COE Research Computing Committee
MINUTES JANUARY 24, 2020

ATTENDEES

Present: Daning Huang (Aero); Greg Pavlak (AE); Xiao Liu (BME); Mike Hillman (CEE); John Sampson (CSE); Christian Peco (ESM); Hui Yang (IME); Bladimir Ramos-Alvarado (ME); William Walters (NucE); Jerry Ciolkosz (IT); George Lesieutre (ADR) Scott Milner (ChE)-by telephone; Guest speaker: Jim Leous

Absent: Cibin Raj (ABE); Viveck Cadambe (EE); Greg Madden (Assoc. CIO for Research);

Discussion topics:

1. UPDATEs FROM JIM LEOUS (GUEST PRESENTER)

Greg Madden is Associate Chief Information Officer for Research and joins this meeting to provide updates on university-level high performance computing activities:

Jim Leous works with Greg Madden and was asked to talk with the committee and address the topic of Cloud Storage Options, which was referenced in a mass email sent to the university on 1/15/2020. Jim has supplied us with his power point presentation, which is attached.

Aside from his presentation, a few other points were made:

- Jim emphasized that no decision has yet been made regarding BOX and moving forward, whether the contract will be renewed or not.
- Usage of BOX is huge, but not just for documents. They are now aware of how much BOX is used for research data, automatic downloads from research tools, and archiving.
- If the decision is made to transition to another platform, One Drive or Google, there will be transition tools to help. Some are being testing currently. In any event, Jim expects if this occurs, BOX will be renewed for at least one more year and possibly two, to assist in the transition process.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Faculty: If you need Greg’s help with computing or IT in general, you can contact him at gem19@psu.edu. Do not hesitate to contact Greg with questions.

2. UPDATEs FROM MIKE HILLMAN

Mike is chair of the COE research committee:

- Mike attends the ICS committee meetings:
  - ICS has changed its name: Institute for Computational and Data Sciences (ICDS)
  - Flyers for a Microsoft Symposium on Big Data will be out soon. They are still looking for sponsors, if you have any suggestions, let Mike know.
- Mike announced that he will be stepping down as this committee’s chair soon. Please let George know if you are interested in becoming the next chair. Mike described the responsibilities and said the time commitment is light. George will collect replies from interested members and will address at the next meeting.
**CONCLUSIONS**

- Mike described a problem he has with data transfer from another university within his research group. Jim Leous says there is a network engineer who can run diagnostics and improve these situations, just contact Jim or Greg Madden if you have a problem.

**CONCLUSIONS**

- Please contact George if you are willing to chair this committee or have any questions about the responsibilities.

### 3. UPDATES FROM JERRY CIOLKOSZ

**DISCUSSION**

- OneDrive: current limits include:
  - 5 terabytes of storage, can be upped if needed and requested
  - File size limit of 15 GB currently, expected to increase to 100 GB soon.
  - Tools for transferring data: To facilitate an anticipated migration from Box to OneDrive, Penn State is currently testing a data transfer tool called Mover. Mover is a cloud tool, owned by Microsoft, that can be used to copy data directly from Box to OneDrive. Once initiated, Mover copies the files from one platform to the other. Users would still need to delete their data from Box once the copy has been completed and verified. Assuming the testing of Mover confirms the product is appropriate for our needs, we can expect an announcement of its availability along with instructions for its use.

- February 25, 2020, Microsoft event for faculty, “Immersion Event for Researchers.” There will also be time in this event, on the 26th, dedicated to staff and students. Additional information and registration links are available at: [https://nittanyai.psu.edu/events/](https://nittanyai.psu.edu/events/)

### 4. UPDATES FROM GEORGE LESIEUTRE

**DISCUSSION**

- George announced that he is a member of the search committee for the Vice President-IT & CIO position, which is currently unfilled. He will keep the committee updated and believes it will be possible to have input.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Minutes by Susie Sherlock, Assistant to the Assoc. Dean for Research.

**ACTION:** Susie will be scheduling the next meeting for late March; a doodle poll will be sent in late February.