Cray User Group

Allocations on the Web Beyond Removable Tape

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Prologue

PI:
Project #
RUs requested
RUs received
RU balance
of Reviews
Positive
Negative
Comments
Committee Action

What Is OSC?

http://www.osc.edu

OSC serves all Ohio institutions of higher learning

OSC's Mission Statement

http://www.osc.edu/glimpse/mission.html

OSC provides a reliable high performance computing and communications infrastructure for a diverse, statewide/regional community including education, academic research, industry, and state government.

OSC Mission Statement

In collaboration with this community, OSC evaluates, implements, and supports new and emerging information technologies.

OSC, as a shared resource, accelerates the use of information technologies to strengthen the state's attractiveness and global competitiveness.

Statewide Users Group

http://www.osc.edu/sug/

To ensure a productive environment for research, an active Statewide Users Group (SUG) provides the director with program and policy advice. SUG meets bimonthly.

Statewide Users Group

Three standing committees
Software and Activities
Hardware and Operations
Allocations

Allocations Committee

http://www.osc.edu/sug/

Oversees a peer-review grant process to allocate system resources to all academic users of the Center.

What Are OSC's Resources?

http://oscinfo.osc.edu/hardware

- Cray T94
- Cray T3E
- SGI Origin 2000
- Set of SGI Indy workstations for workshops
- Mass Storage

CPU use, disk storage, job submittals -- interactive and batch

To develop Web-based system, we needed to describe each step of the procedure.

Lots of paper
Lots of files
Lengthy process
Absentee committee members -- no input
Long meetings -- reading reviews aloud;
meeting packets; materials hard to update

Duplication of tasks
Labor intensive
Not taking advantage of available technology
Application forms outdated

Receive proposal (up to 5 copies)

Acknowledge receipt

Send announcement to committee

Install 10-RU award in database (all pro

Install 10-RU award in database (all proposals receive this; balance is pending committee's decision)

Add new users, new machine accounts, as necessary

Prepare packets for reviewers and mail

Process reviews

Prepare packets for bimonthly meeting

Take minutes, provide information during meeting

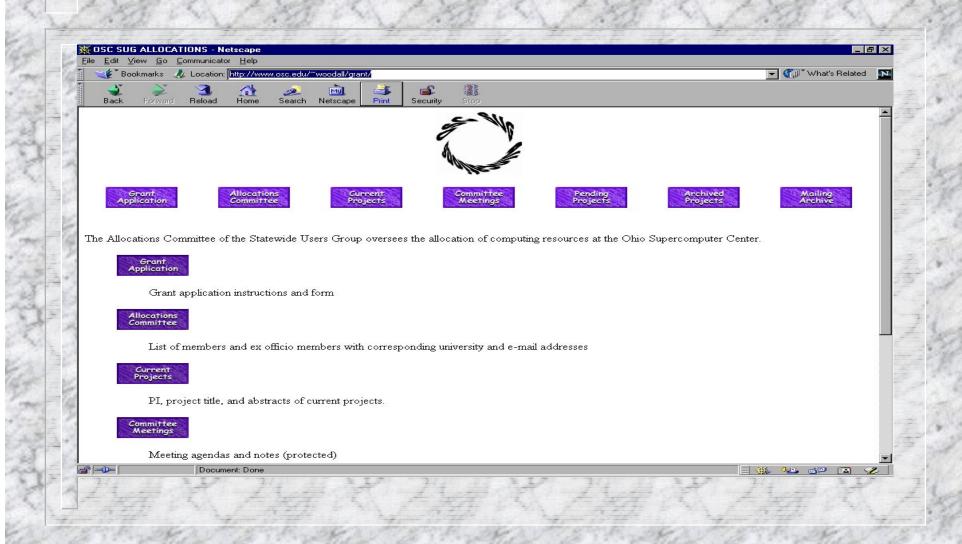
Make awards in the database Communicate with PIs as necessary

