APS WK#13: Feedback on Remote and Collaborative Access at the APS – Future Plans

Organizers: Alec Sandy and Suresh Narayanan

During the pandemic, the APS was faced with the challenge of rapidly expanding the scope of remote beamline (BL) operations for a diverse general user (GU) community. Leveraging work done by macromolecular crystallography (MX) BLs at the APS (especially that done by GM/CA), the APS rose to the challenge and developed remote access tools including web-based access to BL workstations, user access management, and high-performance data distribution. The developments were successfully deployed across a broad suite of non-MX BLs operated by the APS. (MX beamlines had developed this infrastructure previously.)

While the deployed infrastructure has enabled some level of remote operations, the scope of possible experiments has been limited. Looking post pandemic, we are eagerly anticipating the return of GUs to our facility but also see an opportunity to expand upon on pandemic-enabled tools and work practices to grow the scope, complexity, efficiency, and inclusiveness of APS experiments.

This workshop will briefly present the current or imminent status of representative non-MX remote and mail-in operations at the APS, and it will seek input and ideas from the user community to facilitate more broadly collaborative and efficient studies in the future. We are especially seeking feedback around the challenges and possible opportunities in 1) remote access to experiment control, 2) user training, 3) automation, 4) real-time communication, and 5) remote access to data/analysis/visualization tools.

(The workshop is open to all and we encourage the participation of all but, admittedly, the MX community is and has been far ahead of the non-MX community in this area so we expect the presentations and discussion will be most pertinent to those outside of the MX community.)

<u>**Agenda**</u>
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Thursday, May 13, 2021, 1-4 pm

For each subject, we are planning on 15 minutes of presentation and 15 minutes of discussion

Welcome and Introduction Suresh Narayanan and Alec Sandy	1-1:10 pm
1. Remote Access to Experiment Control Speaker TBD	1:10-1:40 pm
2. User Training Speaker TBD	1:40-2:10 pm
3. Automation Speaker TBD	2:10-2:40 pm
Break	2:40-2:50 pm
4. Real-Time Communication Speaker TBD	2:50-3:20 pm
5. Remote Access to Data/Analysis/Visualization Tools Speaker TBD	3:20-3:50 pm
Wrap-up	3:50-4:00 pm