iSGTW Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Monday April 15, 2012, from **09:00** to **10:00** (US); **16:00** to **17:00** (Central European Time); **23:00** to **00:00** (Taipei)

## Present

*Chair:* Catherine Gater (CG)

*Present:* Steven Newhouse (SN)

Melissa Galliard (MG)

Ruth Pordes (RP) – joined at 16:40

Daphne Siefert-Herron (DSH) – joined at 17:20

*Editors:* Andrew Purcell (AG), Amber Harmon (AH) – joined at 16.15

*Apologies:* Bob Jones (BJ), Katie Yurkewicz (KY)

*Minutes:* Steven Newhouse/ Catherine Gater

## Proceedings

*Convenor: Catherine Gater*

#### Opening of the meeting and formalities

##### Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

##### Approval of previous minutes

The minutes from 14 November 2013 were approved.

##### Announcement of AOB items

No further AOB items were announced.

## Review of actions

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ACTION** | **RESPONSIBLE** | **STATUS** |
| 20111004:4 Work with XSEDE & PRACE and others to get their level of engagement up to a level that the board is happy with.  | Catherine Gater/Steven Newhouse/Ruth Pordes | OPEN – New CEO for PRACE yet to be confirmed. CG will attend XSEDE’13 for iSGTW in July 2013 |
| 20120202:4 Prioritizing the list of tasks for Xenomedia over the next 2 months. | Catherine Gater/ Miriam Boon | CLOSE |
| 20120604: 1 Investigate costs of installing the auto-remove module with Xenomedia | Miriam Boon | CLOSE |
| 20120604:2 Pursue approval for funding the costs of website maintenance from the e-ScienceTalk budget from the EC | Catherine Gater | CLOSE  |
| 20121114:1 Explore issuing an announcement to EC projects about capability from eScienceTalk, in collaboration with DG-CONNECT  | Catherine Gater | CLOSE - Presentation on e-ScienceTalk at the 10th e-infrastucture concertation meeting which has led to request for collaboration e.g. a networking session at ICT’13 |
| 20121114:2 Publish the public facing documents on the iSGTW website | Andrew Purcell | CLOSE – documents published |
| 20121114:3 Include information on regional breakdown of readership in the monthly reports plus YouTube figures | Andrew Purcell / Amber Harmon | CLOSE – tracked in Google Analytics, but monthly report is shorter for admin reasons due to lower levels of staff |
| 20121114:4 Explore a media partnership with SC13 organisers | Amber Harmon | OPEN – remains open |
| 20121114:5 Updated list of items to be worked on for the CMS  | Kevin Munday | CLOSE |
| 20121114:6 Liaise with QMUL on working out the division of activity between QMUL and Xenomedia | Kevin Munday / Catherine Gater | OPEN – remains open |
| 20121114:7 Add the EC/NSF collaboration as an agenda item at an iSGTW board meeting at EGICF2013. | Catherine Gater | CLOSE |

* 20111004:4 Work with XSEDE & PRACE to increase their level of engagement.
	+ PRACE has a not appointed a new CEO.
	+ Positive meeting with John Towns at EGICF’13 last week and a meeting is planned at XSEDE’13.
	+ REMAINS OPEN
* 20120202:4 Prioritizing the list of tasks for Xenomedia
	+ Rolled forward to later action
	+ CLOSE
* 20120604: 1 Investigate costs of installing the auto-remove module with Xenomedia.
	+ Rolled forward to later action
	+ CLOSE
* 20120604:2 Funding the costs of website maintenance from the e-ScienceTalk budget.
	+ Completed. CLOSE
* 20121114:1 Explore issuing an announcement to EC projects about capability from eScienceTalk, in collaboration with DG-CONNECT
	+ Completed at the 10th e-Infrastructure Concertation meeting. CLOSE
* 20121114:2 Publish the public facing documents on the iSGTW website
	+ Completed. CLOSE
* 20121114:3 Include information on regional breakdown of readership in the monthly reports plus YouTube figures
	+ Completed. CLOSE
* 20121114:4 Explore a media partnership with SC13 organisers
	+ REMAINS OPEN
* 20121114:5 Updated list of items to be worked on for the CMS
	+ Rolled forward into later action. CLOSE
* 20121114:6 Liaise with QMUL on working out the division of activity between QMUL and Xenomedia
	+ Covered under later agenda point
	+ REMAINS OPEN
* 20121114:7 Add the EC/NSF collaboration as an agenda item at an iSGTW board meeting
	+ Completed. CLOSE

