

Hipcat Face-to-face Meeting 02-Nov-06

Insors Video Conference

Attendees

Judy Cox – UH
Borries Demeler – UTHSCSA
Nick Grishin – UTSW
Chris Hempel - TACC
Tsung-I Mark Huang – UH
Lennart Johnson – UH
Steve Johnson – A&M
Andre Kerstens – UTEP
Josten Ma – UH
Jeremy Mann – UTHSCSA
Rosalinda Mendez – UH
David Parker – BMC
Jerry Perez – TTU
Alan Sill - TTU
Phil Smith – TTU
Warren Smith – TACC
David Steffen – BMC
Jae Yu – UT Arlington

NOTE: because of the bad sound quality, not everything good be understood and many answers below have been confirmed with HiPCAT members; many also have not been confirmed. Please let Andre know if any errors are found.

Notes

- Phil asks everybody about their preparations for SC'06. TACC, UTEP, UH and TTH will have an exhibition booth; Phil is going to send fluffy tigers for all members of the TIGRE group to be shown at the respective SC booths. David Parker from Baylor and Borries Demeler from UTHSCSA will go, but don't have booths.
- TIGRE update by Warren:
 - Milestone end of November: client-side toolkit, meta-scheduler.
 - Looking into cycle-scavenging desktop grid computing possibilities.
 - TIGRE is always looking for more users and applications.
- TIGRE update by Alan (from the email):
 - I feel that all of the people involved closely with the project up to now believe that it has so far been a big success. We have met or exceeded milestones, and also have achieved an implied goal of training up more people at TIGRE institutions in use of grid software and methods. This latter could be the longest-lasting effect of the TIGRE project

- We feel that access to resources is key. In the process of seeking out application users that we have been following, having the ability to promise them access to significant resources (and to tools to share those resources, including computing and data, with others), is a key feature that we would like to provide. In this regard, Warren mentioned the effort recently started to try to incorporate access to cycle-scavenging campus grids such as Condor and (in principle) BOINC into the development of the TIGRE scheduler.
- Finally, I mentioned that the new grid system for physics and chemistry described in our TTU update by Phil is intended to be primarily a TIGRE resource, the high energy physics and medical physics access to which will be governed through THEGrid as a TIGRE VO.
- Jerry Perez updates on CDLT:
 - INSORS has released an upgrade of their software.
 - An INSORS client for Mac OS X has been released (Jerry: where can it be downloaded?)
 - INSORS can work together with AccessGrid via an AG Venue server; Jeremy offers that UTHSCSA hosts a HiPCAT venue room on their server. Jerry will discuss this off-line with him.
- HiPCAT institutional updates:
 - UTEP:
 - Pat and Michela's group got a couple of papers accepted to conferences.
 - A student of the GCLab is presenting a poster on the BOINC simulator at SC'06.
 - We are working to configure the donated Scripps cluster. Hope to be operational by X-mas.
 - UTEP, UNM, NMSU and NMT have an exhibition booth at SC06 together.
 - Andre asks Alan whether he received the email on boinc that Michela sent a couple of weeks ago. The answer is hardly understandable, but Alan will send an email off-line.
 - TAMU:
 - No updates.
 - TACC
 - Has been awarded a grant for a 420 TeraFLOPS Sun system that is planned to go into production by July 2007. An upgrade is planned for October 2007. 5% time will be allocated to Texas institutions.
 - People are writing proposals on large scale visualization, massive distributed computing and cluster management tools.
 - 4 courses in the scientific computing curriculum are being taught.
 - Alan asks how much access TIGRE will have to Lonestar and the new system. According to Jay, the 'TIGRE' allocation level on Lonestar is undecided. This needs to be determined in the context of the contributions of all TIGRE institutions. There is no allocation on the new Sun system for TIGRE. There is an allocation upper limit—up to 5%--for Texas institutions, ranging from R1's to community colleges.

A TIGRE allocation could in theory be made from this pool, more likely would be a HiPCAT allocation, and HiPCAT could then sub-allocate from this pool (with usage of TIGRE as a possible consideration).

- 30 million of the 59 million grant that TACC got awarded is for hardware. 29 million for support for the next 4 years.
- UTHSCSA
 - Borries and his student are going to SC'06 to present a paper.
 - Jemery gives an update on their Opteron cluster.
- BCM
 - Space reorganization that impacts David's group.
 - Lots of activity going on regarding patient data (regulatory)
- UTSW
 - Nick has no updates except sending his congrats to Jay for the award.
- TTU
 - TTU is in the process of installing a 220+ core system dedicated to grid computing (tigre and physics department, OSG).
- UH
 - UH will host a Python Bootcamp next year and is organizing the HPCC conference.
 - Rosalie provides some more details on the conference.
- UT Arlington
 - Congrats to TACC for award.
 - Jae is in the process of establishing a project to use TACC's Lonestar resource.
 - UTA is implementing the Mona Lisa based monitoring system.
 - They are working on the local replica catalog and are figuring out how this can be used for HiPCAT.
- No new business to discuss.
- Phil adjourns the meeting at 2:20 pm. There were quite some audio problems and updates and info might have gone unnoticed.