

ESTABLISHING A PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH SOFTWARE

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RESEARCH SOFTWARE

- The custom software essential to support research across physical & social sciences, engineering, arts, humanities and education
 - Simulation and modeling codes
 - Workflow scripts
 - Visualization tools
 - Supercomputer custom I/O drivers
 - Etc, etc.

RESEARCH SOFTWARE

- Primarily developed, used, supported and sustained at universities, institutes & national laboratories by
 - Students, postdocs, early faculty, research and technical staff who are
 - Distributed
 - Unconnected
 - Under-represented (institution/nationally)
 - Not well credited / rewarded

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

- Researchers in traditional domains traditionally join existing, well established, professional societies.
- Work to represent and support a community

QUESTION?

- Are the needs of the research software community adequately represented by one or more existing societies?
- Could the scope of an existing society be extended to include research software?
- Do we need a new professional society to represent research software?

WHAT SHOULD A SOCIETY DO? - REPRESENT A COMMUNITY

- Be the leading voice for research software and an authoritative source of information for the advancement of research software and its role in benefiting society.
- Advocacy and lobbying for research software and research software providers to federal agencies and congress including funding and career paths.
- Coordinating body to collect and analyze information about research software.
- Collaborate with national scientific and research societies for the advancement of research software, research software education and through this the science community.
- Provide public outreach around research software.

WHAT SHOULD A SOCIETY DO? - SUPPORT A COMMUNITY

- Provide effective programs in support of the research software community and the conduct of the development and sustaining of research software.
- Hold and sponsor conferences and workshops in research software
- Support journal or other communication medium.
- Develop and monitor education programs in research software development.
- Through membership establish professional qualifications, e.g. fellows.

WHAT SHOULD A SOCIETY DO? - CAREER DEVELOPMENT

- Support professional growth of members through opportunities for life-long learning, career development, and professional networking.
- Promote an active, engaged and diverse membership, and support diversity and inclusion across the research software community.
- Establish and reward outstanding mentors who can help develop the community.
- Advertising of jobs in research software development, potentially leading to a mechanism to facilitate contracting across sites for software expertise.
- Coordination of awards to reward aspects of software development.
- Provide material to help influence the promotion of research software developers, for example providing information useful for improving reference letters, resumes, etc.

SIMILAR ACTIVITIES

- *Coalition for Academic Supercomputing Centers (CASC)*
- *Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)*
- *Research Software Engineers in the UK*
- *Software Sustainability Institute (SSI)*
- *NumFOCUS*
- *Association for Learning Technology (ALT)*
- *Advanced Computing Systems Association (USENIX)*
- *Etc*