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## IM Exec VTC 2008-06-10

Fri, 06/06/2008 - 12:17pm — [mobrien](#) <sup>[1]</sup>

Tuesday, June 10, 2008, 10 – 12 MDT

Attending: Corinna, James Brunt, Barbara Benson, Nicole Kaplan, Todd Ackerman, Hap Garrit, Margaret O'Brien, Eda Melendez-Colom, John Campbell (missing: Barrie Collins)

### Agenda

9:50 – 10:00 VTC configuration

10:00 – 10:30 Report on training experience and discussions at evening non-meeting (Margaret, Eda)

10:30 - 12:00 Agenda (see below, with ideas), and issues related to annual meeting

### Notes

#### 1. IMC training in May

1.1 IMC Inter-site project: Based on feedback from the IMC training in May, Margaret suggested a joint project for 5-6 imc members: Several sites need a project registration system, either to apply for space at a field station, propose an experiment to a site's governing body, or to keep track of short-term, student or ancillary projects. The schema might be relatively simple, and could be either relational or xml-based. 5-6 people in 5-6 days could make a lot of progress on a db-driven application that could then be exported or adopted by a wider group. Several sites already have such a system, and can act as use cases, or contribute sample schemas. Corinna knows of an RFP coming soon from EB - for research mini-grants (like the post-asm mini-grants.) Deadline will be during the summer. Need a core group to submit a proposal.

1.2 Barbara, visiting Karen at ucsd, notices that they now have a critical mass of staff from 5 projects. They are finding innovative ways to organize code, time and expertise. IMC must find ways to develop locally but keep everyone informed so that sharing is easier.

#### 2. Annual meeting agenda

2.1 Virtual Water Cooler (IMC-VWC?) Corinna would like to avoid spending so much time at annual meetings on presentations, especially this year where we have only 1 day, and given that people have asked that these be reduced. Corinna proposed regular briefings prior to the Sept meeting via VTC for individual topics. Docs should be posted ahead of time. During the sept meeting, attention to some these topics could be then limited to a question-answer session (~1hr total). Collateral benefit: VTC provides opportunities to iron out tech issues that we know exist, and starts connecting more IMC members than just imexec.

2.1.1 Format: one hour events, bi-weekly was proposed, on each of 2 days, with the hope that everyone would be able to make one of these.

2.1.2 Schedule: Monday 6/23, 1500eastern (1200pacific) and Tuesday 6/24, 1100eastern (0800pacific).

2.1.3 Topic: What issues do people want to see updated before the September IMC?

Concomitantly, imexec would like feedback on this mode of info exchange, especially as it relates to the upcoming meeting.

2.2 Site bytes: considering renaming to "annual site byte", and moving to intranet/im instead. We would still like people to update summaries of local activities annually.

2.3 The agenda is taking shape at the meeting page: <http://intranet.lternet.edu/im/news/meetings/2008> <sup>[2]</sup>

### 3. ACTION ITEMS:

3.1. Send out e-mail regarding community-wide VTCs for testing use of technology for communication, including exchange of information and updates, Monday, June 23, 1-2 MDT, O'Brien and Tuesday, June 24, 9-10 MDT, Kaplan.

3.2. Send out e-mail Annual Site Bytes: CI Information (under IM practices on Drupal IM website)

3.3. Send out e-mail regarding interests in working groups for the IM meeting

3.4. Send Henry e-mail to schedule update from NSF, on Tuesday, September 9, 2008 8:45am ish

PREVIOUS ACTION ITEMS (progress?):

3.5 Get report on Cyber Observatories Meeting out to IMexec

3.6 Get lists of CI prioritized tasks from NISAC related to strategic plan out to IMexec and IMs at 08 meeting

3.7 Set up online forum for IM discussions of governance, etc.

### 4. Side note: DataBits

4.1 The spring 2008 issue used OJS, edited by Wade. His recommendation was that this application might not be the best for databits, since it is designed around 'roles' (editor, reviewer, etc) which we dont need, and clicking through all the required events for a simple newsletter is tedious. OJS also does not have an html display, only pdf. The LNO is setting up a drupal publication module for the LTER Network Newsletter, and moving to this format might suit databits also. This may require the editor to write more html than the OJS system, since document uploads are not supported. We plan to try drupal for the next issues.

4.2 Databits editor lineup:

2008fall-2009spring: Margaret O'Brien (sbc), James Connors (pal/cce)

2009fall-2010spring: James Connors (pal/cce), Jason Downing (bnz)

2010fall-2011spring: Jason Downing (bnz), tba

4.3 John Porter was very sad to see the old databits logo gone. Did anyone else know that this logo spelled out "data bits" in binary? In the interest of continuity, the next editor agreed to include the image.

### Meeting Notes <sup>[3]</sup>

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[1] <http://im.lternet.edu/user/27>

[2] <http://intranet.lternet.edu/im/news/meetings/2008>

[3] <http://im.lternet.edu/taxonomy/term/3>