Advancing Research Computing on Campuses:
Best Practices Workshop Summary

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Scope and Disclaimer

- Advancing Research Computing on Campuses: Best Practices Workshop

- March 17 - 19, 2015

- Clemson, SC

- Sponsored by ACI-REF and NCSA

- Disclaimer (not affiliated with ACI REFs proposal)

Charge

- Context is campus cluster, not national center

  - different needs

  - own funding

  - how to most effectively deliver resources

- Many campuses doing this

  - advantageous to share ideas and resources

OSG Relationships

- OSG connections to ACI-REFs

  - Wisconsin (Livny Chief Scientist)

  - Clemson, Harvard, Hawaii, USC, Utah

- OSG Training

- Various OSG-related researchers, personnel

People Oriented

- Community building among Facilitators

  - career line/ building workforce, need a place to land

  - talent development

- "I'll be with you to help with the 1st steps"

  - Face-to-face

  - Office hours

"Keep Pulse of Campus"

- Researcher engagement at campus (local) level

  - face-to-face essential form of support

  - Metrics include number of meetings, tutorials

- ACI REFs need user level understanding

  - often from discipline area

  - desire to engage others: "you don't get to not communicate"

Outstanding Issues

- Several campuses need to burst out serial jobs

  - few technical details of how to do so

- Complex data issues

  - Digital Humanities (e.g. MR)

  - ease of data movement

- GPUs, parallel jobs, relationship to AWS

Questions

- What about the rest of us?

    - ACI REFs considering how to scale

    - leaves a large community potentially disconnected

    - Does OSG need/desire community building?

- How to provide physical resources?

    - AWS?

    - Large or Regional centers?

    - Campus clusters?

Questions

- How should OSG facilitate campus engagement?

- Should OSG help (small) campus clusters become resource providers?

  - What are the downsides?

- How should OSG engage campus scientists?

  - Many campuses have a type of ACI REF – should OSG prioritize training of trainers?

Opportunities

- Several campuses want to off-load serial jobs

  - Can we further enable that?

- Several campuses are willing to share resources

  - Want to maintain ownership

  - How best to include them?

  - Should we?

More Information

- Workshop website

  - http://citi.clemson.edu/arcc/index.html#

- Award announcement

  - http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1341935

- Clemson news release

  - http://newsstand.clemson.edu/mediarelations/clemson-receives-5-3m-to-broaden-cyberinfrastructure-education-outreach/