Q&A and Meeting memo of User Meeting on May 23 2017

Time and Date: 1:00 p.m. on May 23 207
Place: Large meeting room of Welfare and Conference Building
Explainer: Hiroo Kenzaki (Information Systems Division)
Moderator: Motoyoshi Kurokawa (Information Systems Division)

Part 1: Introduction of HOKUSAI BigWaterfall
#Q&A
Q1) Do users have to submit applications for general use in August or September? In that case, users will not have enough time to try before making proposals.
A1) BigWaterfall will have Intel CPUs and many users have experience of using them. Therefore, we think the early start of operation is more important than long trial use. But it is only just a plan and we consider users' comments.

Q2) Which OS will be installed?
A2) Mainly CentOS7 will be installed, but RedHat7 will be installed to some nodes.

Q3) How long will BigWaterfall be operated?
A3) It is scheduled to operate for 5 years.

Q4) Is there expected weakness of disk I/O performance between GreatWave and BigWaterfall?
A4) No, in theory. Bandwidth between GreatWave and BigWaterfall is wide enough. But there is a possibility that communication congestion may occur in actual operation.

Q5) Does BigWaterfall have the same queuing system as RICC?
A5) No. It has the same system as GreatWave.

Q6) When will the formal CPU specification of BigWaterfall be announced?
A6) We will tell it users in the next user meeting.

#Comments from users
It is difficult to make a proposal before enough trial use, because it is impossible to accurately estimate the necessary computing time.

#Additional information from information systems division
The next user meeting will be held in July.

Part2: Summary of FY2016 operation
# Comments from users
(About a mistake of consumed computing time)
I'm afraid that some of us were disadvantaged in the review of previous applications because of lower consumption rate of computing time.

Part3: Free inquiry and exchange of opinion
Q7) When can users check the correct usage status of the tape archive system?
Q7) Users can check it correctly after migration from cache disc to tape has completed. Cache disc can be written more than the remaining amount of allocated tape. When such trouble occurs, an alert is sent to the owner of the data.

Q8) Is there any difference in performance between /home and /data?
A8) There is no difference in HOKUSAI, unlike RICC. If the user finds a difference, it may be caused by other factors.

Q9) Is local disks of computing nodes are available in BigWaterfall?
A9) Local storage in BigWaterfall is too small to use in execution of user jobs.

Q10) Is the priority of the job dependent on the elapsed time of the job?
A10) No, isn't it. Jobs with short elapsed time, however, tend to be adapt to the backfill function and start ahead.
Priority control and Fairshare function:
http://accc.riken.jp/en/supercom/priority/

Q11) Is it possible to prolong the permitted maximum elapsed time of ACS?
A11) It is under consideration.

Q12) Are there any plans for the next supercomputer system at this time?
A12) Working group for the next system will be organized in the next year. The next system replaces GreatWave and plans to start in 2020. We will consider a system that maximizes research productivity in RIKEN. Since technological trends of CPU and others are still invisible, we will continue the investigation.