

I²SL Benchmarking Working Group Meeting Minutes

Conference Call: 21 December 2015

Attendees: Phil Wirdzek, Vikram Sami, Dan Doyle, David Landman, Jacob Werner, Hadley Stolte, Rick Samson, Allison Paradise, Justin Lewis, Alison Farmer.

- 1) Alison summarized the recent progress towards obtaining access to the Labs21 tool on LBNL servers. The solution is expected to involve granting “LBNL affiliate” status to some group members via I²SL. This will allow the group both to provide data validation services and to make tool upgrades. Paul Mathew will coordinate once he returns in January.
 - a. Phil mentioned that we should start identifying “point people” from the group who might be interested in being conduits to LBNL.
 - b. The nature of the tasks required of volunteers will become clearer once we define our scope.
- 2) Alison summarized the progress of a new subgroup (Alison, Vikram, Justin, Dan, Jacob) which is working to better define the scope of work for upgrading the Labs21 tool.
 - a. Next steps: group document is currently in Vikram’s hands. Vikram will complete soon, then pass to Dan, then back to Alison.
 - b. Update will be given to main group at time of next call.
 - c. Vikram or Tim will also provide an update on the regression work on the next call.
- 3) Group discussions:
 - a. Need to make data input simple – use same info as Portfolio Manager as far as possible? Automatic connection to PM? PM not a replacement for Labs21 tool, but it is “king” in terms of institutional benchmarking requirements.
 - b. The need for a clear scope before asking for volunteers. Noted!
 - c. Linking from the tool to illustrative case studies – definitely a good idea.
 - d. The extent to which architects can enter required data into the tool. For now, the tool focuses on operating buildings with metered data.
 - e. Obtaining a “score” for buildings.
 - f. Whether the tool currently includes any place to enter plug load consumption information (it does).
 - g. Handling of central plants – needs to be explicit and consistent, even if no ideal solution is available. Flag buildings with CHW/HW data?
 - h. Funding for any changes (assume none for now). Can UC Davis provide any student intern help? TBD based on scope.
- 4) David Landman from Cimetrics discussed his use of the Labs21 tool and benchmarking data in general. Discussion included types of energy efficiency opportunities discoverable via benchmarking, and the desire for more system information (e.g. airflow, system type, controls type, age of systems) that’s not currently requested in the Labs21 tool.
 - a. Labs21 tool is best source of lab benchmarking data. Just need to tweak to make it more useful.
 - b. Hard to tell whether a lab is a good candidate for energy savings simply based on its energy usage! The current Labs21 tool doesn’t help that much.
 - c. Discussion on different types of benchmark normalization. Two different questions: “how efficiently do the building’s HVAC systems operate?” vs. “how efficiently does the building meet the functional requirements of the occupants?” Is there a way to answer both of these?
 - d. Discussed asking more questions about vivaria and other specialty space types.
 - e. Thanks David!
- 5) The next main group call will be in late January. Stay tuned!

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Date and time: Monday 21 December 2015, 2pm-3pm EST

Call-in info: Dial +1 (312) 757-3121 Access Code: 523-232-541	Webmeeting info: https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/523232541
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Expected attendees: benchmarking working group members

Purpose of meeting: Updates since last call; ongoing discussions.

Agenda:

Item #	Description	Presenter	Time	Expected product/outcome
1	Roll-call and intro to meeting	Alison	5 min	Attendee list
2	Update on Labs21 tool access	Alison/Phil	5 min	
3	Update on tool scope development	Alison (+ Dan/Jacob/Justin/Vikram)	5 min	
4	Benchmarking needs from the Cimetrics perspective, plus discussion	David L	15 min	
5	Open discussion – any issues, comments, questions, requests.	Anyone	15 min	
6	Review of action items; date of next call	Alison	5 min	Action items