



Update – December 2008

NEWS

- - SURAGrid Call to Action - -

Since publishing the [SURAGrid Strategic Plan](#), the SURAGrid Governance Committee has focused on aligning existing SURAGrid working groups and identifying new working groups in support of the SURAGrid Strategic Plan milestones. In order for the working group and governance structures to be effective and the stated goals met successfully, it is critical that all community members participate and lend their intellect, skills, and a little bit of time. It is your engagement and our collective work that will ensure that the SURAGrid infrastructure, software services and tools, and support are in alignment with your campus infrastructure and support our researchers' cyberinfrastructure needs.

The current committees and working groups are listed below. Please contact the people listed to join their working group or get more information. These are active working groups, so as work progresses some of this information may change. Updates on working group activities will be posted on the SURAGrid website in January 2009.

SURAGrid Governance Committee

Description: This is the elected governance group for SURAGrid. The work of the SGC is documented on the SURAGrid Governance web pages (http://sura.org/programs/sura_grid_gov.html).

Contact: Art Vandenberg (avandenberg@gsu.edu) or John-Paul Robinson (jpr@uab.edu)

SURAGrid Membership Development Working Group

Description: On behalf of the SURAGrid Governance Committee (SGC), manages membership development including communications with prospective members, coordinating the annual membership renewal process, and other membership management related tasks as needed.

Contact: Mike Sachon (msachon@odu.edu) or Linda Akli (akli@sura.org)

Access Management Working Group

Description: Provides planning and technical support for managing access to SURAGrid, including development/maintenance of access management-related components (currently SURAGrid BridgeCA, iKey distribution, SURAGrid CA, LDAP & User Account Management system).

Contact: Jim Jokl (jaj@virginia.edu) or Mary Fran Yafchak (maryfran@sura.org)

Funding Review Working Group

Description: Established to review external funding opportunities for their potential to leverage or support SURAGrid activities, then field ideas and spin-off discussions towards collaborative proposal development among SURAGrid members and SURA.

Contact: Mary Fran Yafchak (maryfran@sura.org)

Teaching Environment Working Group

Description: Developing a teaching environment on SURAGrid for use by faculty and students in courses involving distributing computing and grids. Also develops education-specific collaborative proposals that can leverage or support SURAGrid.

Contact: Mary Fran Yafchak (maryfran@sura.org)

Condor Working Group

Description: Formed initially as a thinking group, based on strong interest from participants' in furthering their knowledge and experience with both Condor resources and applications.

Contact: Renato Figuieredo (renato@ACIS.UFL.EDU) or Mary Fran Yafchak (maryfran@sura.org)

Accounting Data Working Group

Description: Developing a unified view of SURAgriD usage information, including the development and maintenance of account usage information components (currently SURAgriD usage data scheme, data conversion scripts, data report and publishing).

Contact: Dali Wang (dwang@sura.org) or Jaroslav Klc (jklc@gsu.edu)

Metascheduler Working Group

Description: Planning for SURAgriD metascheduler/gridway functionality.

Contact: John-Paul Robinson (jpr@uab.edu) or Dali Wang (dwang@sura.org)

Package Stack Working Group

Description: Provides planning and technical support for packaged SURAgriD Stack, including development and maintenance of packaged stack components.

Contact: Alan Sill (Alan.Sill@ttu.edu) or Dali Wang (dwang@sura.org)

Strategic Grid Relationships Working Group

Description: Developing SURAgriD-OSG integration plan and exploring strategic relationships with other grid initiatives, including caBIG and TeraGrid.

Contact: John-Paul Robinson (jpr@uab.edu) or Mary Fran Yafchak (maryfran@sura.org)

GPGPU Working Group

Description: Planning for supporting General-Purpose (GP) computation on GPUs.

