VIP Program Policy for Creating and Administering Virtual Servers

The VIP Program strives to provide VIP teams a useful and stable environment for computing that goes beyond that provided by the normal academic and research IT support organizations. We have thus developed the ability to provide Virtual Server(s) (VS) to VIP program participants. Each VS is configured on a server farm with production quality networking and equipment.

While the VIP Program can provide a VS, it does not have production IT support personnel and therefore can not provide any guaranteed support or service. To be specific, the VIP Program does *not* provide any assistance with the ongoing system administration of the VS. Any VIP group or person requesting a VS thus assumes full responsibility for the administration of that VS.

Each virtual server must have:
>   1) A designated administrator
>   2) A responsible Georgia Tech faculty member

The designated administrator can be a student. That administrator, and ultimately the faculty member (if different from the administrator), must take full responsibility for assuring that the configuration and use of the machine conforms to all applicable laws and all USG and Institute Policies.

Examples of typical administrative duties include:
>   1) Maintaining backups of the system as needed by your applications
>   2) Ensuring system security and addressing any problems that arise
>   3) Installing appropriate software updates
>   4) Administering accounts, passwords, and access
>   5) Installing software

Areas that the VIP program will assist with
>   1) Hardware and/or virtual resource configuration (CPU time, memory, disk space)
>   2) Firewall permissions

For firewall permissions, please be aware that Institute policy places certain constraints on opening ports. Specifically, the VS is subject to ongoing security scans by OIT, and firewall permissions may be automatically revoked if the scan fails (as a minimum, it is expected that you will regularly perform software updates). Requests for firewall permissions must include a short explanation of why that permission is required and should select the minimum scope for those permissions (i.e., will campus access suffice or is access through OIT's off-campus VPN service needed?).

Access is supported through secure shell (ssh), which can support remote X-windows applications. Administrators may use various remote desktop access methods (i.e., VNC); however, beyond opening a specifically requested firewall port, configuring such access is completely up to the administrator.

You will need to keep us advised of the administrative (root) password for your VS, as it may be needed to shut the machine down.

Request for VIP Virtual Server

If you wish to request a VS for your VIP Project or Group, please complete and sign the following form and return it to Randal Abler (randal.abler@gatech.edu) and Ed Coyle (ejc@gatech.edu).

Requested hostname _____.vip.gatech.edu

Requested operating system:
        RedHat Linux   (32 bit)
        RedHat Linux   (64 bit)
        Other

Expected Disk spaced needed (beyond operating system use):   _____ GB
  (this needs to accommodate additional software, databases, user directories, etc)

Administrator

Name: _____   Email: _____

Emergency contact phone number(s):   _____, _____

Signature _____   date _____
              (your signature indicates you understand and agree to these policies)

Georgia Tech Faculty: School/Department _____

Name: _____   Email: _____

Emergency contact phone number(s):   _____, _____

Signature _____   date _____
              (your signature indicates you understand and agree to these policies)