My Report

Last Modified: 01/17/2014

1. Please tell us about the time spent on each activity during the VISTAS retreat meeting.

#	Question	Too little time	Just the right amount of time	Too much time	Total Responses	Mean
1	Domain Scientists (Collaborators') presentations	0	11	0	11	2.00
2	Day 1 Discussion	2	8	1	11	1.91
3	Dinner	1	8	0	9	1.89
4	Tech Meeting (Thursday night)	2	2	0	4	1.50
5	Social Science presentation	1	10	0	11	1.91
6	Tech Presentation and Discussion	4	7	0	11	1.64
7	Budget Meeting	1	4	0	5	1.80

Statistic	Domain Scientists (Collaborators') presentations	Day 1 Discussion	Dinner	Tech Meeting (Thursday night)	Social Science presentation	Tech Presentation and Discussion	Budget Meeting
Min Value	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Max Value	2	3	2	2	2	2	2
Mean	2.00	1.91	1.89	1.50	1.91	1.64	1.80
Variance	0.00	0.29	0.11	0.33	0.09	0.25	0.20
Standard Deviation	0.00	0.54	0.33	0.58	0.30	0.50	0.45
Total Responses	11	11	9	4	11	11	5

2. What was the most valuable part of the retreat, in your opinion?

Text Response
To me, hearing the Collaborators engage with EACH other was insightful. I also thought the discussion generated by Kirsten's presentation was REALLY good!
Seeing the discussion among the colloarators and the computer scientists around certain visualizaitons - what was valuable, what wasn't. Also, the discussion about how some visualizations may over complicate things when a clear tw0-dimensional picture, graphic, etc. would suffice.
the open discussion periods following the presentations on Thursday and Friday.
Collaborator presentations
Face-to-face interaction created a team bond.
Learning about what the domain scientists are doing.
Hearing some of the ideas from the other collaborators on what type of data they are trying to visualize
Collaborator presentations and the discussion following that.
The discussion of what software tools/features would be useful to the collaborators. Both on the day 1, and also on day 2 after the tech plan presentation.
The discussion on Friday (after the Tech presentation).

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	10

3. What progress has been made toward the following VISTAS goals thus far?
(comment on the following list)

#	Question	Exceeded this goal	Reached this goal	Working toward this goal	Not yet working toward this goal	Not a goal	Not applicable	Total Responses	Mean
1	1) VISTAS has enabled a unique or novel understanding or analysis of an interesting scientific question that heretofore couldn't be done.	0	0	9	2	0	0	11	3.18
2	1) By incorporating a digital spatial or temporal representation, we have moved a branch of science (say Forest Ecology) that before had only been looked at from an analogue perspective; i.e. move from analogue to digital.	0	1	7	2	0	1	11	3.36
3	3) With novel visual representation of spatial phenomena we now have an insight into a Biology question or Policy question that we didn't have before.	0	1	7	3	0	0	11	3.18
4	4) A list of development priorities for 2014 by tech team was created.	0	10	1	0	0	0	11	2.09
5	5) Increased team collaboration and integration.	1	7	3	0	0	0	11	2.18
6	6) A satisfactory budget was created.	0	4	1	0	0	6	11	4.27

Statistic	1) VISTAS has enabled a unique or novel understanding or analysis of an interesting scientific question that heretofore couldn't be done.	1) By incorporating a digital spatial or temporal representation, we have moved a branch of science (say Forest Ecology) that before had only been looked at from an analogue perspective; i.e. move from analogue to digital.	3) With novel visual representation of spatial phenomena we now have an insight into a Biology question or Policy question that we didn't have before.	4) A list of development priorities for 2014 by tech team was created.	5) Increased team collaboration and integration.	6) A satisfactory budget was created.
Min Value	3	2	2	2	1	2
Max Value	4	6	4	3	3	6
Mean	3.18	3.36	3.18	2.09	2.18	4.27
Variance	0.16	1.05	0.36	0.09	0.36	4.02
Standard Deviation	0.40	1.03	0.60	0.30	0.60	2.00
Total Responses	11	11	11	11	11	11

