live on the call
   d. Slides coming

9. Informational
   a. Cleanup of SP Forum e-mail list
   b. L3 Member application in review

10. Upcoming events
    a. PEARC18, www.pearc18.org, Pittsburgh, July 22-26, 2018
    b. Gateways call for participation extended to May 16; https://sciencegateways.org/web/gateways2018/program/cfp

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Meeting: April 5, 2018

1. John Towns - XSEDE news
2. SPF administration
3. Program Year 8 Plan Review by SP Forum (Shawn collecting written feedback from participants)
   a. Participation: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11IOzYeUClXyEZbW2DI0M4AI0R1t
4. XRAC Reviewers Guide Draft (Complete)
   a. Discussion with Dave Hart
      i. By April 5 (~2 weeks).
      ii. “how well the reviewers guide, accurately reflects current policies, procedures and practices.”
   b. ongoing discussion topic of review practices
   c. Provide feedback to Shawn before our next meeting on April 5
5. Project Improvement Fund (PIF) Review due March 29 (Complete)
   a. PY8-01: ER Market Analysis - https://goo.gl/forms/7wUxzd1XG6TaTw2
   b. PY8-02: Update Applications of Parallel Computing online course - https://goo.gl/forms/PSwGWM4GXK7A7uJ03
   c. PY8-03: ORCID Membership Fee - https://goo.gl/forms/bkIoTW1vRWmJNYEfv2
6. SP Coordination update - Victor
   a. Dan to handle
   b. Scheduled?
8. UREP Prioritization (Complete)
   a. Draft response - please comment by Monday, 4/9/18
9. IU Knowledge Base discussion - final call for comments; please submit by next meeting
10. SP Forum web presence - ongoing
11. Upcoming events
12. XSEDE Advisory Board (XAB) Meeting (Complete)
   a. April 17-18 / Chicago
13. XSEDE Advisory Board (XAB) Meeting (Complete)
   a. April 17-18 / Chicago
   b. XAB 2018 April Face-to-Face Meeting
   c. First workshop on Machine Learning for Computing Systems (MLCS) (Paper deadline has passed)
      i. https://mlcsworkshop.weebly.com/
      ii. Call for Participation open; papers due April 9
Meeting: March 22, 2018

1. John Towns - XSEDE news
   a. updates from March quarterly?

2. Program Year 8 Plan Review by SP Forum
   a. Sign up to participate at: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11OzZveUCIYxExZtW2hlMO4AloR1l

3. XRAC Reviewers Guide Draft
   a. Discussion with Dave Hart
      i. By April 5 (~2 weeks),
      ii. “how well (the reviewers guide) accurately reflects current policies, procedures and practices.”
   b. ongoing discussion topic of review practices
   c. Section G.1. Review Criteria/Efficient Use of Resources
   d. Provide feedback to Shawn before our next meeting on April 5

4. Project Improvement Fund (PIF) Review due March 29
   a. PY8-01: ER Market Analysis - https://goo.gi/forms/lwUzDIxZG6TaTw2
   b. PY8-02: Update Applications of Parallel Computing online course - https://goo.gi/forms/P9wGWM4GXK7A7uj03
   c. PY8-03: ORCID Membership Fee - https://goo.gi/forms/bKtcTw1vRWJNYEPv2

5. SP Coordination update - Victor

6. Blue Waters webinar
   a. https://bluewaters.ncsa.illinois.edu/webinars
   b. Request by Maxim Belkin for SPF talk
   c. Wednesdays in April?

7. IU Knowledge Base discussion - on hold

8. UREP Prioritization - on hold

9. SP Forum web presence - ongoing

10. Upcoming events
   a. XSEDE Advisory Board (XAB) Meeting
      i. April 17-18 / Chicago
      ii. XAB 2018 April Face-to-Face Meeting
   b. First workshop on Machine Learning for Computing Systems (MLCS)
      i. https://mlcworkshop.weebly.com/
      ii. Call for Participation open; papers due April 9
      iii. Co-located with ACM HPDC 2018
      iv. June 12, 2018 in Tempe, AZ
   c. PEARC18
      i. www.pearc18.org
      ii. Pittsburgh, July 22-26, 2018

Attendees

J Ray (PSC), Carol Song (Purdue), Dana Brunson (Oklahoma State U), Thomas Doaks (Indiana U), Doug Jennewein (U South Dakota), Nancy Wilkins-Diehr (SDSC), Mike Showman (NCSA), Stefan Thiel (Stanford), Andrew Keen (Michigan State U), Bob Stock (PSC), Chris Hempel (TACC), Dan Stanzione (TACC), Steve Brandt (LSU), Suranga Edirisnghe (Georgia State U), Jonathon Anderson (CU Boulder), John Towns (NCSA)

