



EDUCAUSE

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CIOs Reach Across the Aisle to Enable Collaborative Research Innovation

Curt Hillegas, Princeton University • Clare van den Blink, Pace University • Alan Wolf, Harvard University
Moderator - Florence D. Hudson, Internet2 • Presenter - Rick McMullen, Internet2

Agenda

- Opening and introductions
- Insights and Best Practices of CIO's reaching across the aisle to enable collaborative research innovation
- Panel discussion



Presenters and Panelists

Moderator:

Florence D. Hudson, Senior Vice President and Chief Innovation Officer, Internet2

Presenter:

Donald F. McMullen, Senior Director for Researcher Engagement and Development, Internet2

Panelists:

- Curtis W. Hillegas, Associate CIO, Research Computing, Princeton University
- Clare van den Blink, Vice President and CIO, Pace University
- Alan Wolf, Managing Director of Academic Technology Services, Harvard University



A starting point for the discussion

Some basic principles:

Practically all areas of research and scholarly activity are dependent on information technology

How an institution responds to the challenges of supporting researchers individually and collectively is a critical factor in determining the success of the institution's research portfolio (e.g., research expenditures, faculty engagement and success, research education and training success)

Success of the research and scholarship enterprise depends, in part, on an intentional, strategic engagement by the IT organization directly with researchers and administrative offices (VPR/SRO, Provost, etc.)



Basic IT building blocks for innovative research and scholarship

Socio-

- Working partnerships that include CIO, VPR, Provost, Dean of Faculties, researchers, support facilities and staff
- IT governance processes that include researcher and research office inputs
- Research IT support tuned to the research and scholarship needs of the institution

Technical

- Security policies and procedures that enable both research activities and research compliance
- Federated identity management through InCommon and Research and Scholarship attribute release
- Connectivity that is not a barrier to collaboration or use of external resources



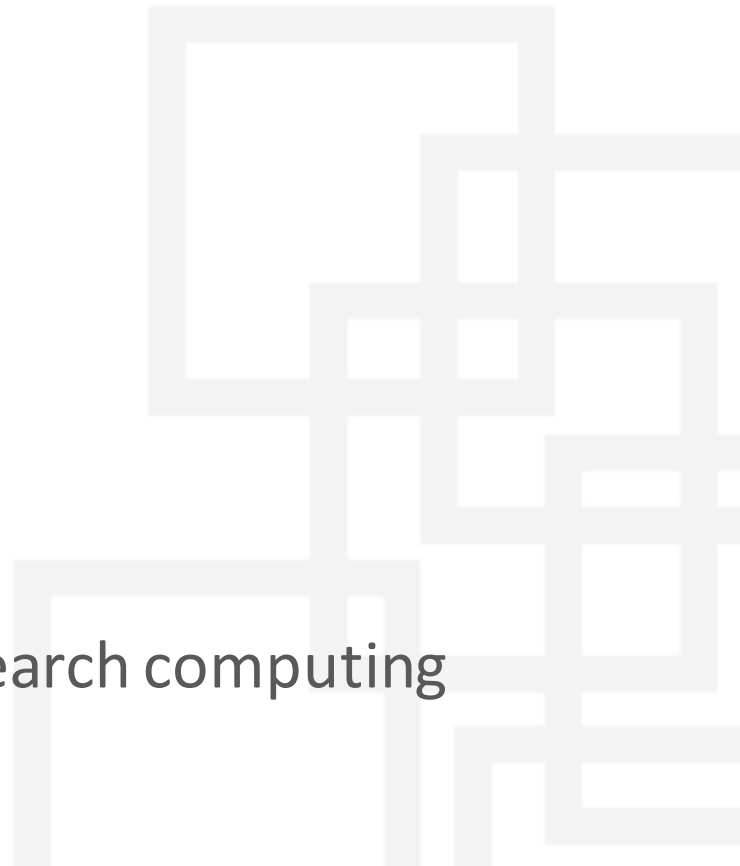
“Broadening the Reach”: Engaging all kinds of campuses