#### Status report

*Convenor: Andrew Purcell (slides attached to agenda at* <https://indico.egi.eu/indico/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=1360>*)*

* Adrian Giordani has now left CERN in January and some additional effort is been provided by Zara Qadir of QMUL through e-ScienceTalk funding.
* Readership survey to be sent out in May 2013 with an EC report due by the end of June 2013.
* Traffic has significantly increased in the last quarter in page views, unique visitors and visit duration.
* Traffic is also higher compared to the last quarter.
* Growth in traffic is from social media rather than subscribers
* Number of Twitter and Facebook followers has increased sharply in the last 4 months
* A number of events were attended by both Editors, including through media partnerships with International Symposium on Grids and Clouds, Cloudscape and the EGI Community Forum
* Partnership established with the newsletter of UbuntuNet Alliance
* Contacted Primeur magazine about a similar partnership
* Media partnership signed with ISC’13 giving free access to the event and visibility on the website.
* Research into freelancing opportunities for iSGTW, funded through CERN.
* Coverage of South America has increased through contacts and is now better than Africa and Australasia

**DISCUSSION – Social media**

Increase in social media has been due to increased frequency of tweeting i.e. 4 times per day rather than on an ad hoc basis and retweeting by large followers such as CERN. This is also enhanced by tweeting over a good spread of time zones.

This large increase in social media generated traffic has been reported to the European Commission and has been positively received.

RP: Congratulations to both editors for the increase in readership.

#### Development and hosting of the site

*Convenor: Catherine Gater*

* Have seen incidents of website traffic being lost due to an underpowered server at QMUL.
* E-ScienceTalk has now ring-fenced funds to buy a dedicated server through project funds at QMUL. Approval to purchase and commission the server has been given.
* To date the hosting on the QMUL box has been best effort support i.e. not 24/7.
* Xenomedia relationship will end at the end of July 2013 and a solution has not yet been found to sustain maintenance of the CMS as well as the hosting.
* Current issues centre around Drupal. QMUL is concerned about doing a v6 to v7 transition.
* Xenomedia advises against migrating as Drupal 6 is actively maintained and there is no production version of OpenPublish, the distribution iSGTW uses.
* Xenomedia recommends only rebuilding the site in v7 if major changes are required but has suggested installing a responsive theme i.e. to serve pages to smart phones to use up remaining project funds before July 2013.
* There are not sufficient project funds to rebuild the site with Xenomedia (full rebuild in 2012 was 28K Euros)

**DISCUSSION**

CG: An upgrade with Xenomedia is unlikely to be done by the end of eScienceTalk. An alternative is that APO could undertake the work but he would also need funding after the end of the project.

AP: Need a conversation with QMUL and Xenomedia in next 2-3 weeks to try and resolve this.

MG: Suggest that QMUL do a port across to the current server.

**ACTION:** CG to hold a call with CERN, IU, QMUL and Xenomedia to discuss technical workplan.

**ACTION:** Give access to APO to investigate the feasibility of providing support.

#### Sustainability for iSGTW

* Asia Pacific funded editor unlikely now to be replaced due to local funding difficulties.
* EC funding opportunities becoming clearer under Horizon2020. Calls will open late 2013 with the consortium able to bid and close by early 2014.
* It is unlikely that any new money would appear before Autumn 2014 so the funding gap could be 18 months after the end of e-ScienceTalk.

**DISCUSSION – EU/US Collaboration**

MG: CERN will employ AP at 75% FTE to continue until Summer 2014.