Topic 1: XSEDE News (John Towns)

Meeting in Tampa a couple weeks back, primary focus was PY8 planning, with presentation from L2 Directors - asking specifically for deltas: what’s new, what’s discontinued, or what’s significantly changed. Discussed the ORCID. John stressed the importance of the the SPF to XSEDE planning and encouraged participation in the PY8 review (next item:)

Topic 2: PY8 Review

Reviewed the PY8 review spreadsheet (link above) and got commitments from SP members to review the sections. Karla Gendler sent out Doodle polls to each team of section reviewers for meetings in the coming days.

Topic 3: XRAC Reviewers Guide

Dave Hart is anxious to get the current document reviewed within the scope of current practices. Need feedback within 2 weeks. Please send comments to Shawn who will roll these into a single doc and get them off to Dave by April 5. Will also come to a follow-up call to discuss changes to the current process that are out of scope of the document.

Topic 4: Project Improvement Fund

Review due March 29. Please review at least 1 of them, get input back to J Ray and /or the SPF group e-mail. Committee will review, with SPF casting one of the votes.

Topic 5: SP coordinate update. No discussion

Topic 6: Blue Waters webinar.

Dan Stanzione offered to give the talk on behalf of SPF.
Meeting: March 8, 2018

1. John Towns - XSEDE news
   a. updates from quarterly
2. IU Knowledge Base discussion
3. XRAC Reviewers Guide draft
   a. ongoing discussion topic of review practices
   b. Section G.1. Review Criteria/Efficient Use of Resources
4. Blue Waters webinar
   a. https://bluewaters.ncsa.illinois.edu/webinars
   b. Request by Maxim Belkin for SPF talk
   c. Wednesdays in April?
5. UREP Prioritization
   a. Top Priority: SPI-05: Active account information
   b. An XSEDE staff member needs to obtain a list of all resources and services on which a specific XSEDE user identity has an active account.
6. XSEDE AUP
7. SP Coordination update - Victor
8. SP Forum web presence
   a. Membership lists - plural; this page, below vs https://www.xsede.org/ecosystem/service-providers
9. Upcoming events
      i. https://mlcsworkshop.weebly.com/
      ii. Call for Participation open; papers due April 9
      iii. Co-located with ACM HPDC 2018
      iv. June 12, 2018 in Tempe, AZ
   b. PEARC'18
      i. www.pearc18.org
      ii. Pittsburgh, July 22-26, 2018

Attendees
Steve Brandt (LSU), Dana Brunson (Oklahoma State University), Thomas Doaks (IU), Jeremy Fischer (IU), Chris Hempel (TACC), Ruth Marinshaw (Stanford), Victor Hazlewood, Ron Payne (NCSA), J Ray Scott (PSC), Mike Showmer (NCSA), Carol Song (Purdue) Bob Stock (PSC), Dan Stanzione (TACC), Shawn Strande (SDSC)

Topic 1: Updates from Quarterly & XSEDE News. John Towns (not present)
Updates from Dana, Victor, et al who were there. Victor: several suggestions that are being addressed. E.g., regarding system monitoring. Dana: look at connecting points between SPF and Campus Champions. Opportunities for better awareness of what each are doing and how to leverage work of each.

Topic 2: IU Knowledge Base discussion. Craig Stewart (not present)
Should KB be updated to reflect SPs (especially L2 and L3) via PIF, or should sites go their own way? Jeremy: There is a handful of general usage questions (e.g., getting supplement) that don’t belong to one SP for which generally available document would be useful. Ruth: Based on limited experience from Stanford POC, would have been easier to maintain local doc and link to main XSEDE website. Carol: Does XSEDE have general Q&A page for this sort of info? Bob Stock: SPs ought to own their content, but cross-site would be useful. Ruth: What about a researcher that wants to run a particular application, like Abaqus? Victor: Software Information provides info on each site. There is a software search (link??) Dana: What would the benefit for L2s and L3s? Could be a benefit to Campus Champions, but not clear where it’s of general benefit. Action: J Ray will draft SPF position paper and get back to Craig asap to close this out.

