



Introduction to Research Consulting

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ACI-REF Virtual Residency 2015**

Sunday May 31 2015





Lore vs Data

At the end of this session, we're going to go around the room, and each of us will (a) say whether we've done research consulting before and (b) if so, tell a story about a research consulting experience you had and what you learned from it.





Some History at OU

- In 2001, even before we founded the OU Supercomputing Center for Education & Research (OSCER), I was already going around to researchers and helping them.
- In the early years, I did “rounds,” where I’d go to someone’s office for an hour a week to help with the computing- and/or data-intensive aspects of their research.
- Once we got to 20 different groups getting rounds, we started to run out of Henry-hours, so we switched to a help session approach, where I’d do 3 hours a week in a PC lab, so I could help multiple people at a time.
- Then, Josh Alexander started showing up and listening in.
- Then, Josh started doing some of the consulting.





History at OU (cont'd)

- Then, other OSCER operations team members started doing it.
- Then, I stopped doing it and they were doing all of it.
- Then, they switched to an ad hoc approach, where people can make an appointment with an OSCER team member to meet either in the researcher's office or in one of our offices.





Goal

- Get them as productive as possible as quickly as possible.





What Are We Asked to Do?

- Easy: Teach them basic Unix commands; show them how to use the batch system.
- Intermediate: Help them deploy community software, either in their home directory or in a central software repository.
- Advanced: Help them parallelize their code or otherwise optimize it for the platform they want to run it on.
- Guru: Help them design the project; co-author the grant proposal; co-author the publication.





What Don't We Do?

- We don't have to become experts on their research domain -- but we do have to become sufficiently knowledgeable that we can have an intelligent conversation about it.
- We don't have to be experts on STEM -- but we do have to become experts on STEM research.





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OK Supercomputing Symposium 2015



2003 Keynote:
Peter Freeman
NSF
Computer & Information
Science & Engineering
Assistant Director



2004 Keynote:
Sangtae Kim
NSF Shared
Cyberinfrastructure
Division Director



2005 Keynote:
Walt Brooks
NASA Advanced
Supercomputing
Division Director



2006 Keynote:
Dan Atkins
Head of NSF's
Office of
Cyberinfrastructure



2007 Keynote:
Jay Boisseau
Director
Texas Advanced
Computing Center
U. Texas Austin



2008 Keynote:
José Munoz
Deputy Office
Director/Senior
Scientific Advisor
NSF Office of
Cyberinfrastructure



2009 Keynote:
Douglass Post
Chief Scientist
US Dept of Defense
HPC Modernization
Program



2010 Keynote:
Horst Simon
Deputy Director
Lawrence Berkeley
National Laboratory



2011 Keynote:
Barry Schneider
Program Manager
National Science
Foundation



2012 Keynote:
Thom Dunning
Director
National Center for
Supercomputing
Applications



2013 Keynote:
John Shalf
Dept Head CS
Lawrence
Berkeley Lab
CTO, NERSC



2014 Keynote:
Irene Qualters
Division Director
Advanced
Cyberinfrastructure
Division, NSF



2015 Keynote:
Jim Kurose
NSF
Computer & Information
Science & Engineering
Assistant Director

FREE!
Wed Sep 23 2015
@ OU

Reception/Poster Session
Tue Sep 22 2015 @ OU
Symposium
Wed Sep 23 2015 @ OU



Write a CI Proposal
ACI-REF Virt Res 2015, Thu June 4 2015

Thanks for your
attention!



Questions?

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