eResearch State Agencies

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DESCRIPTION

Co-ordinated by Intersect, this Birds of a Feather session is for the purpose of sharing approaches and experience between the various Australian state-based eResearch agencies – Intersect, QCIF, VeRSI, VPAC, TPAC, eRSA and iVEC. It provides an opportunity to find out about how the other agencies are approaching engagement with the research community and national initiatives, and to discuss alternate models for providing eResearch services and products and their pros and cons.

The key goal of the BoF is for those doing engagement at the State level to network with and learn from others engaged in similar activities in other states.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND, AND WHY

This BoF is open to any and all people working for eResearch service organisations, but is primarily targeted towards those actively working in engagement activities within the State-based eResearch agencies: Intersect, QCIF, VeRSI, VPAC, TPAC, eRSA and iVEC.

Participants will learn about how things work in other states, receive some feedback on how their own agency’s approach is viewed by others outside the state, and get to know each other, hopefully thereby building useful relationships for future collaborative activities.

OUTLINE

The BoF will include brief presentations from each participating state-based agency, followed by general discussion.

1. Brief Presentation from each participating eResearch State Agency:
   a. Intersect – Dr Joe Thurbon
   b. QCIF – Dr Graham Chen
   c. VPAC – Dr Bill Appelbe / Dr Peter Blain
   d. VeRSI – Dr Ann Borda
   e. TPAC – Dr Peter Blain
   f. eRSA – Mary Hobson
   g. iVEC – Luke Edwards

Each agency will briefly cover the following topics:

- Who are the target audience for your services and products?
- What eResearch services and products does your agency provide and what is your service model?
What is your approach to eResearch engagement?

Key successes, failures and challenges

35 minutes (5 minutes each)

2. Open discussion.

This part of the session will provide an opportunity for participants to ask each other the thinking behind the approaches presented, provide feedback and to float ideas for alternatives based on their own experiences.

25 minutes

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Dr Anne Cregan (Convenor)

Anne Cregan is an eResearch Analyst at Intersect. Her commercial IT background encompasses programming, business analysis, data mining and senior level management, as well as project management and co-ordination. Anne has a PhD in Computer Science from UNSW, specialising in semantic web technologies, and a BSc (Hons) in Mathematical Statistics and Psychology from the University of Sydney.

Dr Joe Thurbon

Joe Thurbon is the Member Services Manager at Intersect, as well as the eResearch Analyst at Southern Cross University. He has a research background in logic and diagrammatic reasoning, and has practiced software engineering for almost 20 years. For the eight years prior to joining Intersect, Joe worked at CISRA, Canon's Australian R&D company, researching and developing machine learning approaches to image processing problems. Joe has a BSc (Hons) from the University of Sydney in Computer Science and Psychology, and a PhD in Computer Science from the University of New South Wales.

Dr Bill Appelbe

Bill Appelbe is the founding CEO and Chief Scientist of Victorian Partnership For Advanced Computing (VPAC) since 2000. Bill completed an undergraduate honours science degree at Monash University in 1974 then completed a Masters then Doctorate in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering in 1978 at the University of British Columbia. Subsequently, he was employed as an Assistant Professor at the University of California, San Diego (1979-1986), then as an Associate Professor at Georgia Tech (1987-1998). Bill's research interests are in parallel programming tools, software engineering and software frameworks. Bill's research in parallel programming dates back to the early 1980's with the development of a unique parallel programming static debugging tool, followed by ongoing development of interactive parallelization toolkits and animation tools for parallel programming (funded by the NSF, IBM, and LANL). Bill is an honorary faculty member of Monash University and RMIT.

