

N8 CIR Newsletter

N8 CIR Meet-ups

We are at the halfway point in our RSE Meet-Ups with three of the six sessions already completed.

Our first session discussed our application to become a chapter of the Women in HPC organisation. The session saw a healthy discussion around some of the issues faced by women working in HPC, as well as ideas and suggestions of what data it may be useful to collect and monitor to help support and progress the application.

The second session, Introducing Bede, was one of the best attended sessions that we've run with more than 100 people attending. During the session Alan Real of Durham University introduced the new system and its novel GPU accelerated architecture.

Alan was followed by Paul Richmond of the University of Sheffield, who spoke about the specific research applications that will benefit from the system's new architecture as well as offering some advice about how to start developing code for GPU acceleration.

The third session took place on Thursday 28 May and saw 4 researchers and research software engineers speak about their work. The topics were suitably varied and offered insight into the approaches taken by individuals from different branches of the profession:

Kate Court (University of Newcastle) spoke about developing a web app to promote closer relationships between young fathers and their children. The platform uses a treasure map and augmented reality to help parents navigate areas of Newcastle that they may not otherwise visit.

Dave Horsfall (University of Newcastle) is working with AI-powered chatbots to help promote trust within online banking environments. He spoke about the frameworks he's using and how the Google Flow platform has enabled him to quickly develop the project.

Phil Hasnip (University of York) spoke about Sustainable Materials Simulations. The talk was particularly interesting as it gave a fantastic overview of the CASTEP software that Phil was involved in re-writing. CASTEP simulations account for around 5% of compute cycles on ARCHER each month.

Daniel Ellis (University of Leeds) works at the Centre for Environmental Modelling and Computation (CEMAC). His talk focused on a study being undertaken into air quality around schools in Bradford. It mixed some practical software development with discussion of developing suitable hardware to take environmental measurements and withstand the rigours of being carried by school children.

Hopefully this brief overview will encourage you to join our future sessions. You can see the full list and register for a place here: <https://n8cir.org.uk/news/meet-ups-2020/>

If you would like to showcase your work at the next session on 11 June, please e-mail: enquiries@n8cir.org.uk

Ongoing Training

As we all adapted to the sudden changes brought about by Covid-19 we started to create a list of free training and useful resources that might be useful to researchers across the N8 Research Partnership. This list is still available here: <https://n8cir.org.uk/events/online-training/>

As we continue to adapt to what many are describing as 'the new normal' updating this list with new resources and courses will become increasingly important.

If you have a course or some training materials that you think may be useful and you are happy for us to promote it, then please e-mail us with the details: enquiries@n8cir.org.uk

RSE Case Studies

The N8 CIR website is home to a number of case studies that highlight the work done by research software engineers across the partnership. We will be adding some more examples in the next few days.

These case studies are a way to share and explain the benefits of working with an RSE to researchers and a light touch way to promote the skills and talents of individual RSEs to the wider community.

If you would like to share a case study with us then please get in touch: enquiries@n8cir.org.uk

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