

HPC Workshop @ RSE18

Birmingham 5th September 2018

Topic: *Training*

Group leader: Will Furnass, University of Sheffield

Scribe: ???

Reporter: ???

Other participants

- Martin Turner (R-ITS, University of Manchester)
- Ania Brown (Oxford e-Research Centre)
- Aleksandra Nenadic (SSI, University of Manchester)
- Ian Kirker (UCL)

Notes from discussion

- HPC Carpentry: two sets of CarpentryCon
 - Work at JupyterCon to merge two different sets of material with per-cluster templating
- How well does software carpentry/HPC carpentry fit in with existing training events?
- Organising a software carpentry/other training event is a good way to advertise a research group
- Champions should be encouraging training and at least keeping a list
- Carpentry gives you access to the materials for free -- easy to get started -- lesson content and workshop implementation that you'd otherwise have to build
- Existing university courses
 - Teaching how to use existing hardware: 6 hour course -- terminology, no assumed knowledge
- Specific hardware courses don't give you an idea of which knowledge applies to other systems
- Should HPC carpentry assume knowledge of bash?
 - What more generally can we assume as pre-reqs for HPC training participants?
- Hartree Centre ran effectively two Software Carpentry courses back-to-back with modules selected to do a full HPC Intro (4 days)
<http://www.cvent.com/events/hpc-introductory-course/event-summary-a8a108a375804f9dab18651af7eabe7c.aspx>
- Generic vs site-specific courses? If you go to your nearest, soonest HPC Carpentry workshop, it needs to still be applicable to your site.
- University should provide support for groups wanting to develop training courses and advertise them centrally
- HPC champions could also aid groups trying to develop their own courses

Summary

Yes. Support as much (good) training as possible.

There is a distinction to be made between training to introduce you to a specific resource (eg Tier 3) and general skills courses like HPC carpentry - how to create roadmap?

HPC Champions should contribute to and publicise good training materials (e.g. HPC Carpentry) & help with obtaining funding to hold training sessions?

It's tough to train with site-specific information in such a way that you make it clear what **isn't** site-specific -- this is especially important if people come from other institutions to shared training -- which is something that would be ideal if HPC Carpentry training sessions became common.

More modular training better - 4-5-day courses on e.g. all of Unix, Python, Git, HPC, OpenMP, MPI will be exhausting for the learner.

But then you have challenges around prerequisites.