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Dr. V.O. Shanholtz
ISSL, 106A Faculty Street,
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Dear Doc:

Thank you for calling me in March about a possible job opportunity in your laboratory.

I have decided to take a job offer by Northeast Parallel Architectures Center at Syracuse University as a Jr. Research Scientist. This center is the institution where I used to work as a research assistant and did my graduate study at Syracuse University. My decision was based on the continuation of my research interests and further my graduate study as a part-time Ph.D. student here.

I'll be actively engaged in GIS applications at this position. I hope we can keep in touch and exchange information and experience in GIS. It is my sincerely wish that I can do something for you, even I will be unable to work in your lab, because I was so grateful to your invaluable assistance and kindness to me in the past.

Knowing that the computer facilities in your lab. will be upgraded to IBM workstations, I strongly recommend that you take some time to evaluate possible partial or whole adoption of GRASS into the VirGIS system. GRASS is a public domain free GIS package with both raster and vector format. The open characteristics of GRASS is a good candidate to enrich the VirGIS system with little or no cost. All source (C) codes of GRASS can be copied to your disk via anonymous ftp to the public distribution site from the US Army Corps of Engineers in Champaign, IL, through the Internet wide area network.

One thing gave me deep impression about the PC world, compared with the networked workstation world, is the lack of rapid information distribution due to not widely networked. Compared with my working experience here, I found that the start-from-scratch strategy of programming at ISSL needs to be reevaluated to achieve the best cost-effective performance. Through the networked workstations, this can be improved significantly over the PC platform, despite the target applications are domain-specific. Another emphasis on workstation may be the Raster-format manipulation.

If you need any information regarding GRASS or other info., please let me know. Thank you again for your consideration of a position at ISSL.

With best wishes,

Gang Cheng