Dr Ann Borda

Ann Borda is the Executive Director of Victorian E-Research Strategic Initiative (VeRSI). Ann has held senior operational and management roles within academic, research and public sector organisations in the UK and Canada, with substantial experience in overseeing and delivering large-
scale initiatives to further education and research. Ann has formerly been responsible for engaging with eResearch communities across the UK in order to facilitate broader and more effective use of national eInfrastructures such as Grid services and data facilities, as well as support for new capabilities and research practices to enable leading edge research. This involved working closely with key stakeholders across the UK Research Councils, government, eScience Centres, and the JISC Committee for the Support of Research, among others, to identify national requirements. Priority areas consisted of the impact on institutions, Research Councils and communities of new technologies, relationships to industry, and the support infrastructures needed for researchers. Among other roles, Ann has overseen the UK Open Source Software Advisory Service and sat on the Advisory Board to participate on discussions about national dissemination efforts, sustainability and licensing. Additionally, Ann has pursued academic research on informatics, human-computer interaction and collaborative technologies, and has undertaken consultative projects on soft system design, data modeling and information systems development.

Dr Peter Blain

Peter Blain is the software development manager and software architect at the Tasmanian Partnership for Advanced Computing (TPAC) at the University of Tasmania. He is the project manager for a number of eResearch projects at TPAC, including the Marine and Climate Data Discovery and Access Project (MACDDAP). Dr Blain received his PhD from the School of Computing and Information Technology at Griffith University in 2007, and a Bachelor of Engineering in computer systems from the University of Queensland in 1992. Prior to joining TPAC in 2008, he worked as a freelance software engineer/consultant for large Australian and International financial services companies including the Bank of Tokyo, HSBC, Westpac, the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, and the National Australia Bank.

Dr Graham Chen

Graham Chen is the eResearch manager of the Queensland Cyber Infrastructure Foundation (QCIF). He is responsible for managing QCIF’s extensive HPC and Research Data Storage infrastructure and providing eResearch support services to QCIF’s six member universities in Queensland. He is also managing a range of QCIF Data Intensive Computing projects as well as managing QCIF’s interactions with national eResearch programs such as RDSI, NeCTAR, AAF, ARCS, ANDS and NCI. Graham worked in commercial software development and international R&D programs in IT and Telecommunications industry for over 20 years, and was the Chief Technology Officer of CiTR, a commercial R&D and software services company originated from UQ. Graham received his PhD in Computer Science from Heriot-Watt University, UK in 1986, and a BSc in Computer Science from Nanjing University, China in 1982.

Luke Edwards

Luke Edwards is employed as a Marine Data Manager by IMOS - eMII (Integrated Marine Observing System - eMarine Information Infrastructure), iVEC, WAMSI (Western Australian Marine Science Institution) and Curtin University. He is part of the iVEC eResearch program and is working with the marine community to create a WA Node of the Australian Ocean Data Network. He is also working on the AusCover component of TERN (Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network). Previously he worked in State Government and the university sector, focusing on geographic information systems and spatial data / metadata management. Luke holds a BSc (Env. Sci.) with first-class honours from UWA.
Mary Hobson

Mary Hobson is the Director of eResearch SA, a joint venture between the University of Adelaide, Flinders University and UniSA. Mary started her technology career in 1975 programming for the Ministry of Defence in the UK. She went on to own a software house and then lectured in systems analysis and management information systems for 10 years. In the early 1990s she went to work in Russia with the Moscow University of Microelectronic Technology, setting up an innovation park. She worked with Russian engineers starting an independent integrated circuit design house, with clients including GEC Plessey Semiconductors, Intel and Alcatel. She also set up a technology transfer consultancy, introducing western companies to technologies developed in the research institutes in the former USSR. In 2005 she moved to the Polytechnic sector in New Zealand, working as a Head of School and later a member of senior management. She became Director of eResearch SA in August 2010.

Phil Tannenbaum

Phil Tannenbaum is the Centre Manager at the Victorian Partnership for Advanced Computing (VPAC). He has more than 35 years experience in supercomputing and related technologies, including senior positions at the Bureau of Meteorology, NEC, and Cray. He sat on teams that defined next-generation supercomputers at NEC and Cray, including architecture, high performance peripherals, and input-output subsystems. His earlier career included technical positions with Control Data Corporation, NASA contractors, and Texaco Geophysical, all focused on high end scientific systems. He holds an M.Sc. (University of Houston, USA) and a B.Sc. (Old Dominion University, USA). He currently advises and assists the research community regarding high performance computing systems, and manages the VPAC HPC Centre.