Encouragement and support for Web-based allocations procedures from supervisor committee chairperson SUG chairperson HPC director assistant programmer

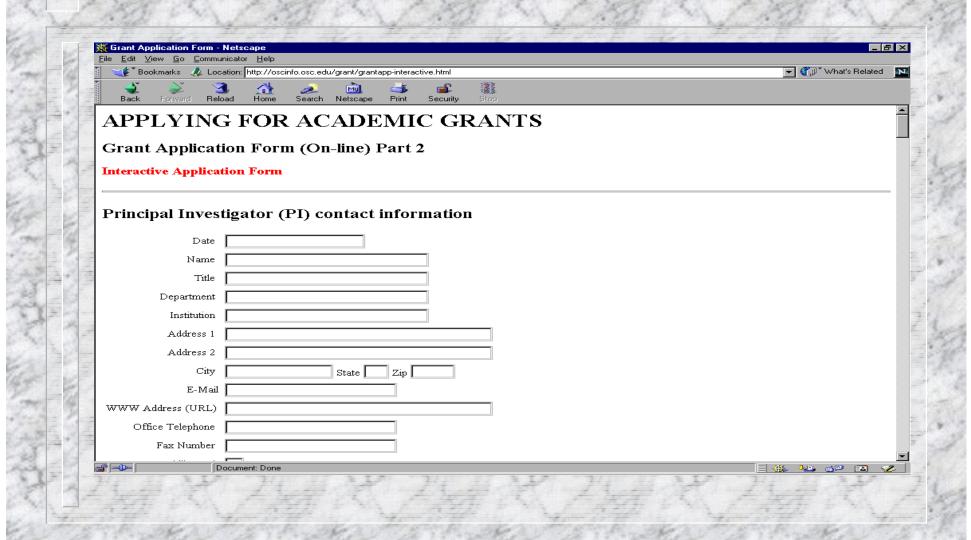
Chairpersons set deadline for first phase of Webbased procedures

Efforts of supervisor and assistant programmer moved the committee from 0 (percent of information on the Web) to 70 in three months (or so)

Now able to conduct meetings through our Web pages



Receive on-line proposal or key it in Forward on-line proposal to committee as the announcement



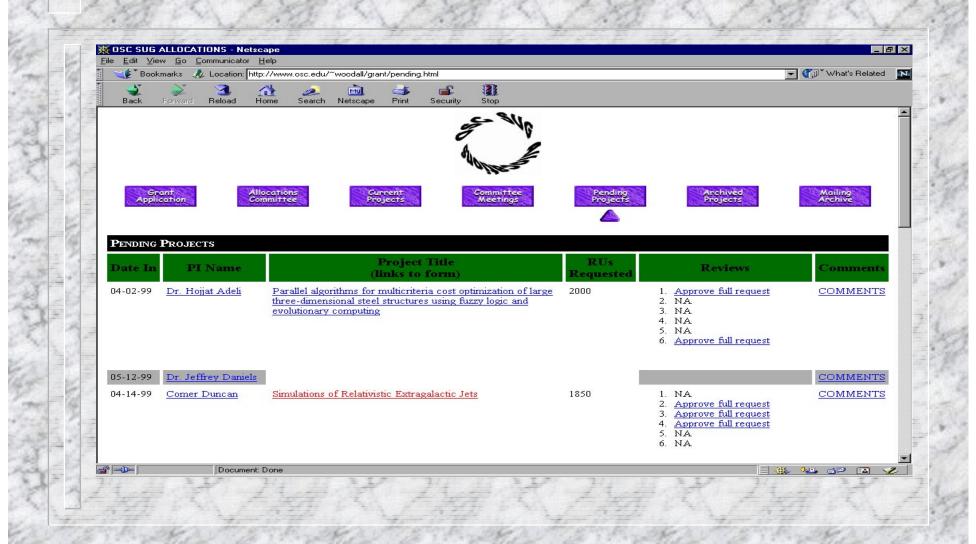
Create a subdirectory for the PI and export online proposal

