

I2SL Benchmarking Working Group

Conference Call 5/3/16

Attendees:

Alison Farmer, Dan Doyle, David Cohen, Hadley Stolte, Joe Pustai, Michelle Ruda, Paul Mathew, Phil Wirdzek, Rick Samson, Paul Leitch, Allison Paradise, Michelle Ruda, Justin Lewis, Marcus Hazelwood, Vikram Sami, Mike Forth, Geethadevi

1. Update on Labs 21 tool access and volunteers

- David Cohen, Hadley, and Alison Farmer are all LBNL Affiliates and have server access to website
- Allison Paradise has also volunteered and will have access in the future
- LBNL Affiliates can work on backlog of data to be entered for the tool, start to update the website
- Paul Matthew: Team to do a Data Quality Check “QC” of new data to determine that data makes sense and should be used. Building data that looks legit is released to be used. New data for buildings already in the system is used and old data is removed.
- Other option: Money has been awarded to LBNL for benchmarking tool, paid time can be spent at LBNL to do the data QC, utilizing volunteers for other upgrades. Alison noted that even if the group does not do it, they can work with the LBNL staff to ensure we have the knowledge in the future if there isn’t funding. If volunteers want to do work, LBNL money can be used for other things related to the tool.
- Timeline: Aim for completion of data update by end of June. Minimal work once Paul can orient others. Alison and Paul with coordinate offline (with other affiliate volunteers)
- Alison will hold a go to meeting with Hadley and David soon to demonstrate server access
- The group is not currently aware of how many buildings are in the queue. Total buildings in the tool 598 (last update October 2014)

2. Demo of Labs 21 website changes: Labs21benchdev.lbl.gov / Discussion of Tool

- Alison has played with the sandbox version of the website and determined that cosmetic changes are fairly easy to make
- Update buttons, colors, text, appearance of input forms, output forms, and other cosmetic improvements. How to files - Help make it clear to people how to use the tool.
- No updates on how it uses the data have been done. Multiple years, other fields, etc.
- Any restrictions on what we put on the tool? (Since it is an LBNL website). Paul: no restrictions on design, but there are requirements on security and content.
 - Can’t appear to endorse commercial entities
 - Restrictions on website content needs to be confirmed with Paul
 - Paul to confirm whether this extends to sponsorship (and whether precedent exists for this)
 - I²SL links, linking to other sites. Website is .gov, need to avoid endorsement of anything. Paul will find out specifics. No pop-up ads from vendors. Need to determine if we can

put logos for groups sponsoring. Similar website (fabs21) had some sponsorship with info on website.

- Phil: Is the current tool capable of addressing the comments from survey monkey? Can we update or do we need a complete new website? DOE has expressed interest in potentially funding tool upgrades if there is a demand from the community. Strong representation of signatures to a plan moving forward could potentially get funding from DOE. Push to do this between now and conference.
- Many things we can do that do not need funding. Do easy fixes (with volunteers) before conference. After conference potentially set up parallel website showing what we can do and set up funding to take care of more complex items.
- Regardless we will have an upgraded tool which will help info appear more relevant.
- UC Davis can help to fund / co-fund interns to help with work (\$12-14 / hr) data analysis, linear regression, give constraints and let them solve the problem. In the interest of LEED (refers to Labs 21 for benchmarking). Alison and Justin to follow up.

3. Group input on update

- Late 1990s look
- Guest button is confusing
- Ability to toggle between selections
- Select all buttons for climate zone and lab type.
- Compare across metrics – similar to building performance database
- Example of super buildings for comments in a forum, suggestions, to discuss operation / system / design. Living brainstorm of building strategies and operation.
- Links – articles, case studies
- Plug loading (Allison Paradise involved in studies in labs for specific pieces of equipment)
- How much energy do lab plug loads use? Link to UC Davis, UC Irvine, etc. Not an input into searchable database, but provide a link to studies.
- FAQs and general info – incorporate questions we have been asking/answering through this process (Michelle Ruda volunteered).
- Group trying to predict future EUIs for buildings, would want to use tool. Average EUI for each zone. Series of selected outputs – high level info.
- Water consumption (emerging issue)
- Utility Cost

4. I2SL Conference Session

- Phil Update
 - DOE has expressed an interest in potentially funding tool upgrades if there is demand from the community. The I²SL Annual Conference in Kansas City will include a 90-minute session on benchmarking, where we can present our plans and our needs. Level of interest will also be gauged at the conference (via signing to indicate support of a proposal, perhaps). To be discussed in more detail on the next call, along with proposed content for the benchmarking session. Working Group Meeting also likely to be held at the conference.

- Team discounts for conference registration – University or other organization working with a lab (new or upgrade), for members of a team.
- Agenda for I²SL conference posted by mid-May – beginning of registration.
- Proposed path: work on parallel version of website and make all “easy” changes. Note harder changes and evaluate level of effort required. Present both at I²SL conference in September.

5. Action items, date of next call

- Alison/Allison P/Paul – get Allison P signed up as an LBL affiliate
- Justin/Alison – follow up on UC Davis interns
- Alison/David C/Hadley/(Allison P) – GoToMeeting on server access
- Paul/Alison – follow up on data entry
- Michelle – provide new list of FAQ
- Alison – make list of other to do items (e.g. summary of tool info, links to add to site) ready for volunteers on next call
- More info on conference session on next call, approximately 1 month from now.

Prepared by Michelle Ruda (mruda@brplusa.com)

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