CG: As the amount of effort available will fall further after July 2014 on the European side, and is already reduced on the Asia Pacific side, the options are to change the frequency of the publication or to reduce the number of articles each week.

AP: It would not be advisable to go below publishing every 2 weeks. iSGTW could reduce the number of articles (i.e. volume) rather than the frequency and this may have less impact on Google rankings.

CG: Propose to make the transition before the end of the project so that the EC reviewers see the steady state. This would need Xenomedia to tweak the template used by the CMS to accommodate a reduced amount of content.

**ACTION:** Add technical work to update the template for reduced content to the Xenomedia workplan.

**ACTION:** IU to make a statement on the impact on their funding of reducing the frequency or the volume of content for iSGTW after July 2013.

#### Editorial responsibilities

* Agenda item added at the request of DSH.
* Contact information edited for AH on the website giving her as contact for US stories
* US content leads to come to AH in the future
* EU leads to come to the European editor

**DISCUSSION**

AH reported feeling more up to speed with the community and the publishing topics. AH is concerned to make sure that USA articles are being developed and researched by the USA desk. EU stories are being referred by the USA desk to the EU desk. The EU team is in agreement with this.

SN asks what happens to stories that do not fall into USA or EU regions. The European Commission is keen to see global distribution so at the moment some effort from the EU side is put into covering non-EU activities that are not US. AH is not sure of the USA position regarding funding for this.

CG notes that editorial responsibilities also need to be discussed within the context of the iSGTW Board composition. EGI.eu for instance will have to change its status on the Board after e-ScienceTalk closes as it will no longer be a resource providing organisation. One consequence is that CG would need to step down as Chair from the end of July under the current terms of reference. EGI.eu would need to change its classification in the Terms of Reference from contributing resources to just contributing articles on a regular basis.

[DSH announced that she has joined the call]

CG notes that management issues relating to frequency and volume of the publication and regional scope need to be discussed and addressed between the management teams at EGI.eu, IU and CERN.

**ACTION:** AH to check if the US funding allows her to report on non-EU and non-USA activity.

**ACTION:** IU/CERN/Chair to schedule meeting to discuss staffing issues. Proposed discussion to take place on 22/4/13 @ 16:00 CET.

#### AOB

No AOB items announced

**Date of next meeting:** Doodle poll to be launched for May 2013

## Summary of actions

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ACTION** | **RESPONSIBLE** | **STATUS** | **REVIEW** |
| 20111004:4 Work with XSEDE & PRACE and others to get their level of engagement up to a level that the board is happy with.  | Catherine Gater/Steven Newhouse/Ruth Pordes | OPEN – New CEO for PRACE yet to be confirmed. CG will attend XSEDE’13 for iSGTW in July 2013 | Next Board Meeting |
| 20121114:4 Explore a media partnership with SC13 organisers | Amber Harmon | OPEN – remains open | Next Board meeting |
| 20121114:6 Liaise with QMUL on working out the division of activity between QMUL and Xenomedia | Kevin Munday / Catherine Gater | OPEN – schedule a call in the next 2 weeks | Next Board meeting |
| 20130415:1 Give access to APO to investigate the feasibility of providing support | Catherine Gater / Alex Owen | OPEN | Next Board meeting |
| 20130415:2 Add technical work to update the template for reduced content to the Xenomedia workplan. | Catherine Gater / Andrew Purcell | OPEN | Next Board meeting |
| 20130415:3 IU to make a statement on the impact on their funding of reducing the frequency or the volume of content for iSGTW after July 2013. | Amber Harmon / Daphne Siefert-Herron | OPEN | Next Board meeting |
| 20130415:4 Check if the US funding allows AH to report on non-EU and non-USA activity. | Amber Harmon | OPEN | Next Board meeting |
| 20130415:5 Meeting to discuss staffing issues.  | Catherine Gater / Melissa Galliard / Daphne Siefert-Herron | OPEN | Proposed discussion to take place on 22/4/13 @ 16:00 CET. |