

I²SL Benchmarking Working Group: Conference call 11/17/2016

Attendees: Alison Farmer, Paul Mathew, Phil Wirdzek, Dan Doyle, David Cohen, Jacob Werner, Jon Guenin, Luci Keazer, Ludmilla Pavlova-Gillham, Joel McKellar, Todd Mowinski, Allison Paradise, Lucas Schneider

1. Intro to benchmarking working group

- a. Some new voices on the call – our first call since the I²SL conference.
- b. Alison talked about the history, progress, and goals of the group.
- c. All meeting minutes are on the group website: <http://i2sl.org/working/benchmarking.html>

2. Intros:

- a. All attendees introduced themselves and their interest in benchmarking. Thanks!

3. Recent progress:

- a. Alison and Paul Mathew talked about the recent collaborative efforts between group members and LBNL to make some simple updates and improvements to the Labs21 Benchmarking Tool. The new version has been well received. See <https://labs21benchmarking.lbl.gov/> and of course let Alison know if you find any bugs!
- b. Jacob Werner and Alison talked about the benchmarking symposium at September's I²SL Annual Conference in Kansas City. The symposium presentations are available on the group website.

4. Request for volunteer(s):

- a. We need one or more volunteers to help us to finalize our 2016 tasks. The only remaining piece is the FAQ list for the Labs21 Benchmarking Tool. We'd like to get this finished within the next couple of months (ideally before our next group call). Not a big time commitment – probably just a few hours. Please email Alison if you're interested in helping.

5. Potential DOE funding:

- a. Phil Wirdzek talked about the potential for DOE funding for more major tool upgrades and enhancements through the new BBA Smart Labs Accelerator program. Nothing is certain yet but I²SL will be pursuing funding for a number of its activities, including benchmarking tool upgrades.
- b. Paul Mathew described the collaborative strategy being proposed by LBNL and I²SL: a revamped and expanded version of the database (with connection to Portfolio Manager and its own API for data retrieval) would be created and hosted by LBNL, while a new, updated front end and user interface would be created and hosted by I²SL.
- c. The new benchmarking tool would include a number of features requested by the community: a new graphing interface, new fields for data collection (water usage, energy cost), more detailed and modern lab classifications (to accommodate e.g. integrated science centers, engineering facilities, and biotech incubators), and the opportunity for users to opt in to showcase their own building's progress as a non-anonymous case study with enhanced data and building information. I²SL would also produce annual benchmarking reports and conduct targeted outreach to collect data where the current database is sparsely populated.
- d. Phil and Paul will keep us updated as the discussions with DOE progress. We're hoping to have an update by the time of the next call.

6. Next call:

- a. Early to mid January 2017 – look out for a Doodle poll closer to the time.
- b. We hope to have a presentation from Ludmilla on UMass Amherst's building benchmarking tools.
- c. If anyone else is interested in presenting their work or in any particular topic of conversation on a group call, please just let Alison know!

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Appendix: Meeting Agenda

Item	Who	Time
Background on benchmarking working group: Why we exist and what we've achieved so far.	Alison	5 min
Introductions: Who are you? Why are you here? Do you have any questions?	All	15 min
Recap of recent events: The Labs21 website update and the I ² SL Annual Conference. Do you have any tool bug reports or comments on the conference?	Alison/Paul M/Jacob W	10 min
Request for volunteer(s): We still need to finish the last piece of the recent tool upgrade: the website FAQs. We've had a small team working on it but need some new blood to get it finished!	You?	2 min
The BBA Smart Labs Accelerator and the Labs21 tool: We'll talk about this potential funding source for the next big Labs21 tool upgrade, and about the I ² SL/LBNL plan of action.	Phil W/Paul M/Alison	10 min
Wrap-up and next call	Alison	5 min