Topic 3: XRAC Reviewers Guide draft
Draft available at link above. Suggestion that SP Forum be involved in reviewing. Dave Hart and Ken Hackworth driving the process. J Ray: Are we as SPs providing the information we should to reviewers? E.g., Section G.1 Efficient Use of Resources. Dan: Issue with efficiency at times in conflict with users, particularly as we look at non-traditional/new users. Jeremy: Often reviewers become arbiters of what’s appropriate for the resource. Much of it comes down to ensuring that reviewers judge on merit of information in proposal. Bob Stock: Is “effective” or “appropriate” a better word than “efficient”? Dan: should we have a meeting with allocated resources for alternate possible models for allocation, say in line with standard NSF review. Action: Formalize feedback in document and setup follow-on meeting to dig down.

Topic 4: Blue Waters webinar
Maxim Belkin communication to J Ray asking about SP Forum presentation. Action: Mike Showmer will reach out to J Ray to give suggestions on what sorts of things to cover.

Topic 5: UREP Prioritization
Table for future meeting but need to work on it prior to next meeting. Action: Review and provide input prior to next meeting for J Ray.
**Meeting: February 8, 2018**

**Attendees:** Stefan Thiell (Stanford), Trevor Cooper (SDSC), J Ray Scott (PSC), Dana Brunson (Oklahoma State University), Craig Stewart (IU), Doug Jennewein (University of South Dakota), Carol Song (Purdue) Mike Showerman (NCSA), Chris Hempel (TACC), David Swanson (University of Nebraska), Andrew Keen (Michigan State University), Nancy Wilkins-Diehr (Science Gateways), Steve Brandt (LSU), Dan Stanzione (TACC), Victor Hazlewood (NICS)

**Topic 1: XSEDE update/John Towns. Postponed.**

Circulated document (link); SP members add, then reviewed by IU. Particularly beneficial for L2 and L3s. REST interface can be customized to support search for any site. Forum feedback? If Forum supports, there is a reasonable chance of funding. Carol: Has XSEDE site been evaluated to see how many people have used it? Do most users go straight to the user guides? Craig: only have # of hits, no other info. Continue as active discussion. Will ask for feedback in time for next meeting.

**Topic 3: UREP Prioritization. Postponed. Will revisit and provide feedback to Shava/XSEDE.**

**Topic 4: XSEDE AUP** (Acceptable Use Policy) approved at last SMT meeting. Here: [https://www.xsede.org/ecosystem/operations/usagepolicy](https://www.xsede.org/ecosystem/operations/usagepolicy)

**Presentation available here**

**Topic 6: SP Coordination update – Victor Hazlewood**

Victor reports good progress moving through SP checklist, two sites left to do, see [software.xsede.org](http://software.xsede.org) for details.

**Topic 7: SP Forum web presence**

General discussion about plans, Jay reminded members to provide input on layout, content, etc.

**Topic 8: Upcoming events**

- **XSEDE Quarterly Meeting** - March 5-7

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**Meeting: February 22, 2018**

**Agenda:**

1. John Towns - XSEDE news
2. IU Knowledge Base update
3. UREP Prioritization
4. XSEDE AUP
5. Meltdown/Spectre presentation - Trevor Cooper/SDSC
6. SP Coordination update - Victor
7. SP Forum web presence
8. Upcoming events
   a. XSEDE Quarterly Meeting - March 5-7
   b. UCAR SEA: April 2-6, 2018 [https://sea.ucar.edu/conference/2018](https://sea.ucar.edu/conference/2018)

**Attendees:** Jennewein (University of South Dakota), Carol Song (Purdue) Mike Showerman (NCSA), Chris Hempel (TACC), David Swanson (University of Nebraska), Andrew Keen (Michigan State University), Nancy Wilkins-Diehr (Science Gateways), Steve Brandt (LSU), Dan Stanzione (TACC), Victor Hazlewood (NICS)
Agenda/minutes

**Topic 1: Proposed "PIF" for updating the IU Knowledge Base. Craig Stewart:** [https://kb.iu.edu/index.html](https://kb.iu.edu/index.html)

Summary from Craig: Would like SP Forum input on apply for Project Improvement Funds (PIF) from XSEDE. The IU Knowledge based sStarted in 1996 and evolved since then – structure is Q&A. Funding covered content generation (no software, etc.) Since then, KB technology has been changing. Recently the team has added functionality to allow anyone to add content, which is then curated by KB staff, before becoming publicly available. Would like to see XSEDE funds, model would be for SP’s to enter content, then have an XSEDE staff person curate. Thinking 20 hours/week, reporting to Craig, initially funded by a PIF. Timeline: unless we have a plan to update content by July, then we reach a point of diminishing return and better to discontinue. Question about whether or not there’s been any evaluation of the impact in reducing helpdesk tickets. Nancy: sees value in questions like, “what XSEDE systems supports reservations”, i.e., questions you would have to visit each SP site to get an answer to. Bob Stock: “When can the info there now get updated, regardless of PIF funding. Action: Craig will discuss further with various SP Forum members and start a Google doc that summarizes the opportunity and come back at a future SP Forum meeting for presentation

**Topic 2: John Towns update on XAB meeting: XAB 2018 February Call; and SPF Membership**

John’s written update:

“XAB met yesterday (2/7). The topic of discussion was debrief on the Jan 11-12 review. The review was very positive and we are processing the panel report and preparing our responses now. It was received last week on Wednesday. The XAB provided a lot of guidance on review process, how we present various topics, and how to handle some difficulties we experienced in process.

