

February 17, 2009

## CSMD Staff Meeting

Attendees: Barney Maccabe, Lora Wolfe, Greg Winfree, David Erickson (for John Drake), Al Geist, Jacob Barhen, Xiaolin Chen (for Jeremy Smith), Robert Harrison, Rich Graham, Phil Roth (for Jeff Vetter), Ursula Henderson, Jack Wells, and Ed D'Azevedo

\* The computer security officer for the division (Greg Winfree [jgw@ornl.gov](mailto:jgw@ornl.gov)) attended the staff meeting. Greg collected input from the group leaders and will reflect it back to the acting CIO (Chris Kemper). Barney may invite Chris Kemper to one of the staff meetings. The following are some of the issues raised:

- Jeff Vetter's group commonly gets loaner machines from vendors to run benchmarks or evaluation. The machine comes with special software that cannot be replaced. The group has been using the JICS network to get around ORNL restrictions.

- The ORNL firewall has the strategy of blocking all ports and opening it up by exception request. For example rsync may be blocked. This has led to fink not working on Macs, and security updates on many Linux boxes not working. However, the closing of ports was not communicated to many people and time was wasted on debugging why fink or open source applications were not working. Users can send request for firewall port exceptions to Greg. However, many users are not sophisticated enough to know which ports numbers are required. Al Geist suggests the IT consult with users before closing off ports.

- Lack of admin privilege means some security updates (such as Firefox update) on windows machines are not working

- There has been many delays in setting up the research enclave, the wiki sites, setting up machines for classified work. The suggestion is IT should have people backups so that if one employee is out sick then someone else could help and that one employee would not hold up a lot critical tasks.

- splunk (desktop logging tool) and antivirus software scans are too resource intensive. The laptop is unresponsive once these start. Al Geist suggests the user can set the time for the scan to occur (say after the presentation)

- We can send CD or USB drives to Greg to scan. So far, all media scanned has checked out as clean.

\* Barney is considering an all-hands meeting in March.

\* Barney is always looking for highlights.

\* Barney showed there is 33% increase in total budget for the division from FY04 to FY08, especially in the work for others. The number of funded projects decreased from 196 to 177. This is a sign that there are fewer projects with larger amounts of funds.

\* There were some discussions about increasing proposal support. Ursula is overwhelmed. One suggestion is to increase the role of admin secretaries to help with proposal support. However, there may be HR issues related to job classification.

\* Suzy Tichenor will be inviting industrial partners to visit ORNL. The next may be Proctor and Gamble. Barney understands this "engagement with industry" is unfunded work and needs to be managed.

\* There will be an IAA presentation in DC to Michael Strayer. Barney will attend that meeting and meet with Sandy.

\* Due to the continuing resolution, some accounts are in negative area. Ursula thinks this is still OK as long as it is within the expected allocation. The overrun will impact materials purchase and subcontracts (say for ORISE students) but will not affect travel.