STFC Computing Strategy

...status of...

GridPP 35 meeting
Liverpool , 10-11 Sep 2015

Pete Clarke

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  ➢ LHC Upgrade
  ➢ SKA
  ➢ LSST
  ➢ DiRAC data sets
  ➢ Diamond and other facilities
  ➢ .....

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  ➢ Disciplines and even projects tend to run separate infrastructures
  ➢ GridPP and DIRAC are separate
  ➢ Facilities computing needs upgrading, and is completely separate.
  ➢ Hartree is separate from everything else.

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It is in the interests of all STFC scientific communities and facilities users to adopt a more joined up approach

❑ STFC launched a review of overall "Computing Strategy" in 2014

Aims and purpose of the Strategy

➢ **Identify current and future requirements of STFC's scientific and industrial user communities**

➢ **Recommend how STFC can best support the provision of these needs**

➢ **Identify the relation to the wider UK and international setting**

➢ **Consider how to maximise the impact of STFC e-infrastructure both for science and for industrial engagement. The Strategy will be used:**

    ▪ **To inform STFC's decision-making on e-infrastructure**

    ▪ **To inform STFC science communities, other Research Councils and stakeholders of STFC's priorities for e-infrastructure**

    ▪ **As a resource for preparing for spending reviews and responding to funding opportunities**

    ▪ **To inform the Scientific Computing Department's (SCD) strategy for the development of new compute infrastructure and service.**

❑ The process was:

- ➢ Survey in 2014 of current computing facilities : 76 responses
  [GridPP made comprehensive response and there were 13 Tier 2 submissions]
- ➢ Consultation in Jan 2015 : sent to PIs, Advisory Panel Chairs, User committees
  [64 responses]
- ➢ Strategy drafted - sent to Science Board July 2015
- ➢ Now in final draft. Seen by STFC EB and will go to STFC Council shortly.
- ➢ Implementation plan to be drawn up.

❑ The team was

- ➢ Janet Seed, Rachel Renolds (STFC Programmes)
- ➢ Stephen Fairhurst (CAP Chair),
- ➢ David Corney, Juan Bicarregui   (SCD)

❑ The strategy is now nearly complete (final editing and final approval)

- ➢ Therefore we cannot give details at this meeting.

- ➢ However I can give my personal (unofficial) feeling of the sorts of things which are likely to emerge, and which will affect how we evolve GridPP over the lifetime of GridPP5

It is obvious that:

❑ STFC will need to plan in a more holistic way for an order of magnitude increase in computing, storage and networking over next decade across the entire STFC supported computing sector - including facilities

❑ There will have to be more coherence across STFC computing provision:

➤ Encouragement to share expertise and resources across STFC and Encouragement of new projects to work with established projects

➤ Recognition of need to ease access to resources for more communities

➤ The need to develop common AAA system - bigger than just STFC

➤ Inclusion of computing planning at earlier stage of projects to enable more coherence.

❑ Many (most submissions) will have pointed out to the continuing problem of obtaining software engineering support to address the "new hardware problem".

❑ Similarly many submissions will have pointed out
  ➢ the need to maintain computing expertise needed to support the STFC science programme
  ➢ the continuing problem of career paths for computing staff

We expect the strategy to address these points

❑ The review team is well aware of the great importance of research networking to science and the strong and beneficial relationship with JISC-Janet will be maintained

Sorry - not much more can be said at this meeting

We will circulate strategy as soon as pubilshed

We should take careful note – as it sets the backdrop for computing support

We should engage enthusiastically