BUILDING A COHESIVE CLOUD COMMUNITY

Sarah Christen, Cornell University
Damian Doyle, UMBC
Bob Flynn, Internet2
Agenda

- Higher education’s superpower
- Identify a need
- Building the community
- Keeping it together
- Healthy growth
Introductions

Sarah Christen
Director of IT Infrastructure
Cornell University

Damian Doyle
Deputy CIO and Interim CISO
University of Maryland – Baltimore County

Bob Flynn
PM, Cloud Infrastructure and Platform Services
Internet2

[3]
What would you like to get out of this conversation?
What would you like to get out of this conversation

Anonymous
Better understanding of the cloud practice in Higher Education

Anonymous
Learn about and share cloud migration strategies

Anonymous
Collaboration to push vendors for solutions for higher Ed.

Anonymous
Multicloud challenges

Anonymous
I want to know where Damian spends all his time

Anonymous
Ming

Anonymous
How to add a better in person experience to the vibrant virtual communities I help with.

Anonymous
As a part of the community I’d like to know how we got to where we are today.

Anonymous
Better understanding
Community and collaboration are our superpowers

★ It sets the higher ed IT community apart
★ It is in our DNA
★ Build on our common goals
★ Do together what can’t be done individually
Identify a Need
2010 - 2014

- Hyper-scale computing was just emerging
- Disparate conversations started as people recognized the need
- Small working groups sprung up – collaborating on product implementation, evaluation of services, white papers
- Narrowly focussed conversations on specific products (i.e. Box) or product areas (i.e. Collaboration Tools)
2010 - 2014

Structuring the IT Organization for Cloud Services
Beth Schaefer, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Melissa Woo, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

What Campus Leaders Need to Know About Cloud Computing
An EDUCAUSE Executive Briefing

INTERNET2 2023 COMMUNITY EXCHANGE

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT...™
ORGANIZING FILES IN THE CLOUD

CloudProud CIOs
Where would you like to build community?
Secure research using cloud
With regional networks
Young professionals
Virtualization
Research compute nodes
Building the community
Why did we start the Cloud Forum?
Making the case for cloud requires a shift from opex to capex. Most cloud discussions were technical discussions. There needed to be a higher level, how to make the case for cloud discussion.

Who did we reach out to?
RUCC, CSG, other known cloud groups

Guiding Principles
- small enough to have open discussions
- vendors are there to learn not sell
- opportunity to showcase cool cloud research
### 2015 - 2019

- Increasing collaboration on white papers and working groups
- Small workshops focused on architecture and technology
- Beginnings of larger efforts and events as individuals begin to address gaps and broaden the reach of existing conversations
- Leveraging existing venues and creating new ones

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What conversations are taking place, and who is active in them?
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Anonymous
Conversations like how machine learning and AI bots can be implemented for a university use case, few management positions and students primarily.

Anonymous
AWS Higher Ed CIO group

Anonymous
Monthly virtual call for the commtech group, every other month call jointly between netman and wireless. Also mailing list and slacks for each. Plus a session at EDUCAUSE and, historically a preconference day jointly.

Anonymous
List serv
Established professionals
Keeping it together
**2020 to Present (and Future)**

- So many things happening... Then...
The Pandemic
- Started converting events from immersive in person to spread out focused workshops.
- First test: Networking Workshops
- The result: It was a huge success!

But....

Now everything looks the same, virtual this, monthly that.....

How do we make ------------------> all this make sense

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<td>Cloud FinOps Working Group</td>
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**INTERNET2 2023 COMMUNITY EXCHANGE**
Building a cohesive experience

Re-imaged Cloud Forum as year long event.

- CCCG role:
  - Umbrella for communications
  - Advertisement/amplification

- Internet2:
  - Calendar of Cloud events
  - Wiki/landing page
  - Zoom rooms/support

Result:
- Brought in new voices
- Attendance tripled, no physical limits on space/travel
- Put conversations and topics into a broader context

Most importantly - making it all work as one big community effort
2020 to Present

Cloud FinOps Top Tips
A Higher Ed Community Discussion

Emerging Cloud Technologies for Your Institution

Cloud Computing
A CLAC Mindscape Event - Davidson College - April 24-26, 2023

THAT’S A WRAP!
Thank you to all of you! The resources page is updated with many links to resources developed and mentioned during the mindscape event.
Please keep the conversations going with the folks you met! See you next time.
~Nick
What can you do and who can you recruit to join you in building your community?
What specific steps are you going to take going forward to build your community?

Anonymous
https://tinyurl.com/edu-cloud-community

Anonymous
Nag Bob for an in-person option at techex
Healthy growth
Evaluating post-pandemic community and events

- Being intentional about finding and cultivating new voices
- Turnover in both people and schools - healthy and natural
- All new planning committees but with role consistency
  - e.g. Internet 2 Cloud Track, CCCG Co-chairs managed first one, using similar roles as with cloud forum
- Cross CG talks
  - Research CG, Small School CG, DevOps CG
Narrowing and expanding conversations

Critical mass allows you to address specific issues:
- FinOps working group
- Best practices working group

A strong base allows you to expand the tent:
- Networking workshop at ‘21 Cloud Forum brought the vendors into the conversation on our terms
- CLAC Mindshare on Cloud
Community and collaboration are our superpowers

★ The power is there to use to benefit your colleagues and institution
★ It only takes one person to step up and get things going
★ With great power comes great responsibility (and great things will follow)
What specific steps are you going to take going forward to build your community?
What can you do and who can you recruit to join you in building your community?

Anonymous
Offer to be a co-presenter to help those uncomfortable with presenting to get them on the stage.

Anonymous
Connect with Cloud users and operators around campuses, learn about what they are interested in and doing with cloud.

Anonymous
Getting leadership to Cloud Forum including research IT, and getting technical folk to TechEx.

Anonymous
Encourage additions to the budget for learning opportunities framed around building the next generation of professionals. Allocate team time to present and engage in communities.

Anonymous
Better organize internally to help build out community.

Anonymous
Leveraging our vendor friends for whom they think we should reach out to talk. Sometimes they know about something interesting another institution is doing that the community facilitators don’t.

Anonymous
Need to get the security team better involved.

Anonymous
Share event info with my network.
Thank you

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Damian Doyle, damian@umbc.edu
Bob Flynn, bflynn@internet2.edu