



BIOGRAPHY

William W. Thigpen, **Columbia Project Manager** **NASA ARC**

As manager of the Columbia Project, William (Bill) Thigpen was responsible for the construction and deployment of one of the world's fastest and most capable supercomputers, a 10,240-processor SGI Altix supercluster. Thigpen has held several key development and management roles in the NASA Advanced Supercomputing (NAS) Division, including managing the NAS Engineering Branch and leading the division's efforts in grid computing. He also led a large Y2K compliance effort at NASA Ames Research Center. Additionally, Thigpen was a member of the President's High End Computing Revitalization Task Force and has chaired and served on numerous panels focused on high-end computing and grid technologies.

Before joining the NAS Division management team in September 1999, Thigpen worked for Sterling Software, Inc. at the NAS facility, leading the advanced systems development group and managing technical teams that provided high-speed computing capabilities and services to NASA researchers. His 17-year career supporting government contracts includes software engineering and mission support management. Thigpen holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of Nebraska.



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