Report to IT Team, March 3, 1:30pm
IT Infrastructure/HPCS

1. MS is using InCommon for distribution of Dream Spark. The UAB Shibboleth is working for this download. UABgrid documentation wiki contains some information about UAB Resource Provider Practices
    http://docs.uabgrid.uab.edu/index.php/InCommonUABgrid

2. Summary of UAB presentation to CGF22: UABgrid Infrastructure; Identity Management (BlazerID & InCommon); UABgrid Applications (Dynamics BLAST and R); – couple bullet items of significance in report and outcomes of follow-up meetings with ANL people and Grid-Way
    http://docs.uabgrid.uab.edu/index.php/Image:UABgrid_at_OGF22-3-jpr-v2.pdf

3. Update bids for purchase of HPCS rack –
    *   Dell 3 different systems in table –
        i.   conventional rack with 32 nodes, head node (1TB), HBA, 11KW heat -- ~2.3TF -- $109K
        ii. 32 nodes in blade rack – similar performance but less heat and more cost – exact $$ ~160K (??)
        iii. 48 nodes in blade rack -- ~3+TF can we make better estimate and significant point is heat is also 11KW for this dell M1000 blade rack full with these quad core processors. $244,766
    *   Sun bids -- ? – can we summarize differences – I believe it will be built around faster quad core processors – 2.8GHz instead of 2.6 GHz but rest should be same as dell 3 quotes.
    *   IBM – SURA systems – 198K – this seems to have 40 nodes (?) in blade server rack with 3TF using E5345 processors…not sure about heat and there is 1.8TB storage on head node…this seems to cheaper that Dell for 3TF but uncertain of exact head-to-comparsion
    *   Also, need to describe how to package buying blade server using 100K currently in Infrastructure budget. The overall plan is to "sell some blade nodes" to researchers – Sergrest is interested to buy for running some jobs that don't run well on BG/L. Can we project a cost from this bid process? Or can we set determine a blade cost to researcher using similar model as used by USC?

4.   Research Network meeting Tu, March 4 –Alan, Doug, Puri, Fran, JPR, DLS

5. 2008 EDUCAUSE Southeast Regional Conference, at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront on June 2-4 in Jacksonville, Florida. Your presentation has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 03, 2008 from 11:45 AM to 12:30 PM. See Abstract and Summary of accepted presentation:
    http://docs.uabgrid.uab.edu/index.php/Southeast_Regional_Conference_of_EDUCAUSE_Proposal_Submission_Confirmation

6. Spring Internet2 Presentations
    *   **Session Title:** UABgrid: Down the Road a Piece
        Session Abstract:
        The UABgrid collaboration environment is a high performance computing and web application environment being constructed at the University of Alabama at Birmingham as part of our school, system, and state-wide CyberInfrastructure investments. This construction

is leveraging Shibboleth and Globus to provide a uniform identity infrastructure, GridWay metascheduling to harness resources distributed on campus and throughout the region by leveraging 10GigE and NLR connectivity. This presentation is an overview of progress after more than a year of development. It will address the successes and short comings of our infrastructure, provide a live tour of the environment highlighting the identity management components and areas in progress, and the utility of middleware authorization bundles like myVocs box that provide the identity infrastructure of UABgrid

Speaker Information:

John-Paul Robinson

- **Session Title:** myVocs: Wrangling The Unruly
Session Abstract:
The world is awash in powerful web applications and many are abandoning traditional desktops in favor of an always available and always maintained on-line paradise. We can find web based tools for almost any task imaginable getting those application recognize us and quit pestering for authentication is no small task. Shibboleth and its SAML underpinnings provide an ideal solution to reliably and securely share identity and offer a taste of a distributed but fully integrated workspace. Unfortunately, many applications are not ready for Shibboleth and require redesigns and clumsy integration approaches. It's an understandable defect but that doesn't solve any problems for those trying to build an integrated suite spots of web based workspaces like myVocs, IAMSuite, and CoManage that accept your identity and offer a common authorization framework. This presentation reports on the construction of application specific data plugins at a myVocs system service provider to integrate tools that handle external authentication, have traditional middleware capabilities, but aren't ready for complete integration. Making attributes delivered by Shibboleth available in application preferred format like LDAP or SQL could lead to more transparent integration, a better user experience, and help identify best practices for an integrated on-line desktop.
Speaker Information:
John-Paul Robinson

7. <u>Resources – Misc</u>. "Supporting Knowledge Creation: using wikis for group collaboration" ECAC, Feb 5, 2008, vol 2008, issue 3. This is very good report supporting using UABgrid VO capabilities in Instructional Technology. Physics is moving in this direction.