How to Host an Internet2 Cyberinfrastructure Event

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- the State University of New Jersey
- 3 major campuses
  - Camden, Newark and New Brunswick
- 50,000 students
- 6,500 faculty and staff
The Event

- Information Technology for Research: The Impact of National Directions in Cyberinfrastructure
- Held April 4th, 2006
- Videoconferenced on all three campuses.
- 170 Attendees, 15 Speakers, 24 Support Staff
The Planning

- Establish Goals
  - Educate faculty on the what and why of CI
- Start Early (4 months)
- Develop Agenda
  - Faculty involvement
  - Identify areas of interest, importance
  - Broaden appeal/mix concept and demo
- Work with Internet2
- Promotion to the Faculty
- Identify Logistical Requirements
- Build a Motivated Team
The Agenda

9:00 – 9:10 CTO Opening Address (NB)

9:10 – 9:30 Internet2 and its Resources for Research and Education (CD)

9:30 – 10:30 Cyberinfrastructure Enabling Frontier Research and Education (NB)

10:45 – 11:45 Panel Discussion on CI with NSF, NIH, DOE and NASA (DC)

11:45 – 12:30 Information-driven Science and the CyberInfrastructure: Opportunities for Collaborations at Rutgers (NB)

1:30 – 2:20 Breakout Section I
   Session 1: Collaborative eScience: Evolving Approaches (NB)
   Session 2: NJ EDge Resources in Support of the Research Community (NK)
   Session 3: Unique K-12 Outreach with the Alaska SeaLife Center (NK)

2:30 – 3:20 Breakout Section II
   Session 1: The Protein Data Bank: Multiple Collaborations in Action (NB)
   Session 2: RU Community Repository (RUCore) (NB)
   Session 3: Using Sakai in Research at Rutgers (NK/NB)

3:30 – 4:00 Informal Discussion/Evaluation – Main Room at all Sites
Lessons Learned

- **Cyberinfrastructure is a Tough Topic**
  - A broad topic with many technically-complex facets
  - CI-awareness is extremely variable
  - Well-funded units have it all figured out! (?)
  - Faculty not necessarily convinced of impact ($$)
  - Speakers tend to talk at a “higher” level
    - Coaching required?!

- **Advocacy is Critical!**
  - Lobby for understanding and desire to advocate
Lessons Learned

- Remote Panel Discussion
  - Novel approach
  - Great access to funding agencies
  - Remote location requires audience engagement
  - Audio must be excellent

- Narrow Focus
  - Reassess and consider tighter agenda
  - Half-Day vs Full Day
    - Faculty cannot commit a whole day
    - Breakout attendance drops
For more information

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