

- Don Middleton – NCAR CI initiatives
- Vijay Agarwala – Penn State CI plan

Jim Pepin said the CI discussion began with an informal discussion at an EDUCAUSE meeting several weeks ago. So this “panel” is reporting on what is going on with CI in various areas. Jim began with the EDUCAUSE view of CI, which focuses primarily on enabling research. Focus is on “educating” CIOs on importance of CI to research. “CI” is not just HPC – it’s all the things that enable research. His charts are posted on the CASC website. Also more info on EDUCAUSE website ([http://www.educause.edu/CampusCyberinfrastructure\(CCI\)WorkingGroup/10288](http://www.educause.edu/CampusCyberinfrastructure(CCI)WorkingGroup/10288)). There was particular emphasis on how the CIO, the VP-Research, and the Director of the supercomputing center can (and must) work together to enable the faculty.

Jim Bottom participated in a review of some NSF projects (Track 3) that acquired HPC hardware and software. Some of these “small” projects have clusters with teraflop capacity. It’s a challenge for CIOs who inherit the requirements to install and operate this equipment. NSF is trying to rewrite their “roadmap” for CI. He has been helping them assess where their funding is going.

Vijay Agarwala talked about the desire to reach out to faculty who want help with their codes and their computing problems. A comment was made that it’s harder to find qualified systems programmers and analysts than it used to be. Power and space are issues as well.

Don Middleton gave a briefing on what NCAR is doing to upgrade its CI. His focus was primarily on software. Charts on are on the CASC website. Focus seems to be on software, data, tools, analyses, etc. and access to same.

Finally, Brian Athey gave an overview of how the NIH National Centers for Biomedical Computing are addressing the CI issue. His charts are on the CASC website.

After the break, the discussion continued and focused on what CASC as an organization could do to address this issue. One thing is to encourage both NSF and PIs to have data management plans in advance. Another is for CASC and its membership to focus more on Track 3 players. Maybe we need to “change the conversation” to focus more on science and scientific computing rather than “HPC”. Should we all run the HPCC benchmarks? Data and metadata are also important issues. It’s no longer the hardware. One idea is to bring more of our campus users (real scientists and engineers who are using our systems) to present what they are doing and what their challenges are to our CASC meetings. And not just to our meetings, but to create presentations and seminars for CIOs, VPRs, etc.

7:00pm **Dinner – Trattoria, 1430 Pearl St, Boulder**

Friday, August 3, 2007 – CASC Meeting

NCAR – Damon Room, 1850 Table Mesa Drive, Boulder, CO 80307

9:00 am **Lawrence Buja, NCAR software engineer – Climate and Global Dynamics: “CI Enabling Breakthrough Science: Changing the World with the IPCC AR4”**

This was a briefing on climate models being developed at NCAR. Charts are on the CASC website. Lawrence covered the results of NCAR models and the CI needed to do what they do, and planning for the next phase. Special emphasis on the critical role of CI to their mission. Valuable tool for analysis (“let the scientists be scientists”) and for information distribution.

10:00 am **Al Kellie, Associate Director, NCAR – Newly established NCAR satellite location, research priorities at NCAR.**

Charts will be on the CASC website. Overview of CI history at NCAR, including plans to move computing facilities to Wyoming.

11:00 am **CASC Future Activities:**

SC07 Luncheon will be on Tuesday, November 13. Discussion about how to carry yesterday's conversation forward on how we address Track 2 and reaching out to scientists. Discussed re-design of the CASC website. There is interest in a password protected, members-only area only for things like the Washington Report. A nominating committee for next year's officers has been suggested.

12 Noon Lunch

1:00pm Adjourn

The meeting was closed with a sincere round of applause showing our appreciation for the delightful surroundings and support from our colleagues at NCAR.

Next Meeting: November 13, 2007 luncheon at SC07, Reno, NV.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Pritchard
CASC Secretary/Treasurer
OSC