Memorandum

Date: December 7, 2009

To: Members of the Computer Users Committee

From: Matt Sylvain, Secretary

Subject: Minutes of the November 24th Computer Users Committee Meeting


1. Minutes of the October 20, 2009 meeting were approved.
2. Discussion of the draft open source list
   a. A. Hausknecht shared a draft list of open source software compiled from lists that committee members had contributed. S. Gottlieb suggested that the committee add NAMD and R. Balasubramanian also gave A. Hausknecht list of software to add to the draft.
   b. The committee discussed whether to add free or low cost software to the current list or to create a separate list. S. Gottlieb said that the committee should think about adding cloud software such as GoogleDocs as well.
   c. The committee considered the desired size of the list. C. McNeil suggested that the committee should create a smaller more achievable list simultaneous to surveying the community and compiling a complete. He also noted that other universities deliver software differently. Some universities allow users to “check out” software virtually from servers. He referred to examples given by Paul Walde (CITS) during his presentation at a 2008 CUC meeting.
3. New Business
   a. H. Goldman expressed a concern that his students do not have access to laptops adequate for performing specific academic tasks. As a result classes need to be taught in labs. The committee discussed a possible laptop recommendation. It was noted that the committee and university has previously considered this issue. M. Sylvain suggested that the committee ask D. Massano to summarize the recent laptop project in CCB.
4. Next Steps
   a. Committee members agreed to develop their list of the ten most critical open source software packages.
   b. Committee members agreed to consider the language, logistics and issues surrounding the development and implementation of a laptop requirement.
   c. R. Balasubramanian agreed to re-send the invitations to the CUC’s wiki.