

From: Adri van Duin
Sent: Thursday, September 22, 2016 9:13 PM
To: Jenni Evans; Wayne Figurelle-Forward; Chuck Gilbert
Cc: Sven Schmitz; Greg Madden; Eric B. Ford; Dan Haworth; Rob Hume
Subject: HPC working group response to the ICS decommissioning plans

Jenni, Wayne and Chuck,

Thank you for presenting the ICS decommissioning plans in the Sept. 12 HPC working group meeting. Below is the response of our working group to the ICS plans:

Overall, the ICS decommissioning plans were well received by the HPC working group – we agree with the overall timeline and understand the need for decommissioning the legacy systems.

Here are the HPC WG-comments to the ICS plans:

- 1) The ACS liaisons play a key role in the success of the decommissioning - and in the ACI cluster operation in general. For that reason, these liaisons need to be identified and connected to particular user-communities within ACI (e.g. atomistic-scale simulations, CFD, genomics etc.). The faculty need to know what they can expect from the liaisons - i.e. a basic-level of liaison support (without specific grant-support for liaison activity) and how liaison support beyond this basic level can be written into grants. Can liaisons be co-PIs on grant proposals ?
- 2) The HPC-working group agrees with the provost intentions for removing the legacy systems from Penn State. We have not heard of any interest from the HPC-WG for retaining (part) of the legacy systems. The HPC WG agrees with the outreach plans formulated in the ICS decommissioning plan - we would appreciate ICS to develop outreach-related text for research proposals.
- 3) The HPC WG requests that ICS-ACI provides multiple boiler-plate statements for proposals asking ICS-ACI-support, including statement for smaller amounts of compute/storage.
- 4) HPC WG recommends a dual-prong approach - aimed at extending the Data Center capacity and also making cloud-services available to Penn State HPC-researchers to bridge inevitable capacity limitation in the Data Center.
- 5) The HPC-WG has concerns if the demands in both computing and IT support can be met. As such, we recommend that ICS-ACI prioritizes the hire of long-term, skilled IT staff, so that appropriate levels of support for the HPC-researchers can be provided.

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We look forward to a continued discussion of these decommissioning plans in our working group.

Best regards,
Adri & Sven

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From: Adri van Duin
Sent: Sunday, October 2, 2016 8:37 PM
To: Figurelle, Wayne
Cc: Evans, Jenni; Eric B. Ford; Sven Schmitz
Subject: Summary of responses to decommissioning plans for ICS Legacy systems

Wayne,

Here is my summary of the faculty response to the decommissioning plans for the ICS Legacy systems. In total there were 8 responses. Attached is a transcript of the E-mails.

- The question was asked - more from the Cyberstar than from the LionX community - why a functioning computer system is taken down. It may be worthwhile to reach out to the Cyberstar community specifically to explain this.
- The Lion-cluster - especially Hammer - has an important educational function - several classes use this resource. Does ICS have an overview of what classes are using Hammer - it would be good to develop a transitioning plan.
- Several responses highlight the need for software transfer - Jaguar (Schrodinger software), Gaussian and molecular dynamics codes were named specifically. This is clearly vital in the transition - does ICS have the capability to assist with scientific software installation and testing?

In my view - the response has been fairly positive (at least, not overly negative). However, the next stage - individual plans for faculty and software transfer - is vital.

Adri

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