Panel Discussion: Staff and User Technical Training

The issue of training end-users and center staff in the effective utilization of Cray Research computers is a constant, ongoing process at most all sites. Problems such as training materials, class frequency, videos, and site-specific information are very important components in this area. Panel members will offer a varied approach to technical training, and CRP will present possible solutions as well. The audience will be encouraged to participate by asking questions and sharing experiences and suggestions.

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Outline of Assumed Comments Based on Abstract:

CRP does not have adequate training credits under current contract with Cray Research, Inc. (CRI) to hire them to teach classes in the Pasadena area. The current number of training credits given were 40. Under terms of the Y-MP2I contract, local classes must be 5 days in duration and have a minimum of 10 students. Thus, a class in Pasadena uses all training credits received under the contract. Nor is there adequate training funding available to pay Cray to teach a local class, given the charges of $2000/day/student.

CRI training credits are used to send the support staff to the Eagan training site for classes. In the past our philosophy has been to send only one person per class (except for the System Administration class where we sent two). This allowed us to get the most varied knowledge from our training credits and, as it turned out, we were able to accommodate the personal requests of the staff under this policy.

CRI classes attended in the last 16 months: UNICOS System Administration; UNICOS System Installation and Tuning; System Support tools; CF77 Parallel Processing; Advanced CF77 Features and Optimization; Fortran and Standard (C) Features and Optimization; UNICOS Functional Overview. We have ordered and begun viewing UNICOS 4.0 training tapes (entire group).

All consultants will take MPPEMulator training in next 6 months since we will be in Center of Excellence agreement. 1 has to date.

User training is done in-house or under contract with SDSC. SDSC offers two classes currently to our users: Introduction to UNICOS (very infrequently) and Fortran Vectorization and Optimization (3 to 4 times/year). Each is a full day class given in a PC or Macintosh class room (12 terminals + 1 with an overhead display for the instructor). We have requested an autotasking/microtasking class from SDSC and they are considering the request. We may offer the UNICOS 4.0 training tapes to users depending on evaluation by User Support staff. We are considering requesting SDSC or NAS to present a class of interest to our users on their systems this year.

Walt Brainerd gave 1 seminar on Fortran 90 in a single day last month: Overview of Fortran 90; Array Processing; Modules; Pointers. He may be invited back later for hands-on classes of 4-day duration. We are waiting until CRP has its Fortran 90 compiler available or close.

Other "user training": Seminar series on work done elsewhere on supercomputers. 4-6/year.