Create a reviewer list

Run script: readdir.pl

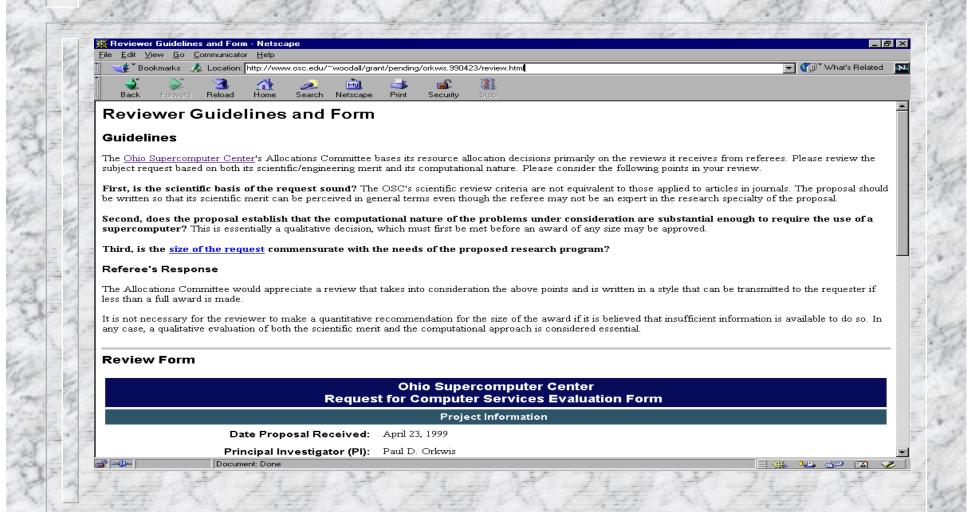
Run four further scripts (pending.pl, archive.pl, current.pl, updatepend.pl)

Scripts create on-line information in the Allocations Web pages



Scripts create review form

Send e-mail to reviewers, giving URL for review form, which has links to proposal



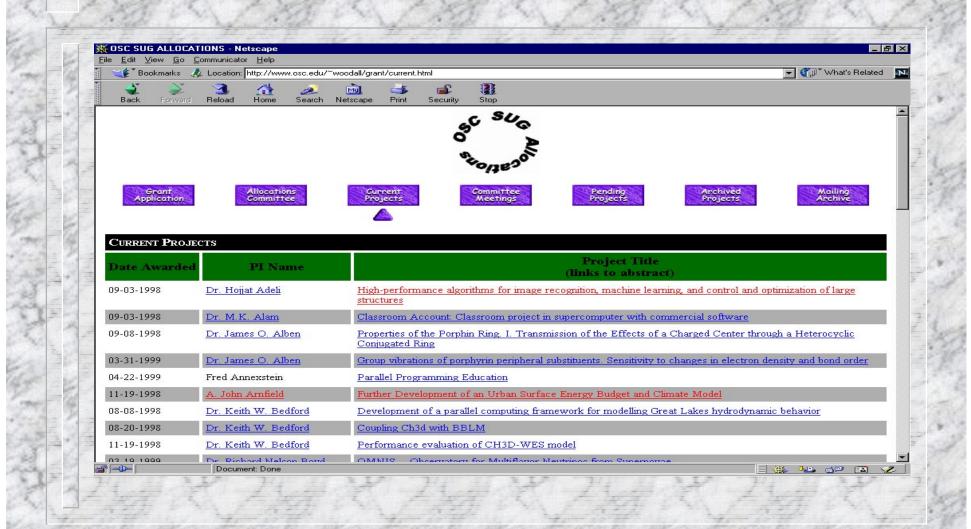
Forward completed on-line reviews to committee