4. How confident are you that we'll reach every goal listed above by June 2015?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Very unsure		1	9%
2	Somewhat unsure		3	27%
3	Neutral		5	45%
4	Somewhat sure		1	9%
5	Very Sure		1	9%
	Total		11	

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	5
Mean	2.82
Variance	1.16
Standard Deviation	1.08
Total Responses	11

5. What makes you feel that way?

Text Response
I think the "list" of goals (deliverables) was very optimistic - 12 or 13 by last count I believe. I also think that there was some miscommunication between the Technical Team (our Computer scientists and software engineers!) and our Collaborators over what could be delivered. I will leave it to the parties involved, though, to get this resolved.
I think the collaborators' research is very complex and it may turn out that data visualization isn't the answer to the question about how to display/communicate data.
The retreat was very effective in identifying key visualization objectives (list of 12), potential technical solutions and realistic timelines for achieving those objectives. The integration of spatio-temporal visualizations with dynamic 2D charts and line graphs will be very powerful for understanding ecological data and communicating it to a variety of audiences.
Although I think the visualizations created by Vistas are useful, I don't think they are novel or unique. I don't see that much thought has gone into creation of novel or unique visualizations.
I am new to the team and have not yet fully gauged the project's momentum.
There are hard working and dedicated people working on this but the goals are challenging.
These are very hard problems, and effective visualizations tend to be pretty domain specific.
Goal statements are, for me, somewhat vague. I think we should be more specific in the wording.
With regards to the software, I feel like the specific goals change form time to time. Goals are added, removed, or merged. It's hard to say for sure that EVERTHING will be accomplished in the end. Change "every goal" to "most goals" and my confidence is higher.
Not certain it's going to be possible in this grant cycle.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	10

6. What was a high point of the retreat?

Text Response
I really liked the collaborators' presentations, Kirsten's presentation and the group discussion (by everyone) on the various topics throughout the retreat.
When John Bolte started asking questions about the volume extrusion visualization that displayed the clusters of the dots.
For me, it was the all-hands discussions about the visualization challenges posed by the collaborators and potential technical solutions.
Talking with the collaborators and seeing difference and commonalities in the visualization problems.
Breaking bread with the crew at dinner.
Learning about what the domain scientists are doing.
Hearing some of the ideas from the other collaborators on what type of data they are trying to visualize
Collaborators' presentations. Student (Vir, Nik, Justin, Dani, Kendra) interaction, participation and activity.
Discussing the current work being done by the domain scientists.
Discussion and idea generation on Friday.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	10

7. What was a low point of the retreat?

Text Response
Really wasn't any low point!
Dinner - not unusual, but people broke up into dyads or small groups and we lost the sense of the group.
projector breakdown
Realizing that there is not much new there.
Projector issues and having to see Bob's presentation on a small monitor.
not sure
No particular low points.
Tech meeting - we were all pretty exhausted by the end of the day, and low on energy
Difficulties with equipment.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	9

8. When do you anticipate using VISTAS results in the your research publications?

Text Response
N/A
in a paper to be submitted in late 2013 or 2014 (describing HJ Andrews VELMA results)
I think all upcoming publications will include VISTA images, including those currently in preparation.
N/A
not sure
Mid 2014
yes
N/A

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	8

9. Please add anything else you'd like the retreat organizing team to know about your experiences during our meeting.

Text Response
We may have benefitted from a bigger table where everyone could sit at the table. But that said, it was a cozy atmosphere! So overall, a great success!
Bringing together VISTAS team and collaborators for a two-day retreat was an excellent way to exchange ideas and develop a clear set of objectives for the final phase of development. Holding another similar retreat halfway to finish line would be a very good idea, mainly to see what is working and what isn't with regard to the 12 development priorities that were identified during this retreat.
Thank you so much for all of your hard work, it was an enriching experience for me.
Keep up the good work!
I would have liked to have some time during the senior personel session Friday afternoon to talk specifically about team dynamics.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	5