

Working Group Report from IM Meeting 2007



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Home > IM Working Groups > Working Group Report from IM Meeting 2007

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IMC/LNO Partnership and Collaborations (Friday, August 03, 2007)

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Goals:

- To structure collaboration
- Enhance communications
- Define relationships between IMC, LNO, NISAC, EB

Issues:

- When LNO asks for comments, few are received
- One-way data flow (from sites to LNO)
- How do IMs communicate to NISAC? What is their schedule and mode of operation?
- Community products increase overhead and slow down the process.

What are the obstacles to IMs collaborating with LNO folks?

- Is it lack of knowledge about who to contact?
- Are the sites limiting the level of involvement of their IMs?

- Synchronizing the timetables on both ends
- Conflict between LNO and sites (network level vs. site level).
- New IMs don't have a clear understanding of the role and services of LNO.
- Where are the responsibilities of products delineated?
- Communication is key.
- Need to focus on the functionality and interface and let sites interface.

Lessons from USGS

- USGS defined essential services from their NO (these were network-wide decisions).
- Define who has the expertise in various areas and how to foster that? (monthly meetings)
- Workshops to develop web services, APIs, interfaces, etc.

What does LNO what to know about the sites?

- High priority issues need to be communicated to NISAC because that is how LNO proceeds.

Specific tasks to improve communications:

- Publish or make available project tracking for LNO (and sites?)
- Tracking conference calls (vtc, polycom) with a short summary of calls (online form)
- Calendar for meetings, etc. (Everyone is responsible to get information out; we need to acquire the discipline to complete the calendar.)
- The IM website would be a great place to display LNO priorities, duties, etc.
- Perhaps an IM forum would aid newer IMs to view previous email conversations and decisions.
- Recognize effort of IMs to work on network projects (dialog with site leadership)

Ideas of ways to improving collaborations:

- IMEXEC should have an active role in making things happen; especially when LNO needs feedback from IMC
- Proposed LNO projects should go through a consulting process with IMC (see Eda's list)
- What are projects? i.e. NIS modules,
- Formation of NISAC was supposed to help solve these issues. Perhaps this isn't working correctly?

Next steps

- Recognition of IM effort towards network projects
- Define roles and modes of communications between committees
- Improve accessibility dotProject
- Publish calendar, Create IM forum (email archive)
- Circulate summaries of reports (from meetings and conference calls) - (IM website)
- IM / LNO Partnerships and Collaborations [1]

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Links:

[1] <http://im.lternet.edu/taxonomy/term/10>