EarthCube Activities: Community Engagement Advancing Geoscience Research

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**WHAT?**

Use cases are documented descriptions of objectives, and the corresponding sequence of steps taken to achieve them, along with the people or things involved.

Use Cases Provide:
- Detailed information about the types and nature of geoscience in the near future
- Cyberinfrastructure barriers to achieving research objectives

These barriers translate into computational and data needs that represent gaps in the current cyberinfrastructure landscape needed to support novel discipline-specific and cross-disciplinary research.

**WHY?**

Employing scientific use cases will ensure the user-driven development of EarthCube by providing valuable information that informs the creation of the cyberinfrastructure system needed by the geoscience community.

Use Cases:
- Show how needs can be translated into a set of requirements
- Provide opportunity to fill gaps in existing technologies to facilitate data and information sharing, access, discovery, integration, analysis, and modeling
- Facilitate communication and promote collaboration between geoscientists and cyber-related professionals
- Enable participation from individual scientists (the long tail) and users of Big Data
- Lead to stronger engagement among the EarthCube community

**HOW?**

The EarthCube Use Case Working Group was assembled to begin collection of end-user scientist use cases.

The group is:
- Engaging geoscientists to capture their use cases through interviews
- Using a template developed and agreed upon by the community to document interview information
- Creating a repository of collected geoscience use cases for EarthCube community use

**WHAT’S NEXT?**

Visit the Use Case Working Group’s webpage to learn more http://earthcube.org/group/use-cases-wg

Visit to contribute: https://goo.gl.M4tRoz

Next steps for the working group include:
- Gather feedback to evaluate
  - Coverage of use cases on both scientific and technical aspects
  - Utility of use case collection. Initial synthesis/analysis of use case collection.
- Long-term, sustainable efforts that incorporate end-scientist use cases into the EarthCube design and development process
- Deliverables: written gap analysis, initial synthesis of use cases, and long-term plan for an EarthCube use case effort

Acknowledgements:
Thanks to fellow Use Case Working Group members Karen Stocks (UCSD), Lisa Kempf (Mathworks), and Arika Wrangouge (UCSD)

**Traveling, Training, Speaking**

EarthCube is developing programs to promote engagement, participation, and learning opportunities for geoscientists.

The Early Career Travel Grants provide reimbursement funds for participation at professional meetings, workshops, or conferences held in the United States where EarthCube-related work is to be presented or discussed.

The Distinguished Lecturer Program funds are awarded to help sponsor science lecturers who are willing to briefly speak about EarthCube while giving invited lectures at institutions and universities across the nation.

The Visiting Early Career Scientist Program helps disseminate EarthCube-enabled technology to domain scientists, increase awareness of EarthCube (EC) products, and encourage interactions between the EarthCube Building Blocks and the community.