

Penn State's eRA System direction

Direction

- Penn State is moving from in-house, custom systems to cloud-based, configurable systems

Opportunities

- Financial system vendors are including research administration capabilities into their systems (Oracle, SAP, etc.)
- Administration software suites reduce the number of platforms to support (Huron, Cayuse, Quali, InfoEd, etc.)
- Cloud solutions reduce the need for infrastructure and support positions
- Cloud solutions offer Improved security and business continuity options
- Cloud solutions continuously improve their capabilities
- An industry move toward cloud solutions facilitates the standardization of practices across research institutions

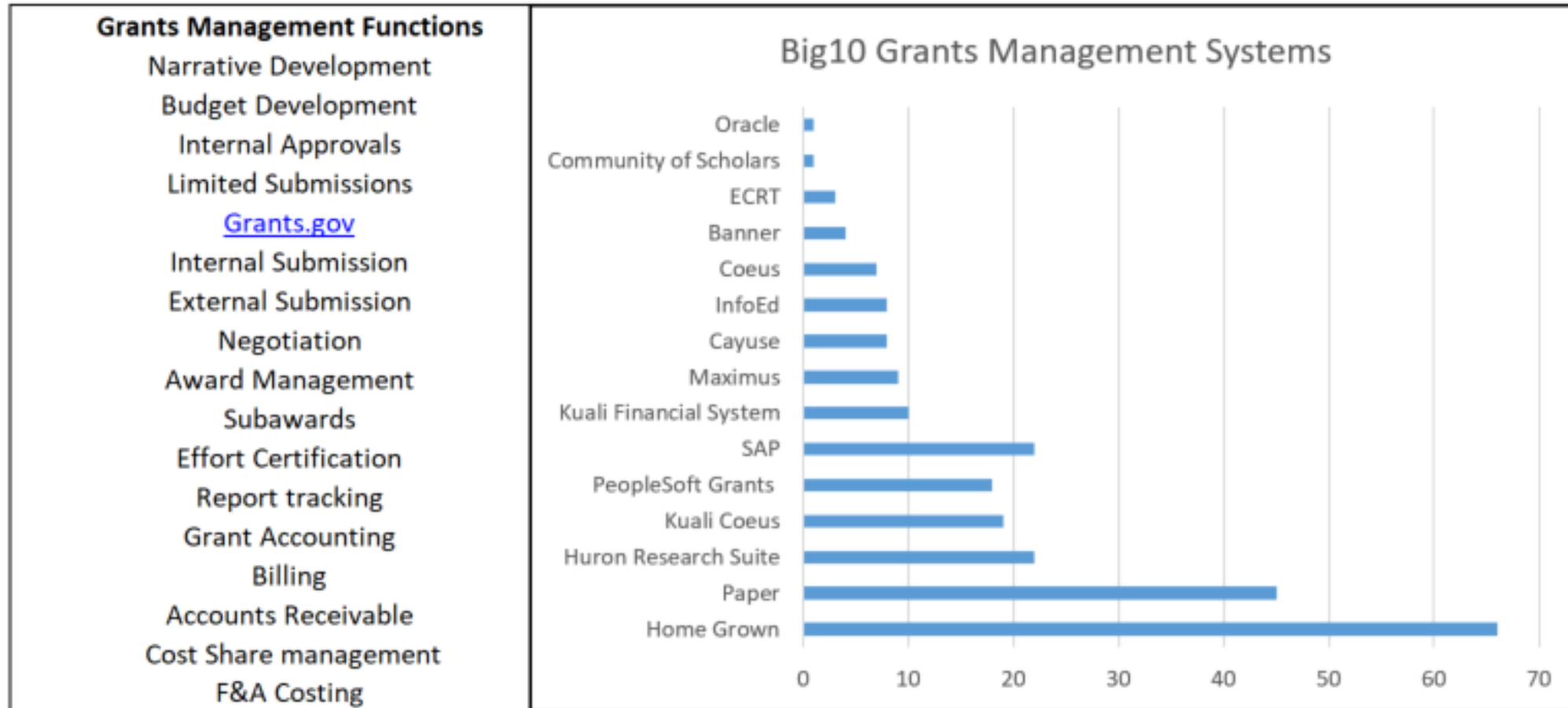
Challenges

- Cloud platforms still require extensive customization or gap-filling applications to support all functions as well as mature customized systems
- Faculty and staff must be retrained to adapt to use systems as designed rather than customizing systems to current practices
- Requires investment in Business Analysis, Project Management, and Organizational Change Management Capabilities

Plan

- Evaluate commercial platforms and select preferred suite or suites, minimizing the number of platforms
- Establish robust integration capabilities (Workday, SAP, Huron)
- Work with experienced partners to implement new systems (LSI for SAP)
- Establish robust process metric gathering and reporting
- Move all research administration systems along the continuum from in-house & custom to cloud & configured as platforms mature
- Engage with vendors and peers to advocate for research administration capability and to establish standard practices

Prevalence of Solutions In Use at Big10 Institutions Across Grants Management functions*



* Based on 2016 Survey