

Research Computing Committee
March 12 Meeting Agenda

Committee charge

Marc Hoit

University Research Priorities

Terri Lomax

Review Operating Guidelines

Eric Sills

HPC Storage Policies

Eric Sills

DRAFT Operating Guidelines

Members

Committee members are appointed for two-year terms by:

- Deans of each college
- Vice Chancellor for Finance and Business
- Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies
- Vice Provost and Director of Libraries
- Academic IT Directors Committee

with each Dean appointing one committee member and the other positions or groups each appointing one committee member.

Additional committee members may be appointed by the Vice Chancellor for Information Technology with the approval of the committee to represent constituents not otherwise represented on the committee.

Terms will generally begin September first and run for two years. Appointments to fill positions that become vacant mid-term will be for a duration of at least two years ending on the first August thirty-first at least two years after the date of the appointment.

Terms for initial committee members started in January 2009 and will end August 31, 2010 to align terms going forward with the academic year.

Chair

The committee chair is selected by the committee from among the college representatives. The chair serves a two-year term. The chair may not serve consecutive terms. However a member who has previously served as chair is eligible to be selected as chair provided they are not currently serving in that role.

Meetings

The committee will meet at least twice per year, once during Spring semester and once during Fall semester. The chair may schedule additional meetings as needed.

HPC Storage Policies

Current Policies

There are currently three types of storage provided for HPC users:

- Home directory space – 500MB to 2GB quota – daily backup retaining 1 copy of each file, backup of deleted files retained at least 10 days
- Scratch file space – 1TB quota per research group per scratch file system – No backup – subject to purge (quotas have so far allowed purge to not be used)
- “Mass storage” space – Hierarchically managed file system (files migrate to tape) – available from login nodes only – no quota currently

HPC storage is currently available on first come, first served basis (moderated by quotas imposed on some types of storage)

Storage requirements vary greatly for different types of work

A number of projects whose storage needs exceed what has been provided have purchased storage to add to the HPC system (partner storage that is available for just that partner’s project).

Issues

Unconstrained, free mass storage is not sustainable. However, given data retention policies, HPC mass storage may be a cost effective method for secure data storage. While relatively low cost, it is still more expensive than a terabyte USB drive from Best Buy.

Is it desirable to encourage researchers to utilize this storage for data retention? If so, to what extent should cost recovery be balanced with a price point that would be attractive versus commodity alternatives?

What is appropriate quantity of mass storage to provide without charge? Is it the same for every group?

Should disk quotas vary based on storage requirements for type of work? If so, who would determine what was justified for each type of work?

Data

There are currently 61 projects using mass storage space. Sorting these by quantity used results in the chart “Mass Storage Use by Project”. The second

chart “Projects using Mass Storage Space” shows the quantity of partner storage each project has purchased and currently active contract and grant funding (from RADAR database) in addition to quantity of mass storage space used.

