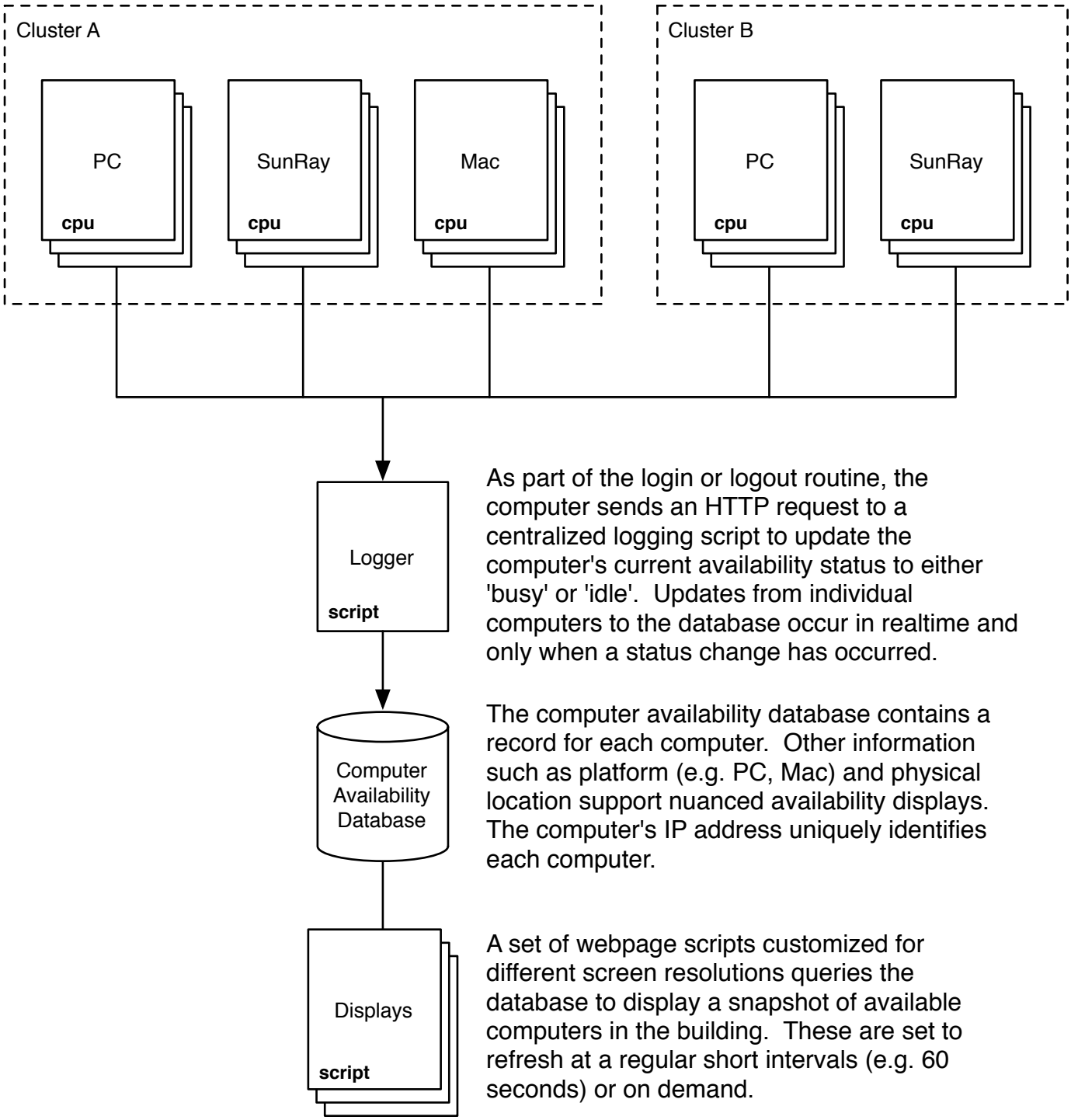
NCSU Libraries	Tito Sierra	April 17, 2007
Computer Availability Display - System Overview		



As part of the login or logout routine, the computer sends an HTTP request to a centralized logging script to update the computer's current availability status to either 'busy' or 'idle'. Updates from individual computers to the database occur in realtime and only when a status change has occurred.

The computer availability database contains a record for each computer. Other information such as platform (e.g. PC, Mac) and physical location support nuanced availability displays. The computer's IP address uniquely identifies each computer.

A set of webpage scripts customized for different screen resolutions queries the database to display a snapshot of available computers in the building. These are set to refresh at a regular short intervals (e.g. 60 seconds) or on demand.