



It Takes Community to Build a Grid: Expanding Our Network

Jennifer Teig von Hoffman

Boston University

National Computational Science Alliance PACS



Why Care About Community?

- **Reed's law**: The utility of large networks, particularly social networks, can scale exponentially with the size of the network
 - A corollary of Metcalfe's Law
 - http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reed%27s_law
- **The Law of Disruption**: Until a critical mass of users is reached, a change in technology only affects the technology. But once critical mass is attained, social, political, and economic systems change (Downes and Mui)
 - <http://www.mgt.smsu.edu/mgt487/mgtissue/newstrat/metcalfe.htm>



Why Care About Community?

- **The strength of our community may be our greatest asset**
 - We're open-source – new users are potentially new developers, testers, documenters, event organizers, community leaders
 - New users bring fresh perspective and enthusiasm



Today's Panelists

- **Maria Williams, College of Fine Arts, University of New Mexico, representing the Tribal Virtual Network**
- **Hiroyuki Komatsu, Tokyo Institute of Technology**
 - Presenting slides by Kazuyuki Shudo, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, Japan
- **Chuck Patrick, Jackson State University**



Discussion Questions

- **Other than money, what is the single biggest obstacle to deployment?**
- **What are the biggest obstacles to effective use?**
- **What interactions is the AG enabling which would not otherwise have been possible?**
- **What advice do you have for new users?**