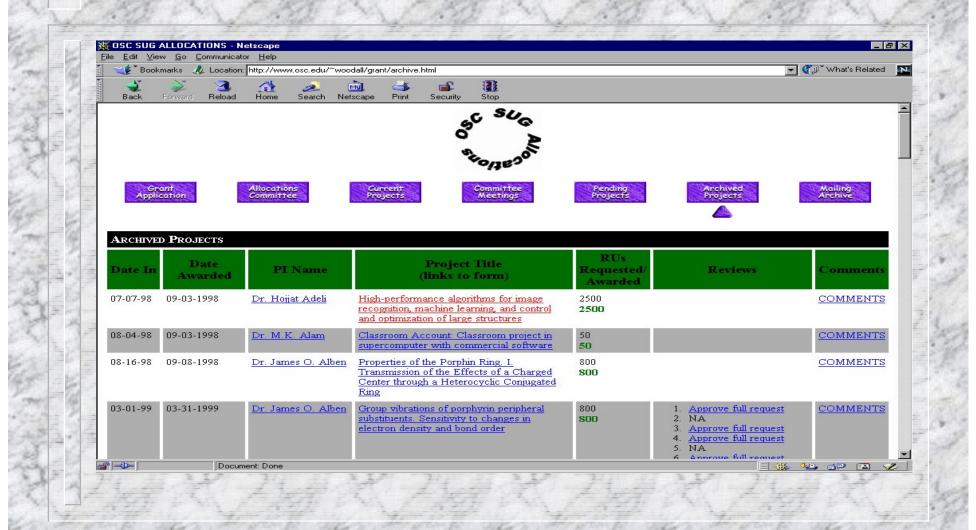
Export on-line review to PI directory

Run scripts to update information on Web pages, creating more links to the new reviews

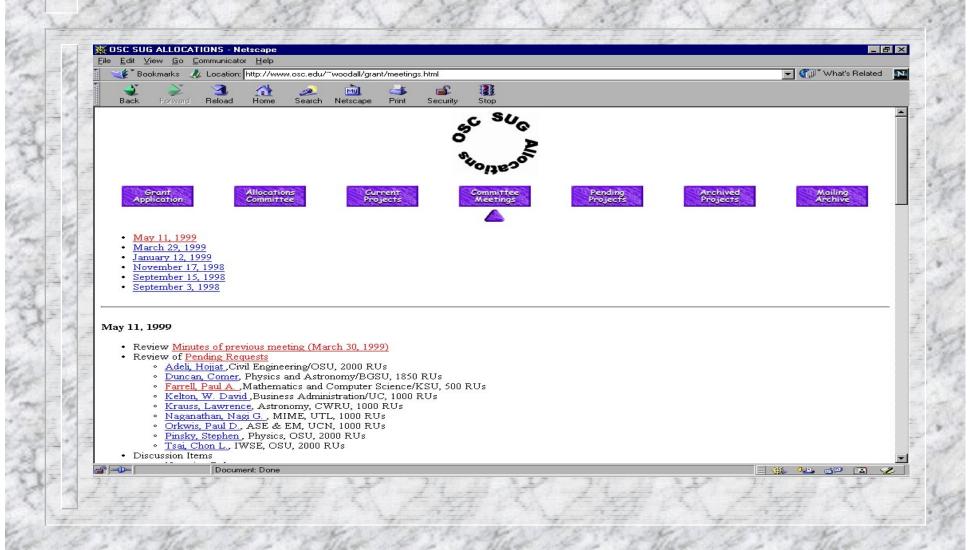
When committee closes out a proposal, liaison installs award communicates with PI runs the scripts

Script entitled updatepend.pl interactive
Is the project xxx still pending? Y/N
"No" brings the following prompt
When was award made?
How many resource units were awarded?
Updates the Web pages





Web-based Allocations Meeting



Future Directions

More interactivity between database and Web pages to eliminate duplicate tasks (keying in abstracts twice, for example)

New database

Taking advantage of Web technology as it develops



The new system works!

The new system speeds up the process.

It was a lot of work for the programmers, but it was worth it.