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Staying Ahead of the Cro-Magnons: Managing High-Performance Computing Resources

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Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) has developed and implemented the use of a database-backed web application to capture, track, and prioritize estimates of future system usage for all of its supercomputers, compute clusters, and visualization systems. It is called HERT (meaning HPC Estimations & Requirements Tool) and was built to facilitate the achievement of the best possible fair-share policies and load-balancing for the users, the highest utilization numbers for the system administrators, and to ease the prioritization of jobs for upper level management. It allows users to specify urgency and importance of the work they need to perform on the systems, it organizes and reports this data in many forms, is regularly utilized by high-level managers to ensure the appropriate classification of work to-be-done, and most importantly, it is currently integrated with system queues and will be directly tied to job schedulers for immediate implementation of the action and direction given by these upper level managers.

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