

Research Computing Advisory Committee

Minutes Mar 28, 2022 (taken by Erik Deumens)

Present: Paul Avery, Nikolay Bliznyuk, Susmita Datta, Erik Deumens, Richard Hennig, Rafa Munoz-Carpena, Massoud Rouhizadeh, Plato Smith, Jack Stenner, Bruce Vogel

Updates

- HiPerGator RV

- The move of ResVault to new hardware and several updates to the tiCrypt software led to serious impact on some work groups using ResVault/HiPerGator-RV. The College of Pharmacy was impacted in one project using CMS data. Some new ITAR projects could not be onboarded.
- Emergency measures were taken to fix the problems. At this time 95% of the problems have been fixed and there is no more work-stoppage. All problems are expected to be fixed in the next few weeks.

- HITRUST certification of HiPerGator

- An ITN to certify HiPerGator 3.0 and HiPerGator AI, which are Linux-based HPC systems, for work with protected health information (PHI), which means compliance with HIPAA.
- References of 6 companies have been checked and will be invited to present the details of their proposals.

- Federated identity

- Users from other universities in Florida and in the Southeastern Conference (SEC) need to get GatorLink credentials to use HiPerGator. This is particularly cumbersome for onboarding students for classes each semester.
- We have been working to implement federated identity, using InCommon, to allow users to authenticate with the credentials from their institution.
- We now have a firm project plan in place to bring this functionality to production for the classes being taught in Fall of 2022.

- UFIT Research Computing staff changes

- We have lost some staff in these turbulent times. One position has been open since Jan 1. In the past month two more senior people resigned: Thomas Samant, in the restricted computing area, and Charlie Taylor, in the advanced system administration and application support areas.

Discussion

- The issues with ResVault caused a lot of concerns at the highest levels of the University. It also create the impression with some people that the whole HiPerGator was broken.
- Prof. Massoud Rouhizadeh commented that College of Pharmacy was impacted by the problems with ResVault/HiPerGator-RV, but his work on AI with PHI in ResVault worked fine the whole time.

Next meeting will be on May 9, 2022 from 1:00 – 1:50 pm. The meeting will be Zoom only. An invitation will be sent.