- Funded as an NSF ACI “special project” starting in Fall of 2013, PI: Stephen Wolff, co-PI: Wendy Huntoon
- Support from NSF through grant ACI-1342995 is gratefully acknowledged
- 68 sites requested visits, funded for 30, 20 campus visits completed to date
- Aim is: “...to support the enhancement of campus network infrastructure and external connectivity of colleges and universities, including but not limited to those in EPSCoR states, having notable research projects, even though the institution may not be primarily research-focused.
- Through two primary approaches:
 - “...workshops focused on campus infrastructures and external connectivity to support research and teaching.”
 - Campus visits to assist with implementation of infrastructure, development of competitive proposals, building mindshare in CI topics



“Broadening The Reach” Interest Areas from campus visits

- Campus research community engagement
 - Community and participation
 - Proposal preparation
 - Identity management
 - Technical, networking
 - Technical, cyberinfrastructure and research computing
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Lessons learned from “Broadening the Reach”

- Smaller colleges & universities have interests and cyberinfrastructure needs distinctly different to research intensive universities...
- ...BUT they have pressing needs for cyberinfrastructure that are sometimes as difficult for them to meet as in the “R1s”
- Site visits are a great time to begin or reinforce connections between IT and faculty; preparing a CC* proposal often starts new, important relationships across a campus
- Workshops and on-site visits are both impactful and complementary
 - Broad audience with set agenda vs. smaller groups and more time to discuss and socialize ideas across faculty, IT staff and administrators
 - Regional network organizations are great partners in this activity



More lessons learned from Broadening the Reach

- Open dialog that includes IT, faculty and regional network representatives brokered by outsiders (the BTR site visit team) is generally welcomed and sometimes tactically useful
- Overall, interest in topics covers the list, but the mix of interests differs from one institution to the next; we are constantly adding new topics and supporting materials
- An EPSCoR jurisdiction's goals and S&T plan can drive diverse cyberinfrastructure needs across multiple campuses
 - Broader intra- and inter-campus coordination of research/education/grad training IT plans with state EPSCoR office's plans
 - Coordination between NSF campus cyberinfrastructure programs, MRI, and CRI programs with EPSCoR office



Our Panelists Welcome Your Questions

Curtis W. Hillegas, Associate CIO, Research Computing,
Princeton University

Donald F. McMullen, Senior Director for Researcher
Engagement and Development, Internet2

Clare van den Blink, Vice President and CIO, Pace University



Help Us Improve and Grow

Thank you for participating
in today's session.

We're very interested in your feedback. Please take a minute to fill out the session evaluation found within the conference mobile app, or the online agenda.





Thank you

Some questions to consider about relationships

1. How do you as a CIO or senior IT manager interact with your VPR/CRO to meet the research cyberinfrastructure needs on your campus? What are your respective roles in that collaboration/relationship?
2. What is the funding model for addressing these needs (if there is one)? Is it mainly central university funds, grant funds, or a mixture of the two?
3. What would you see as the main challenges in these relationships and funding models?
4. What are some successes your campus can claim in your research infrastructure activities? How were these activities successful?
5. If you do not currently partner with your CIO to provide research cyberinfrastructure, would that be something you would want to do? If so, what are some of the hurdles to overcome in establishing a partnership?



Some questions to consider about governance

6. How do faculty provide input to your research cyberinfrastructure activities? Do you conduct surveys, have an advisory board, etc.? Is there a more formal governance structure guiding these activities?
7. Does your strategic planning include developing a cyberinfrastructure plan that researchers can use in externally sponsored research proposals?



Some questions to consider about support models

8. Do you partner with other university leadership such as Provosts to provide a research cyber infrastructure for your faculty and students?
9. Do you employ “facilitators” to aid faculty in navigating the research cyberinfrastructure and graduate training at your university?
10. Do you have research computing training and outreach programs on your campus? If so, are these coordinated with other parts of the university?
11. What research computing facilities and services are available to your faculty? How do you balance supporting shared/central services with support for specific project or individual faculty?

