subMIT Users Group: Introductory Chat

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Introduction

- subMIT system provides an interactive login pool
  - Home directories
  - Convenient software environment (Centos7 native, docker/singularity images, conda)
  - Local batch system with O(1000) cores
  - Local storage (1TB/user), 10's of TB for larger group datasets
  - Convenient access to larger external resources (OSG, CMS Tier-2 and Tier-3, LQCD Cluster, EAPS)
- Website: https://submit.mit.edu/
- Formally the project is organized as Basic Computing Services in the Physics Department
  - **Project Team:** Implementation/Operations/Maintenance of the system
  - **Users Group:** Contact point between the user community and the project team, forum for user feedback, requests, information flow to and from users
  - **Steering Committee:** Faculty oversight, funding, etc
  - See https://submit.mit.edu/?page_id=6

Users Group In Practice

- Monthly meetings
    - Advertised and open to the broader community, but Users Group representatives should attend
    - Topical presentations from project team, Users Group representatives, or other users or community members
    - Forum for feedback and information flow between the user community and the project team
    - Regular timeslot Proposal: Tuesday 10:00 EST
- Users Group representatives
    - Attend the monthly meetings
    - Provide feedback from your groups/community
    - Distribute information/news from the project team

Users Group Kickoff

- Users group has been formed with initial set of representatives (JB as coordinator)
  - Users Group representative (associated faculty)
    - Yin Lin (Phiala Shanahan)
    - Siddharth Mishra-Sharma (Jesse Thaler)
    - Prajwal Mohan Murthy (Bob Redwine)
    - Sunghan Ro (Julien Tailleur)
    - Yitian Sun (Tracy Slatyer)
    - Molly Taylor (LNS Heavy Ion Group)
  - More representatives to come in the near future
- **Introductory chat Nov. 15**
- Kickoff meeting Nov. 22 (open to broader community)
  - Introduction
  - Short introduction (1 slide) from each representative on current/planned/desired computing usage/needs in their groups

Important Topic Requiring User Feedback

- Linux distribution upgrade
  - Current CentOS 7 distribution reaches EOL for maintenance updates in June 2024
  - Decision by Red Hat to reorganize CentOS project and releases has created uncertainty for upgrade paths
  - Decision on next distribution to be carefully considered
    - Ease of transition
    - Support lifetime
    - Functionality
  - Consider direction being taken at other universities and labs
  - Discussion to be held in coordination with Users Group
  - Ease transition for users through well-supported and documented use of containers