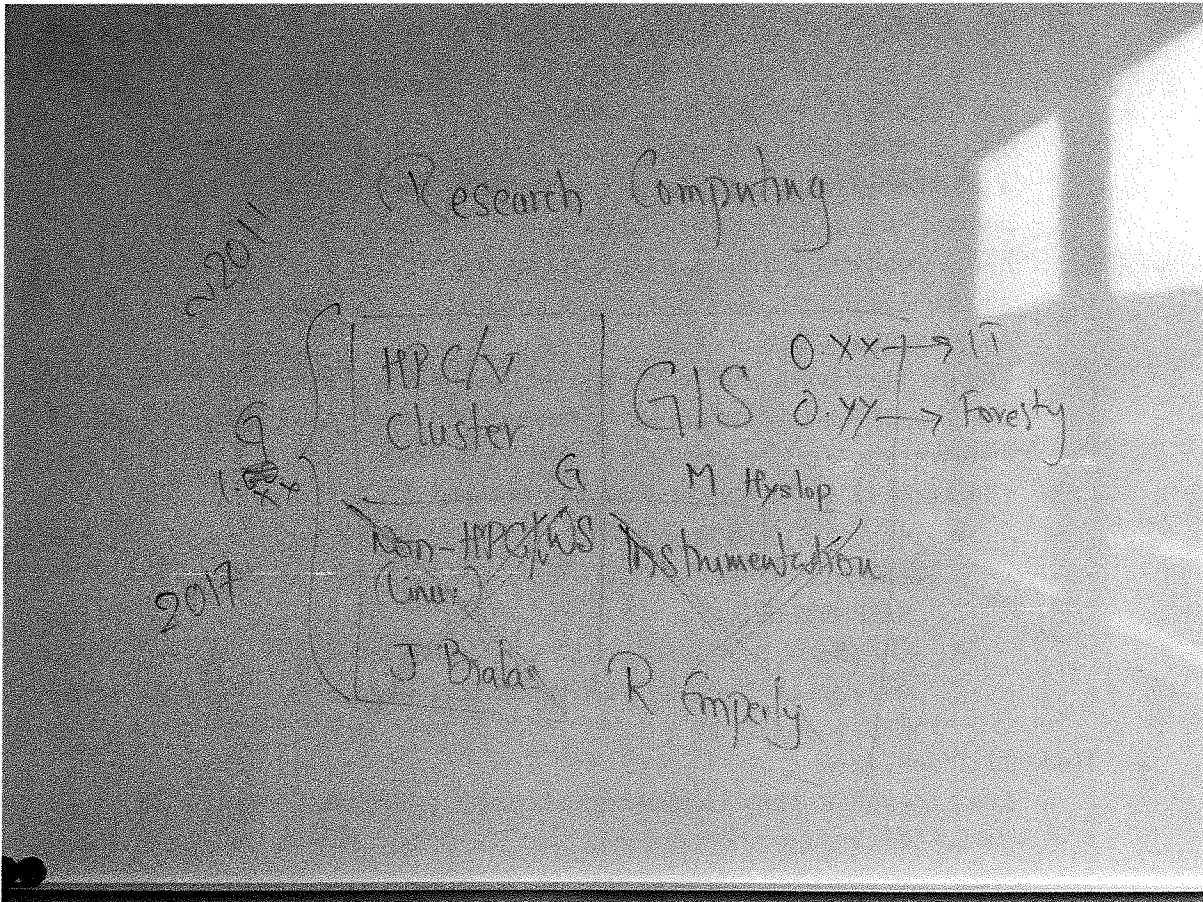# Research Computing Support

Interview with Gowtham - Current State of Research Support

- Gowtham teaches 10 to 12 hours a week
- Now solely responsible for Research computing support
  - No staff for Non-HPC or Instrumentation
- Gowtham stated that the amount of work is above what a single staff member can handle
- Gowtham's time is focused on HPC vs Non-HPC support
- Currently serves (http://superior.research.mtu.edu/#Numbers):
  - 16 departments
  - 61 research groups
  - 63 projects

Graduate student PCs and software

- IT's policies
  - Mohsen Azizi held a conversation with Matt Bryan
  - He said that there is currently no hard policy in practice. However, they try to be accommodating to graduate student needs while keeping consistency across all graduate computers in the sense that:
  - They prefer to install such research specific software (beyond those included in the MTU software center) on the department purchased/owned computers which are normally more powerful computationally.
  - The graduate lab computers may be powerful enough for the specific software of a graduate student, but they accommodate this sort of request only if it is really needed for a certain student. The reason is that they have concerns if the hardware specs do not completely match the requirements of the specific software, in which case the IT needs to upgrade the hardware (graphic card, ram, etc.) eventually for that specific software.
  - The graduate productivity machines normally have relatively low specs and they are meant for surfing and basic operations. Therefore, they [MTU IT] avoid installing specific research-based software on them.
  - Links from MTU IT's Customer Support Center
    - http://support.it.mtu.edu/Hardware-Support/Graduate-Computer-Requests/75886710/Which-hardware-is-included-on-graduate-students-productivity-machines.htm
    - http://support.it.mtu.edu/Hardware-Support/Graduate-Computer-Requests/881162081/What-Software-is-included-on-a-Windows-Graduate-Productivity-Computer.htm
- Graduate student issue
  - Issue brought to Mary Thompson and passed to Senate IT Committee
  - Yu Cai had a short meeting with Leonid Surovitsky on the software installation issue. Leo is a GSG representative.
  - The requests from the students are very clear. They would like to install additional software on the office PC provided by IT. Most software is open-source, research-related software. Currently, students can install additional software on their personal computer or computer purchased by research funding.
    - However, not every professor/student has the budget to buy their own computer.
  - The students certainly understand IT policy and the reasons behind it.
    - The students just want to see if it is possible for IT to provide a little flexibility on graduate student's PC.