Contact: Dali Wang (dwang@sura.org)

- - SURAgriD adds resources, continues growing in aggregate compute power! - -

Old Dominion University expanded its Mileva cluster, a long-time asset in the portal, quadrupling its peak performance to 179 GigaFlops. Mileva is a Sun Fire X2100 with 2.8 GHz dual core AMD Opterons with 2 GB RAM per node, running CentOS and PBS scheduler. Mileva has 9.5 TeraBytes of scratch disk. Contact Mahantesh Halappanavar (MHalappa@odu.edu) for more information on Mileva.

Georgia State University added the ACSrocks2 computing resource with an aggregate 160 Gigaflops of peak performance. ACSrocks2 is a 25 node Dell Optiplex GX270 cluster running CentOS with LSF scheduler. ACSrocks was built following the SURAgriD Stack software package that is supported by Jerry Perez and Alan Sill out of SURAgriD member site Texas Tech University. Contact Georgia State's Nicole Geiger (istnpg@langate.gsu.edu) if you would like more information about the ACSrocks2 resource.

You can find details of each of the SURAgriD Portal resources, including system admin contact info, by clicking on the resources "NAME" column at the portal (<https://gridportal.sura.org/gridsphere/gridsphere>).

SURAgriD Growth 2005 - 2008	
	Compute Power (TeraFlops)
9/2005	1.3
9/2006	2.9
9/2007	7.1
9/2008	17.9
9/2008	18.2

- - SURAgriD at SC08 - -



Sue Fratkin & Linda Akli at the TACC Booth
 Photographer: Melyssa Fratkin



Ray Hyatt (University of Kentucky), Dali Wang (SURA),
 Tarynn Witten (Virginia Commonwealth University),
 Gary Crane (SURA) & Linda Akli (SURA)

SURAgriD members and staff could be found all over the SC08 exhibit floor and in many technical sessions, tutorials, workshops, panel discussions, and vendor sponsored events.

- At LSU/CCT, RENCI, and TTU booths, Gary Crane of SURA briefed attendees on SURAgriD's mission, vision, and activities.
- Linda Akli's SURAgriD Outreach presentation in the SC08 education booth resulted in a very informative dialogue with TeraGrid resource providers and users as well as a representative from the K-12 education community.
- A group of approximately 35 participated in a lively Birds of a Feather Session (BOF) entitled "Impact of Supercomputing on Society: Community Outreach at HPC Centers" co-hosted by Dali Wang and Rebecca Martinez of TACC.
- Gary Crane of SURA co-hosted with Gabrielle Allen and Dan Katz of LSU/CCT a very interactive BOF entitled "Traditional & Distributed HPC - What has changed? What remains the same?"
- IBM hosted a p-Series briefing for SURAgriD members that was well attended and resulted in a focused exchange between IBM staff and SURAgriD member representatives.
- To a standing room only crowd in the Microsoft theater, Dali Wang presented "SURA-MSHPC Distributed Computational Platform: A Pilot Project", a short demo of a geosciences application, and a VCU Virtual Parasite Project visualization video.
- At the Microsoft User Group meeting, Linda Akli of SURA and Tarynn Witten of Virginia Commonwealth University presented a poster on the SURA Microsoft Distributed High Performance Computing Pilot.



*Dali Wang presents SURA MS HPC in the Microsoft Theater
Photographer: Ray Hyatt, University of Kentucky*

UPCOMING Events

- Dec 7-12, 2008 IEEE e-Science 2008 Conference, Indianapolis, IN, <http://escience2008.iu.edu>;
Dali Wang of SURA will present "SURA-MSHPC Distributed Computational Platform: A Pilot Project" and a geosciences application demo.
- Feb 1–3, Net@EDU Annual Meeting 2009: Cyberinfrastructure for E-Research, Tempe, AZ.
<http://net.educause.edu/NMM09>
- Mar 2 – 6, Open Science Grid Annual Meeting, Livingston, LA
<http://indico.fnal.gov/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=2012>

All issues of SURAgriD update can be found at http://sura.org/programs/sura_grid_communications.html.
Please submit comments and contributions for inclusion to Linda Akli at akli@sura.org.

