

Name of Principle Investigator: Steven Gallo

Project Title: Virtual Infrastructure for Data Intensive Analysis (VIDIA)

1. Please consider the original timeline and deliverable targets. How is your project progressing compared with the original estimates?

We are slightly behind schedule but working to be back on track by March 1st. We are still planning on using the VIDIA web portal in teaching undergraduate courses in the Spring 2014 semester.

2. How is spending progressing when compared with the original budget estimates?

Spending is on track. We have delayed additional hardware purchases until after using the infrastructure in at least one course, as this will help us to tailor the purchase to meet the needs of the instructors and available tools.

3. Please provide feedback regarding your experience with the project execution. In particular, any issues or roadblocks you've encountered that may have been unexpected.

While we had initially planned for a more even distribution of the workload throughout the duration of the project, the realities of balancing teaching with the development of new methods and tools has, understandably, caused work to spike during winter and other breaks. We have adapted to this by focusing on more generic data mining techniques and broadening our understanding of tools and their pros/cons so that we are ready when faculty members have bandwidth to provide additional direction.

4. What are your positive observations or pleasant surprises about your team's interaction or project process that might be helpful to other PI's?

We have used webex and Hubzero collaboration tools to effectively communicate on a geographically distributed team. This is the first time that we at CCR have had a close collaboration with social and political scientists and we are enjoying learning about their research interests and how we can apply computing to those problems.

5. Please describe any challenges you've encountered working with your project team that you've found solutions for that might be helpful to other PI's.

The challenge with a first collaboration is always bringing all folks together to understand the challenges that each member faces and the strengths that each brings to the table. We made sure to have an initial face-to-face project meeting where everyone could meet and discuss the project. The SUNY conference in NYC was also a good time for the team to get together. This has made our remote collaboration more productive and fruitful.