Meeting Name	Cloud Computing Program Telecon #1
Purpose	Provide a project walkthrough, both strategic and tactical.
Date/Time	12/22/10, 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM
Location	Conference Call

Attendees

There were 132 connections to this conference call.

Notes

Topic	Description
Welcome and Executive Summary *Dawn Leaf*	Dawn Leaf opened the meeting by welcoming participants. She explained that the NIST Cloud Computing Program is one part of the overall US Government strategy, and is integrated with Vivek Kundra's 25-point IT Implementation Plan. NIST is developing a technically-oriented strategy to develop a set of priorities for standards, guidance, and policy development. These would then be handed off to appropriate groups for further definition. There are two aspects to the NIST Cloud Computing Program. The strategic aspect is the three process steps defining business use cases, a reference architecture, and the roadmap. The output from the strategic process is a list of tactical priorities that are fed into Standards, SAJACC, and the Security Working Group. Key milestones in the Program begin with its formal launch on November 3-4, 2010, at the NIST Cloud Computing Forum II. Over the last six weeks, program logistics were worked out and the team ramped up. The program touched base with the Federal CIO Council, the Cloud Computing Steering Committee, and received feedback from agency CIOs. A detailed program plan is being developed, for release at the end of March 2011 to be discussed at the NIST Cloud Computing Forum III (which will take place April 7-8, 2011). A draft strategy document (an interagency report) is due to be delivered by the end of Fiscal Year 2011.
Target Business Use Case Working Group *Kirk Dohne*	Kirk Dohne described the activities taking place in the Target Business Use Case Working Group since the November Forum. The breakout session at the Forum broadened the scope for the business use case working group, and also requested a specific business use case that considers moving email to the cloud. The business use cases are to cover the twelve service/delivery model combinations, although use cases can exist that extend across multiple service/delivery models ("cross-cutting" use cases). Several cross-cutting cases have been identified, and the list will be disseminated in the near future. We met with the CIOs and Deputy CIOs of NIST, DoD, Census, USAID, and the USPTO to discuss what NIST Cloud Computing Program was doing, its approach, learn their key business use cases. Further meetings are being scheduled. A template has been created for capturing the business use cases. In order to simplify collaboration, email lists have been created, along with a Twiki to which information will be posted for commenting and editing. To sign up for email lists or the Twiki, please visit www.nist.gov/itl/cloud and follow the instructions. Kirk announced that there will be weekly conference calls for the members of the Business

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	Use Case Working Group, and that they will start January 7, 2011 at 11 AM. An event calendar will be maintained on the Twiki.
Reference Architecture Working Group *Robert Bohn*	Participants at the NIST Cloud Computing Forum II communicated an urgent need for a neutral reference architecture, to be collaboratively developed by the US Government and the cloud community. This reference architecture would be more detailed than the broad definition of cloud computing created by NIST, and does not assume a specific vendor reference implementation. The reference architecture would provide an unconstrained level playing field, allowing apples to apples comparisons by US Government agencies. The Reference Architecture group is composed of three subgroups: Reference Architecture, Taxonomy and Ontology, and Defining Successful Outcomes. Strawmen for a Reference Architecture and a Taxonomy based on the NIST Cloud Computing definition, incorporating the five essential characteristics, three service models, and four deployment models have been created. The strawmen will be released on January 3, 2011. Changes will be incorporated based on Working Group consensus, as well as the needs of the Business Use Cases Working Group. A group charter will be released on January 3, 2011 as well. Draft versions of the Reference Architecture and Taxonomy are targeted for March, 2011, with a final document completed in September of 2011. Robert announced weekly conference calls starting on January 10, 2011 at 11 AM with a joint call for the Reference Architecture Working Group and all subgroups.
NIST Taxonomy Subgroup *John Messina*	Taxonomy is defined as "the science of categorization, or classification, of things based on a predetermined system."[1] An ontology "is a formal representation of knowledge as a set of concepts within a domain, and the relationships between those concepts. It is used to reason about the properties of that domain, and may be used to describe the domain"[2] A taxonomy, a controlled vocabulary, and an ontology are required to ensure consistent use and meaning of terms. These are very labor intensive to create, especially the ontology, and require the full participation of working group members. Coordinate with the Reference Architecture working group is important so that both groups move in the same direction. A taxonomy strawman has been created that will be made available for comment on January 3, 2011. The definition process will be iterative, with a draft document available in March, 2011. Weekly conference calls will be held.
NIST Standards Working Group *Mike Hogan*	The Standards Working Group will start by surveying the existing cloud computing standards landscape, identifying gaps and setting priorities. The Working Group will make a draft charter as well as other information available the week of December 27. Membership in the working group is available to all interested parties. A regular two-hour conference call will be held weekly on Thursdays. The first meeting will take place Thursday, January 6, 2011 at 1 PM. It is intended to hold periodic face-to-face meetings as well. The first opportunity for such a meeting will be January 20, 2011 at 1 PM following the DAPS38 conference at NIST.
NIST SAJACC Working	SAJACC is working on identifying technical use cases (as opposed to business use cases)

