**Report on the first impressions and thoughts**

I’ll try to cover everything that I have been shown during these first weeks: first highlighting the points I think are good and then reporting the ones that could me improved according to me.

* **Training**
* There seems to be a very good training experience and organisation. Planning is thought well in advance and adapted according to the needs and tools.
* The difficult points are mostly about the communication.
* It is complicated to find bioinformatics courses in the “book a course” website. The bioinformatics part is quite small. UNIX introduction comes twice: one in bioinformatics, one in IT. Statistics come twice as well in different parts. How can someone request a new course (not listed)?
* Next year planning need to be worked on but we already talked about that through emails.
* One suggestion I can make about training courses is that we could try to get the scientists more independent with their analysis this way: the scientist does the analysis while the bioinformatician is supervising. For scientists that are really motivated and we know have the competences one or two sessions should be enough. Galaxy would definitely be very helpful for that but this scenario can also be considered for other tools.
* **Team work**
* There are lots of tools allowing communication and work within the team as we all are spread apart. The communication with IT (Alan, Simon and Russell) seems very good as well. It seems very important to share responsibilities to split the load for common tasks and I think it is nicely done.
* As already said and talked in meetings, sharing documents and information seem to be the most difficult point. We don’t want to redo something already done, we don’t want to search for hours for something and then end up redoing it because we can’t find it. It is a very complicated matter as everyone has got its own habits. My feeling would be the least tools the best … Whatever the choice is, someone has to be in charge of making sure the documents are there, updated and everything is in order to make the work as easy as possible. From what I have seen, people feel overloaded with projects and don’t think they have much time for anything else (common tasks).   
  Sometimes, there is a feeling that most things are actually happening behind the scenes (coffee, phone …) and because the team can’t meet often, most people have to talk to each other during the week and then the others just have to catch up during the VC… (there is nothing I can think of to deal with that as the geographical context will always be)  
  I am quite interested in knowing why we should use two different time sheets (AORTA and the excel spreadsheet) as most people think we don’t have enough time to do all. Could we at least use the output of one to put into the other? That would save some time!!!
* My suggestions would be if possible to get some projects done by pairs (as I do for the moment because I just arrived). Seeing people face to face has changed a lot in the relationship I had with most of them (especially with scientist but also with bioinformaticians).   
  I would also (maybe because I am new) write all the needs we have (a wiki, a page for non bioinformatician people to see (who are we, where ….), an organised repository ….) from all the team and then try to figure out what would be then the most convenient way of using the different tools, surely using the “least tools the best” principle. (It feel sometimes the other way around , especially with AgDocs where the tool is here but don’t quite know what for … )  
  Considering the numbers of projects (scientific ones or common task for the team), I think it would be great to have some tools to manage the projects, our milestone points, deadlines … Another tool can be a challenge but it seems insensible to me to think we can manage all different things going on without some efficient tool to help.

My opinion is also that VC meetings are not structured as much as they should. Some discussions take over the whole hour and we don’t have anything left for the rest (it ends up with discussion through email and that’s much less attractive). Even if it doesn’t seem nice, someone should make sure every subjects gets some time into the meeting.   
My last point is regarding a “Journal club – like” thing. From what I have seen, some analyses are being done the same way since a few years. Mostly because of lack of time, people don’t look at other tools, news …. It is there quite complicated as well but if someone is responsible for that, that should work and we could get a lot of information from that (sharing papers, conferences, new tools …). It doesn’t have to be a regular meeting; just a way of sharing this kind of information would be a first nice step.

* **IT**

The IT team is very reactive, that’s great. Most of the technical issues (slow I/O, storage capacity, …) have already been discussed into the VC meetings. The only point I would like to emphasized is that we should all get a strong condor training so we can use it in the most clever and efficient manner.