There are elements of the review that will be feeding into our planning process for the next project year that are relevant for SPs. We will be coming back to you over the next month or so to discuss these. I know this is not much detail, but more to come.

Regarding memberships: I know Dana exchanged some email with a potential new L3 SP, but I don’t believe the request for membership has come in as yet.”

**Topic 3: Discussion of the UREP (see: [https://software.xsede.org/node/1783/rating](https://software.xsede.org/node/1783/rating))**

J. Ray: Would like to give a summary SP Forum response to Shava/UREP; 37 members from various areas (gateways, CCs, large users); will discuss in future meeting. Victor clarified that any SP member can submit ideas for use cases into the UREP. SP Forum has a slot in the UREP – J. Ray will pick this up.

**Topic 4: Operations updates (Victor Hazlewood)**

SP Coordination: Annual checklist review of all SP’s (except Stampede2, which has been done). Cycling through SP’s and collecting information, process is going well. On [software.xsede.org](https://software.xsede.org) under SP Forum see: [https://software.xsede.org/sp-resource-integration-status](https://software.xsede.org/sp-resource-integration-status)

**Topic 5: SP Forum wiki and portal pages updates**

- XSEDE Federation
- [https://www.xsede.org/ecosystem/service-providers](https://www.xsede.org/ecosystem/service-providers)

Moving to Confluence. Please review and provide any input on structure, content, etc. J. Ray and Shawn have licenses for editing, so unless you have an interest in adding content, we might be able to get an extra license or two.

**Topics for future meeting:**

- Meltdown/Spectre
- Dave Hart updating the Acceptable Use Policy.
- Blue Waters Outreach webinar about SP Forum. J. Ray has responded affirmatively, probably for the March webinar. Would be good to have L2 and L3 representation.

**Meeting: Jan 25, 2018**

**Attendees**

J. Ray Scott (PSC), Dana Brunson (Oklahoma State University), Carol Song (Purdue), Shawn Strande (SDSC), Jeremy Fischer (Indiana University) Ruth Marinshaw (Stanford), Greg Peterson (NICS), Bob Stock (PSC), Mike Showerman (NCSA), Dave Hancock (Indiana University), Nathan Gregg (West Virginia University), Chris Hempel (TACC), Dan Stanzione (TACC), John Towns (NCSA), Gary Miskik (Indiana University), Andrew Keen (Michigan State University)

**Agenda/minutes**

**Topic 1: XSEDE Review (John Towns’ observation)**
• Briefed the SP Forum on the mid-year review. Sense is the program is in good shape, though won't have details until the panel report is issued. Will be a full annual review in June.

**Topic 2: Meltdown/Spectre**

- Dan Stanzione/TACC: Have done some at-scale testing of kernel patches; have concluded that the BIOS patches are not trustworthy, but kernel patches are ok. Testing 12K MPI tasks on Skylake and KNL – seeing about 1% performance impact on Skylake; about 4% on KNL. Deployed kernel everywhere, but holding off on firmware changes until stability is better.
- Trevor Cooper/SDSC: Have deployed firmware and kernel to login nodes, which looks good; seeing large impact to I/O migration to virtual front-end hosting nodes and seeing 6-40% on these. No updated firmware from vendors yet.
- J Ray Scott/PSC: Upgraded Red Hat w/firmware during a planned outage. So far things look okay. Seeing 1% for general MPI codes; one researcher running large memory Trinity job (small I/O) and saw 50% performance hit for one of their runs.
- Dave Hancock/IU: Have patched most of Jetstream (excluding firmware). Anecdotal feedback that there are hits to I/O performance. Assessment continues.
- Andrew Keen: Provided this link to Red Hat - [https://access.redhat.com/articles/3311301](https://access.redhat.com/articles/3311301) useful for verifying whether the mitigations are active and how to disable them at runtime

**Topic 3: Ops update**

Victor Hazlewood (NICS): Time for annual audit of SP checklist; will reach out to contacts; next Software Call is first Monday of the month.