

SURAgriid Community Call Notes

Jun 24, 2013, 2:00pm – 2:55pm Eastern Time

Attending

Bill Gruszka – Georgia State University
Steve Johnson – Texas A&M University
Jim Lupo – Louisiana State University
Gary Crane - SURA
John-Paul Robinson – Unv of Alabama, Birmingham
Erik Duemens – Unv of Florida
Paul Avery – Unv of Florida

Discussion

Those on the call took a moment to introduce themselves.

Jim Lupo described the SGC activities surrounding the By-Laws and the Strategic Plan. The statement of direction that came out of the All-Hands Meeting was brought up, and that topic served as the focus for the remaining conversation.

It was generally agreed that a growth path is needed to help new users adopt computational resources as research tools. The current models are still daunting, given their command line orientation and need to do scripting. Erik Duemens suggested that even more must be done, along the way of science portals, but in a fashion that allows a user to grow as their needs do.

Much of the remaining conversation focused on the Galaxy suite. This is a portal suite that readily supports extensions. It has the major strength of being backed by a large community of users, along with access to a *toolshed*, or repository, of contributed work flow and processing scripts that can be added. Many of the tools are currently focused on bioinformatics and genomics, but that simply reflects the current contributor interests. There is nothing preventing the addition of tools supporting other areas. It was pointed out that while people could learn to do processing on the Galaxy platform; they could choose to adapt the scripts to run directly on HPC resources as their processing requirements increased. While Galaxy tools are not portable in the grid computing sense, the suite can be installed and run on multiple platforms with some commitment of time to modify scripts for the local environment. At the very least it would allow SURAgriid to focus on a common delivery service that all could contribute to, support, and utilize.

Erik Druemens tentatively committed to talking about UF experience with Galaxy on a future community call.

There was agreement that a specific effort should be formed to support the direction statement. Showing success in providing resources with a very low barrier to entry was seen as the best way to reinvigorate SURAgriid membership. It appears that Galaxy offers the sort of flexibility needed to broaden the user base.

Action Items

1. The SGC will take up the issue of reconfirming membership status, given the continuing low participation.
2. The SGC will examine the formation of a specific project as a example of its direction statement.

Next Community Call: Aug 15, 2013