

HPC-SIG

Tuesday, 13 February 2018 09:26

Welcome - old and new - introductions.

Chair's Report

Welcome Raj from Columbia CASC in US 'on vacation'

A couple of things:

Cloud meeting with BEIS
AWS, MS/Azure, Alibaba, Google, IBM
Show and tell from research community
Bio/Medical science, Supercomputing, HPDA, Cloud WG
Community was co-ordinated & science focused.
Showed maturity & hard work already put in.
Mark Parsons statement was pivotal - around data security.
Consequence is community will write the cloud computing strategy, not the cloud suppliers.
Similar tensions in the US.
Need a good handle on ROI.

ARCHER-2

Plodding along.
Profiled spend - spend as much as possible early on, keep ARCHER running & have a ARCHER 2b
Have held a workshop on CSE and Service Provision
Science case is undergoing peer review

Review of time in HPC-SIG

Had 1 meeting, went to talk about HPC sustainability with Jeremy & Claire at UCL
Sustainable approach to HPC at Leeds.
Figured that I'd got a lot out and wanted to put something back in

Was Secretary with Ian Stewart (4 years)

HPC-SIG report - got profile into the eyes of the funders.
Started to see group diversify, HPC at centre, other things around it (storage here at Bristol)
EPSRC software strategy

Was Secretary with Oz (3 years)

Could see some aspects becoming more political - funder's expert advice moved on.
Need to also maintain grass-roots.
National e-Infrastructure investment - Teir-2's grew out of strong University HPC strategies.
MoU with CASC.

National e-Infrastructure project directors group got formed

Became Chair - with Paul, Simon & Ricky
Nel survey - questions around why 30 or so Universities are all doing the same thing
'Diversity statements'... EPSRC Teir-2
HPC-SIG invited as expert to funders - EPSRC, DiRAC
People like Hull show us what you can really do with a blank canvas, with the right support and advice!
Rise of the RSE movement
Second Nel survey - release is imminent - all about the people and community.
Sense of over-comitisation of compute - need for diversity/fit for purpose/and economies of scale

Challenges:

Mission critical however, no natural 'fit' within organisations
The marketing machines of commodity suppliers attempts to eat our breakfast.
Proving the case for support is constant, and needs to be done at all levels simultaneously.
People - we need them, but where do they come from? - create our own - community action.
There will always be funding pressures - many of our organisations now have big loans.

Building trust is the most important thing - be generally useful/helpful
Remember you are part of the research/scientific method.

Last words

Firstly, thanks to the others on the Exec - being Chair is a Breeze compared to Secretary (Paul, Ricky, Simon).
Reading through the statements for new Chair, looks like Christine will be busy
But this is YOUR community.
For me its been a real life-saver.
So thanks to you all - & promise me you'll keep the new Exec on their toes & help out when they ask!