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University of Arkansas Acquires SDSC's Trestles Supercomputer

'High-Productivity workhorse' lives on as SDSC readies Comet Cluster

The National Science Foundation and the San Diego Supercomputer Center (SDSC) at the University of California, San Diego, have agreed to transfer ownership of its *Trestles* supercomputer cluster to the Arkansas High Performance Computing Center.

Once installed, the supercomputer will more than double the Arkansas High Performance Computing Center's computational capacity and allow it to run three times the amount of jobs for campus researchers, according to David Chaffin and Jeff Pummill, interim co-directors of the center. The University of Arkansas announcement can be read here.

SDSC's 'Trestles' supercomputer

"We are thrilled to acquire a prominent national resource for high-performance computing," said Pummill. "Researchers at the University of Arkansas are in a perpetual state of evolution and advancement in their computational needs, and *Trestles* is known throughout the national high-performance computing community as a 'high-productivity workhorse.'"

"High-performance computing (HPC) plays a pivotal role in supporting vital research at the University of Arkansas," said Jim Rankin, vice provost for research and economic development at the university. "The addition of *Trestles* enhances our goal of becoming one of the top 50 public research universities in the United States."

Added Richard Moore, SDSC's deputy director and the principal investigator for *Trestles*: "During its four-year run at SDSC, *Trestles* successfully supported thousands of national researchers with modest-scale applications as well as science gateways, with shorter

turnaround times than has been typical for most HPC systems. It's terrific that this resource can be re-deployed to advance scientific research at the University of Arkansas."

In 2010, the NSF awarded $2.8 million to SDSC and UC San Diego to deploy *Trestles*. Since it went online, the supercomputer has been recognized as the leading science gateway platform in the NSF's eXtreme Digital (XD) Network, a collaborative set of compute and storage resources in the U.S. that scientists can use for advanced computational and data-enabled research. The collected facilities, integrated by the NSF's XSEDE (eXtreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment) program, offer researchers access to a network of supercomputers and high-end visualization and data analysis resources across the country.

Pummill, through his connections with XSEDE, became aware last year that *Trestles* would be decommissioned in 2015 as SDSC began early operations of its new petascale *Comet* supercomputer. The parties verbally agreed to the transfer last summer. Prior to installing *Trestles*, the University of Arkansas will decommission its supercomputer known as the *Star of Arkansas* to make room for the new supercomputer. The *Star of Arkansas* was activated in 2007 and at one time was the most powerful computer in the state.