Open Research Cloud Declaration

ORCD Workshop, Boston, MA
May 11-12, 2017

Purpose

Members of the international community supporting scientific research computing have recognized that a number of obstacles continue to interfere in the ability of globally dispersed researchers to collaborate and that if unaddressed, such obstacles will have negative consequences for research and innovation.

The purpose of the Open Research Cloud Declaration (ORCD) is to **signpost** those technologies, conventions, policies and work practices that, if adopted and supported, would reduce or eliminate such obstacles and enhance the ability of the international research community to collaborate, share best practices, data and resources.

A Cloud Agnostic Approach

It is recognized that to be successful, the ORCD must be about federating all sorts of clouds – inclusive of OpenStack and other private and public cloud technologies.

Signpost for who?

The signposting in the declaration will provide guidance to technology creators, operators, and vendors on how they may design or temper their cloud products and services to support federating capability of clouds used by researchers globally. The signatures on the declaration will provide gravitas and confidence to funding bodies globally to support the initiative by selecting and deploying technologies aligned with the Declaration goals.

The First Congress

The ORCD meeting on 11 and 12 May in Boston is scheduled at the end of the OpenStack Boston Summit represents the beginning of a public discussion towards international research cloud federation.

The goal of the two-day workshop is to identify and catalogue issues, to engage in constructive dialogue and to reach consensus on the pathway forward to begin actively working towards the establishment of a global, federated scientific research cloud.

Broadly stated, the focus is on the federation of data, identity, compute and cloud management. During early planning sessions the working group identified a range of issues that warranted further and more detailed exploration. These include: relative focus on policy vs. technical capabilities; dealing with the concerns about the loss of control and lock-in; data ownership/sovereignty and security; federation of identity management and protocols for access and authorized use (across multiple political jurisdictions); shared use, interoperability, mobility and provisioning; and addressing the combination of cultural and technical barriers to effective collaboration.

The workshop will provide an opportunity for the sharing of both experiences with federation, lessons learned and the identification of best practices that might form the basis of an articulation of principles as the foundations for a “declaration.”

Once in final form, the declaration will be shared broadly with the global scientific research community and those institutions, organizations and commercial entities encouraged to adopt and support the conventions and guidance articulated by the community.