



Computing
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World.

Conference Dates

November 14 - 20, 2009

Exhibition Dates

November 16 - 19, 2009

The SC09 Student Cluster Competition

What do we call a high performance computational cluster combined with six undergraduates, late nights of work, a load of junk food snacks, a really crazy time limit and 26 AMPS of power? - We call it The SC09 Student Cluster Competition. Are you brave enough to take on a challenge such as this? - read on!

The Student Cluster Competition (SCC) is a high performance computational competition that comprises teams of six students, each team competing in a race to correctly complete the greatest number of applications during the competition period while never exceeding a dictated power limit. Teams are given three - four applications combined with predefined data sets to execute on their cluster. Judging covers three categories with points awarded in each: raw cluster performance, the number of applications successfully completed, and an interview with a supercomputing expert. The winner is the team with the most points.

Team members from higher education institutions may not hold a four-year degree. High-school students/teams are encouraged to participate, either with the undergraduate teams or by forming a team on their own. Teams must be sponsored by an industry vendor who will be responsible for supplying the cluster hardware. Teams are encouraged to design their cluster with vendor engineers taking into account the applications they will be given, the power constraint, and the availability of hardware as determined by the vendor. Applications will be announced by April 1st. Each team must have a Faculty Supervisor who is responsible for coaching and for ensuring that the team has the necessary information/skills to design, run, and performance optimize applications on their cluster. During the competition, the Faculty Supervisor becomes an observer and the obtainer of late night pizza.

The goal of the competition is to inspire students to learn about and later pursue a degree and/or career in a supercomputing-related field. Team scores are not released. The competition starts on Monday during conference week and ends Wednesday evening, with a demonstration showcase and team interview on Thursday morning. The winning team is recognized at the SC09 Awards Ceremony luncheon on Thursday and gets the bragging rights of being the Kings of the SCC at SC09!!

For the time while you and your team mates are competing at the SCC, you can ... choose no life, choose no sleep, choose no friends, choose to work on your cluster, choose to eat junk food, choose to look at mind numbing, spirit crushing application results. Or, choose your future, and choose to compete in the SCC!!

For complete information on and an application for the SC09 Student Cluster Competition, please go to <http://sc09.supercomputing.org/?pg=challenges.html>.

Application deadline is July 27, 2009.

Sponsors:

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