WELCOME TO CHAMPIONS

25 APRIL 2018

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ARCHER CSE Director
EPCC Technical Director

Welcome to Champions@Manchester

- We are very pleased to bring this Fifth ARCHER Champions Workshop to Manchester

  - Previous workshops: Edinburgh, Oxford, Leeds, Hartree

- Great to run this alongside yesterday's ARCHER/SSI Workshop

- Hope people who were able to attend all enjoyed last night's dinner!

- EPCC are very keen that Champions evolves into a community-oriented event

  - Continuing to strengthen links between Tier 1 and Tier 2

- Many thanks for giving up your valuable time to attend and to contribute to the discussions

Champions

- Aim: To create a network of HPC Champions that will:
    - Provide a support network between staff members whose role involves advising users on access to local, regional and national HPC resources
    - Help to promote a coherent access structure to HPC resources across the UK, with coordination between tiers
    - Support and promote activities designed to provide career development to research software engineers seeking a career in HPC
    - Support and promote activities to broaden the UK HPC user base to new disciplines and communities
    - Promote common training material and techniques
- Originally supported by ARCHER Outreach funding from EPSRC
    - Funding has recently finished
    - Though we are trying to keep key activities ongoing

ARCHER Outreach

- ARCHER Outreach grant has recently ended

- 4 key areas of activity

- Diversity
  - Women in HPC
  - Faces of HPC website
    - **http://www.hpc-diversity.ac.uk/**
  - Best practice guide on "Improving Accessibility to HPC training"
  - ARCHER training material updated to accessible slide format
- Engagement
  - Hand-on workshops
  - ARCHER Champions

- Outreach
  - Events (Big Bang Fair, New Scientist Live, IET EngFest,…)
  - Demos on Wee Archie
  - Outreach Ambassadors' pack
  - Teachers' pack

- Impact
  - Case Studies
  - Image competition and calendar

Logistics for Today

- No Fire Drills expected
- WiFi
  - Network: SMG-Guest
  - Username: Events
  - Password: Events
- Lunch and Coffee
  - In the area just outside this room to my right
- Dietary Requirements
  - Please speak to Jo
- Timetable on website:
  - `http://www.archer.ac.uk/community/champions/workshops/manchester_apr2018/talks/timetable.pdf`

Outline Timetable

- 0930 Welcome and Introductions
- 0950 MOOC and On-Line Training (*David Henty*)
- 1010 I/O Observation on ARCHER (*Harvey Richardson & Karthee Sivalingham, Cray*)
- 1030 Tea/Coffee
- 1100 I/O Benchmarking across Tier-2 (*Adrian Jackson*)
- 1130 Tier 2 Updates (*Chair: Christopher Woods, Bristol*)
  - *Isambard, Jade, Cirrus, Thomas, CSD3, HPC-Mid+*
  - Discussion
- 1230 Lunch
- 1330 Champions Lightning Talks
  - *Ania Brown (Oxford), Daniel Gleed&Craig Manzi, Mike Croucher (Leeds), Alan Simpson, Jo Leng (Leeds), Manos Farsarakis*
- 1430 Tea/Coffee
- 1500 Futures
  - ARCHER2 (*Eddie Clarke, EPSRC*)
  - E-Infrastructure (*Josephine Beech-Brandt*)
  - eCSE (*Lorna Smith*)
  - Discussion
- 1600 Close

Discussion Topics

- How should Champions go forward?
  - Links between Champions and RSE
  - HPC-UK Website
- Feedback and comments are very supportive of our proposed evolution to "HPC Champions"
  - What does this mean?
  - How should it be organised?
    - Volunteers for Organising Committee
  - How should it be funded?
- Hosts for next Champions
- Future topics of interest

Future of Champions: Comments

- "Sounds like a very reasonable thing to do. Resource specific training may be need but all in all it would be a good step forward."

- "I think this is an excellent idea and I am very much in support of this."

- "I think that it would be very useful to extend ARCHER Champion role to a broader remit to cover UK HPC facilities more generally."

- "I would fully support this move. I think you should retain a link from the Archer website, to explain that Archer champions have become HPC-UK champions (or whatever they will be called), and direct to the hpc-uk website."

- "I think it is very good idea!"

- "I also agree."

- "Superb idea! Let me know if you need anything from me."

- "I support the move and agree with [ ] to keep a link from the ARCHER webpage. Also, I personally have no experience of many of the other facilities so perhaps to be effective champions some sort of familiarisation with the other options could be encouraged through the 'champion' model? Or perhaps the website could specify which of the champions have the appropriate knowledge regarding each of the facilities."

Future of Champions: Comments

- "I'd just like to say that I think this is a good idea and I'd be happy to be a UK HPC Champion."

- "I fully support this move. I am happy for there to be links to the RSE networks as well. The website already links to rse.ac.uk, from where you can see how to get access to the RSE slack etc. If you want more, I am happy to get UKRSE to provide more useful links, e.g. to training material or other expertise?"

- "Probably re-echoing many sentiments you have received, and hopefully having a foot in both camps as well, then I'm all for maximising awareness and access to the variety of facilities that have been funded. Hopefully where it is sensible to do this, it will provide the foundations for common materials to be shared (rather than reinventing the wheel) and then having more technology-domain specific aspects linked appropriately. It might even allow us to introduce some standards and frameworks to monitor the services and report back on the impact these investments have had. Raising awareness in the first case is imperative - so to this end I'm happy for affiliation to the GW4 Isambard Service to be linked to my name, but it would also benefit from the URL to the website for additional information etc. In addition, would it be possible to also incorporate some URL link information to the RSE networks? I'm mindful a lot of the software development activities could be promoted and providing insight into the applications being developed across this network and possible additional expertise to support the research community would be beneficial. I'm sure the experience gained using the various code profiling/optimisation tools could transition into useful training material for the wider community. Sorry, quick response as dashing between meetings (as usual)."

http://www.archer.ac.uk
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