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IM Exec VTC 2007-10-23

Thu, 11/08/2007 - 6:34am — mobrien

Venue: VTC/ phone as needed

Attending: Barbara Benson, Don Henshaw, Hap Garritt, Margaret O'Brien, Corinna Gries, Eda Melendez-Colom, Barrie Collins, Nicole Kaplan, Todd Ackerman, John Campbell, James Brunt, Bill Michener, Matt Jones

Agenda:

1. 8:50-9:15 VTC testing and configuration
2. 9:15 – 9:30 Reports: EB (Henshaw); CI Plan/ISSE Update (Benson)
3. 9:30-9:45 Training Group Report (Kaplan)
4. 9:45-10:00 Schedule IMexec winter meeting and VTCs in Nov and Dec
5. 10:00-11:00 2008 IM Meeting, Theme, Focus and Participant Base, Options for Registration and Proceedings (Gries); Venue and Logistics (O'Brien)

1. Set up:45 min (beginning 30 min prior to scheduled start) not much improvement over September. In the future, LNO will post phone-in info the day before. The meeting will start on time, and those not able to connect right away via polycom can connect by phone while James W. works out the kinks behind-the-scene.

2. Reports

2.1 EB (Henshaw) VTCs monthly. next in early October

2.1.1. Mini symposium 2002-02-28 @ NSF. Organized by Chapin, Foster & Pickett. Theme: ideas from last science board mtg.

2.1.2. EB discussed decadal plan distribution, particularly distribution beyond LTER (to whom, when, how). All LTER folks should have access by now, either direct or thru website.

2.1.3. ChemDB: EB has received a proposal from Julia Jones (AND) to augment hydroDB with Stream chemistry. Forest Service has 20k (at OSU) earmarked for considering scope (what constituents, what changes are needed to schema). Julia has requested funds from LNO (none available), or in-kind. EB to forward Julia's request to NISAC. Particularly interested in what Trends project has already come up with when integrating chemistry data. should we expand hydrodb or adopt another solution? NK: discussion belongs in imexec, with inputs from nisac, perhaps at winter meeting.

2.1.4. Data audit proposal (aka implementation of data access policy) Issues raised by Chuck Hopkinson. HG: pie's policy is open, not necessarily compatible with network policy (but this policy doesn't allow PIE to track use of their data easily). JB: use of data audit system is optional. Eventually, there could be some top-down policies established. Refer to attached doc from James.

2.1.5. May be an upcoming sci council meeting in Moorea (year ?)

2.2 CI Plan/ISSE Update (Benson)

Decadal plan has been submitted. Officially this is the end of planning grant. Responsibility for forward movement now belongs to imexec, nisac, Ino - another reason to bring a nisac rep into these conf calls. (Ken, Linda, or Kristin, not necessarily chair)

3. Training Group Report (Kaplan)

3.1. information management of spatial databases is available -- a training option not discussed at IMC-2007 mtg. Will Short, (trainer from Virginia Commonwealth U) has been working with OBFS.

Additionally, EB wants to know what gis community is doing, what kind of analysis?

Discussion (main points - correct if I misquoted!):

BC: you can attach geography to anything, but usually have research goal driving it. If all data were available with geo info attached, would geo tools drive the research questions?

CG: If sites want/need geo data, then what the IMs need to know is: how to set up a spatial database, how to get the shape files in there, how to get them out.

BJB: some sites already have the basics covered, and could be the trainers. We don't know who they are since they usually don't attend IMC meetings

BM: Will Short has taught a week-long course. Students receive ESRI certification (? or at least use arc-gis textbook). Certified trainer is the best choice. Classes include pre-assessment to determine skill level of students. Even those with gis background will benefit.

CG: Must differentiate better between "GIS training" and "Spatial Information management training". IMC requested extra money to bring gis reps to 07 meeting. This was denied, because most researchers felt that IMs didn't need to receive "GIS training", and classes are available locally, as needed.

NK: the EB expressed an interest in what gis community is doing.

BJB: must specify how activities at sites contribute to operation as a network.

BC: consistent level of knowledge across network is desirable.

3.2. other training choices available (presented by Ino staff). About one day each, and would not require a lot of prep. Can be combined if prerequisites are appropriate. Include:

- xml basics IsanG (supports consistent level of knowledge)
- db management on web, w/PHP (marsh)
- AJAX
- XSLT
- JPgraph and realtime data
- intro to web mashups (google and javascript)
- cyber security

3.3 Timing goal: March 2008

4. Schedule IMexec winter meeting and next VTC before Thanksgiving?

Using Doodle. Eda to set up dates in November and Dec, and Imexec winter meeting in February 08, in ALB.

5. 2008 IM Meeting

(note: Matt Jones and Bill Michener participated in these discussions)

5.1 Theme, Discussion of Focus and Participant Base, Options for Registration and Proceedings (Gries)

5.1.1 Theme discussion: Some concerned that a "theme" cant be separated generally from data, for example secondary themes emerge-- like QA/QC. Several people voiced concern about the proposed format: ie, is this a meeting or a conference? What is the goal? Is this a "regular" im meeting with extra people, or is this a international meeting on IM?

summary of discussion: CG: event is planned for 3 days. first day for IMC-ony, the following 2 days will be in conference format, with presentations, but with longer times for discussion than at most professional meetings. We are proposing a theme, but broader submissions will be accepted. "IMC-day" is up to us.

NK: our intent is partly to give our IMs a conference-style opportunity, but still focus on deployment, So our audience could/should include obfs, pisco, ners?, coos

DH: EB wants lter to stay in touch with other observatory networks. We should try to attract them (waters, obsf, scoos -- people send contacts to corinna).

5.1.3: options for organization, registration, proceedings:

MJ: Could engage TDWG, NCEAS or ecoinformatics as co-sponsor, and let them manage infrastructure. They have done it before (ocs already in use at nceas) For proceedings: suggested using ecological informatics (both MJ and BM can facilitate). Process: abstracts are reviewed before (conf), then papers are reviewed after. For ISEI6, pre-proceedings got 30 abstracts, but only 8 papers accepted. CG: Program committee: some from this imexec, some others. Email Corinna with your interest. Action item: contact TDWG, either they or ecoinformatics.org will set up pkp/ocs server.

5.2 Logistics:

late breaking news: Any contract in ALB for weeks near the balloon fiesta requires signing by 10/24 (tomorrow). Regarding an anticipated meeting size of 200: per George Garcia – not possible, consider a different week. Looking at other weeks originally proposed, mostly in September. Time allotted for VTC running out - logistics discussion to continue over email, esp in light of date change.

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