CaRCC Strategy and Policy-Facing Call, 2025-02-05

Title/Topic: Round robin discussion and 2025 preview

Abstract: We want to take this month to hear a bit about what everyone is up to and plan for the upcoming year. This session will be a general sharing and free-form conversation about where we've been and where we're going. We'd love to hear about projects that people are working on currently, new developments, or persistent challenges. We'll give a quick preview of our planned topics and take suggestions for additional topics you'd like to see the track take on.

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Please Note:

- ***We will record this call*** *and post shortly thereafter on CaRCC's YouTube channel, however if you would like to make a comment off the record, let us know and we can pause the recording.*
- ***We expect all persons on the call to adhere to CaRCC's Code of Conduct.***

Announcements

- Welcome to the Strategy and Policy-Facing Track of the CaRCC People Network!
  - Join the People Network email lists. Join the CaRCC Slack workspace.
- CaRCC is your community for research computing and data professionals. Please see this brief CaRCC overview and more information on Working Groups and Interest groups.
- If you have questions about CaRCC or are interested in becoming more involved, please contact:
  - spf-coordinators@carcc.org for Strategy and Policy-Facing-related activities, or
  - getstarted@carcc.org or getinvolved@carcc.org for other CaRCC work

Sign-In (Name / Affiliation /Email)

NOTE: This document is publicly accessible. Please keep that in mind when entering information.

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Max attendee count: 30

Notes from the Call

Slides

Campus Research Computing Consortium overview:

Session Notes (anyone can contribute)

- What are your unit/institution's most notable accomplishments related to RCD S&P in 2024? (Lessons learned?)
    - Demand for AI related support and consulting and resources has increased
    - Some institutions do not have the resources to support the new demand if all their proposals get funded
    - There seems to be not enough RCD staff to support all the AI requests and many are coming with highly diverse demands promoted by vendors, which leads to a chaotic ecosystem and wasted time and effort; a coordinated effort would be more efficient
    - NCSA Access program to use Delta GPU environment. https://operations.access-ci.org/node/593
    -
- Are there any (new?) trends you've seen over the last year that you think will impact your work in 2025 (there's the growth of AI/ML, of course, but others like VMs (VMWare cost increases), OS changes for cost/security/compliance)?
    - Future of DEI unknown. + 1

    - Researchers changing focus/programs due to data restrictions/confusion
    - Elevated compliance requirements for terms of service and data use agreements
- What are some challenges that you are carrying over into the new year?
    - Federal funding uncertainty (seconded) +1 +1+1 +1 +1 +1+1
    - Data Center power, space, cooling consumption is outpacing data center capacities - related cost and potential timelines +1 +1 +1+1
    - Institutional leadership distracted by government “antics” and their related costs to the institution
    - Amount of data being generated and stored and getting buy-in from academic leadership to move towards more sustainable storage funding models +1 +1 + 1
    - Sustainable storage funding models, including long term post-award storage of source data+1+1 +1
    - dbGap, DOE, DoD, NIH requirements for secure environments, policies, etc.
    - Appropriate attention to RDM to ensure researchers can fulfill grant requirements for data reusability, etc. Budget cuts may affect staffing assigned to RDM services.
    - Changing culture of security coupled with lack of staffing
- Is there anything that you're aware of on the horizon that you are particularly focused on or anticipate devoting a lot of energy to this year? This could be anything from national issues or to local campus changes or concerns...
    - Accessibility requirements+1
    - Research Data Stewardship - funding agency requirements for retention and risks to University funding +1+1
        - Related: policy creation around research data stewardship
    - Inter-institutional collaboration for better utilization of resources
    - Working with core facilities for better data stewardship (transfer, sharing, retention)
    -
- **In-call feedback survey**
    - What are your TOP concerns for 2025 in your RCD role?
        - Budget cuts and funding uncertainties +1 +1 + 1+1
        - Keep up with the volume of Regulated Data projects +1
        - Changing univ leadership and potential impacts on RCD investments
        - Updating the deployment & configuration process to more recent tools, especially as older staff near retirement.
        - Tools for gaining insights into stored data lifecycles at scale. Making data maintenance affordable.
        - State-wide AI initiative/investments.
        - Outgrowing local infrastructure capacities
    - What’s in your email inbox now that you need to address?
        - Executive Orders– uncertainty (data, funding, staff, etc)+1
        - Balancing Security’s concerns for unsupported or out of date software/compilers etc, with researchers ability to update their code.
        - New compliance requirements from NIH DGS policy requiring NIST 800-171 +1

        - Unsupported instrumentation software creating security vulnerabilities. Requires software development resources to update/re-write - no funding. Tying to security initiatives to find funding. Sustainability needs to be core.
        - Data-related: lots of efforts to rescue data; questions from researchers and admins about what we're doing to help with this
    - What was the last presentation you listened to?
        - CaRCC Data-facing call: Insights from the Realities of Academic Data Sharing (RADS) initiative*
    - **Hot Conference topics you want to address?**
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Questions

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Chat Comments

Getting involved: https://casc.org/

regulatedresearch.org

Connection Details

1st Wednesdays Time: 9am PST / 10am MST / 11pm CST / Noon EST
Call coordinator: Amit Amritkar (Penn State)

Zoom details:
https://utah.zoom.us/my/carcc?pwd=TjFuR3VVM2d5eE5zWnEvWWxDTFBCUT09

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Cursor Garden ↩️ *“Don't leave your cursor in a seedy alleyway”*