[1] Derived from Wikipedia.
[2] Wikipedia.

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Group *Lee Badger*	believed to be important for the US Government, and then developing test plans that will subject different cloud interfaces to selective testing to determine whether there is support for interoperability, portability, and security. SAJACC released a document prior to Forum II, and received a fair amount of feedback on it. As part of the document update, SAJACC is also reviewing documents prepared by other standards organizations. SAJACC has put together a collection of interfaces and implementations, and is beginning to plan the first tests of use cases against interfaces. Meetings will occur weekly starting on January 11, 2011 at 2 PM. These meetings, whose purpose is to keep the interested community involved in NIST thinking and testing outcomes. Comments and recommendations are requested. Once testing begins, updates will appear frequently via the web.
NIST Security Working Group *Lee Badger*	This working group will be bootstrapping in January, and has had no activity thus far.
Logistics Going Forward *Lee Badger*	NIST is working on a special publication providing guidance for agencies. Special publications go through three phases: expert review, public review, and finalization. This publication will be entering the second phase, public review, next week. NIST is considering a special publication on the cloud definition. This would not alter the NIST definition of cloud computing. A detailed strategic plan will be released in March, 2011, and discussed and presented at the NIST Cloud Computing Forum III which will occur April 7-8, 2011.
Q&A	Question: How can a company involve multiple people? Answer: Forward them the link www.nist.gov/itl/cloud so that they can register for the Twiki and the email lists of interest. Question: In the survey of architectures, will the DISA DISR be examined as well? Answer: Yes, and DISA will help with this. Question: How does the NIST security effort relate to that of the GSA PMO? Answer: The PMO effort is restricted to agencies. The NIST Security Working Group is a broad-based group that deliberately includes stakeholders from industry, standards groups, academia, and other interested parties. NIST generally works through consensus. Question: Who is the Security Working Group point of contact? Answer: Lee Badger, although we hope to transition to Kelley Dempsey. Question: What is the scope of the strategic plan? Answer: The strategic plan ties together the project and working groups in a cohesive manner including schedule and milestones to describe how the strategy will be executed. Question: Will the threat taxonomy for cloud environments be described? Answer: It makes sense, but no one is working on a threat model yet. Question: Will the effort distinguish between documents applying to a private federal cloud versus the public cloud? Answer: We will generalize assertions so that statements are true for all clouds, and then make assertions/statements that differ based on the type of the cloud. Question: Will we be exploring the business use case of moving distributed computing to the cloud in support of scientific computing? Answer: The goal is not to identify all business use cases for all agencies. We want coverage on the service/deployment model. SAJACC technical use cases are to support

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	operational requirements. The business use cases will be used to hone in on the technical use cases. Question: Can there be a workshop of science agencies? Answer: Contact Lee Badger. Question: The November Forum II had 4-5 subgroups identified within the Business Use Cases Working Group. Are those groups going to have corresponding leads? Answer: Yes, but the leads have not yet been identified. Question: What is the Special Publication being released next week? Answer: It is a guidance document explaining the general structure of cloud computing, the pros and cons of the various cloud deployment models, the different risks and opportunities (cost savings, flexibility), and offers recommendations. Question: Is this a revision of v15? Answer: It does not change the definition other than correcting a typo. It simply adds new material. Question: Can you comment on the NIST level of interest in the international cloud computing arena? Answer: Yes, absolutely NIST wants to collaborate and wants to do more. Formalized standards will be led by Mike Hogan going forward. Question: Will the Standards Working Group handle that? Answer: Yes. The aim is to work internally in an integrated fashion so that NIST work is consistent within NIST and within the Federal government.

Action Items

Due Date	Description	Assignee