

Facilitation of OSG Services

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Where we've been...

- Research Computing Facilitation is a teenager!
 - Originated name and principles of facilitation in 2013
 - Impetus: It's not enough to have technologies and infrastructure – facilitation is key to deliver impact for campuses.
- At UW – Madison, 700+ researcher/student interactions last year, across 80 departments and centers.
- In the OSPool, 200+ projects in the last year, completing 360 million jobs.



What is facilitation?

- Leveraging of **human** capabilities to advance research and teaching outcomes through computing.
- Principles:
 - Mutually beneficial **partnerships**, grounded in trust relationships
 - Clear ownership of **responsibilities** and outcomes
 - **Technology agnostic**, concept driven
 - Relies on other skillsets (infrastructure, software engineering, etc.)
- A **methodology** to be developed, tested and improved, alongside our technologies.



We see facilitation as:

**“I want to help you achieve your research
(or teaching) goals.”**

instead of

“I want to help you do computing.”

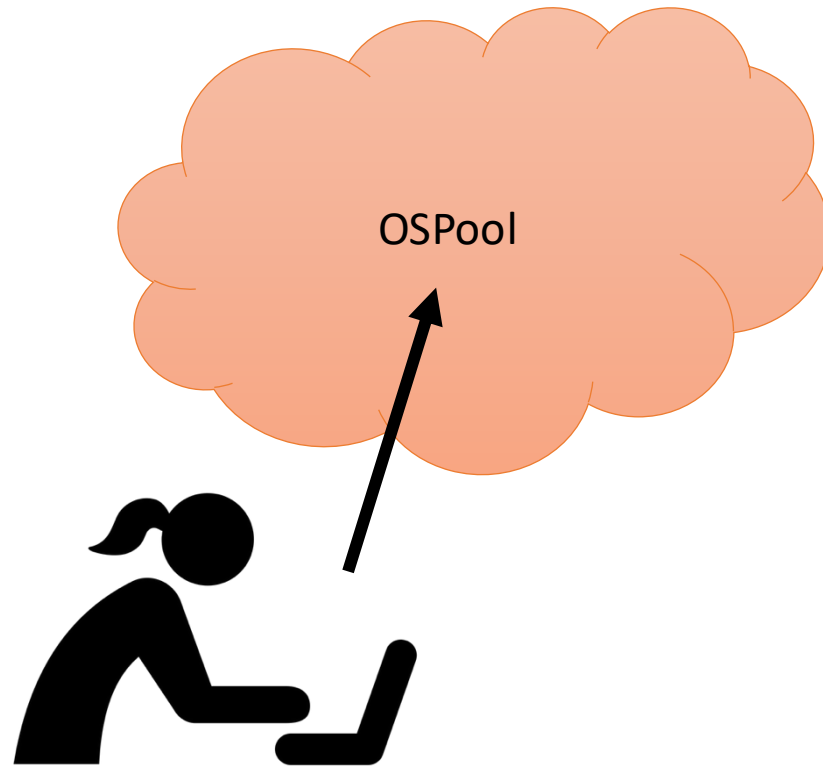


Goals for this session

- Facilitation with *you* as campus staff / instructors
 - What are some of your facilitation/teaching goals?
 - How can we help build human capability with you at your campus?
- How can you leverage us? How can we leverage you?



I want to help my users use the OSPool



- How can your local users access the OSPool?
- **Option 1:** use an OSG-Supported Access Point (like ap40)
- **Option 2:** run an Access Point at your institution – talk to us
 - Allows users to use local identity for login

I want to help my users use the OSPool



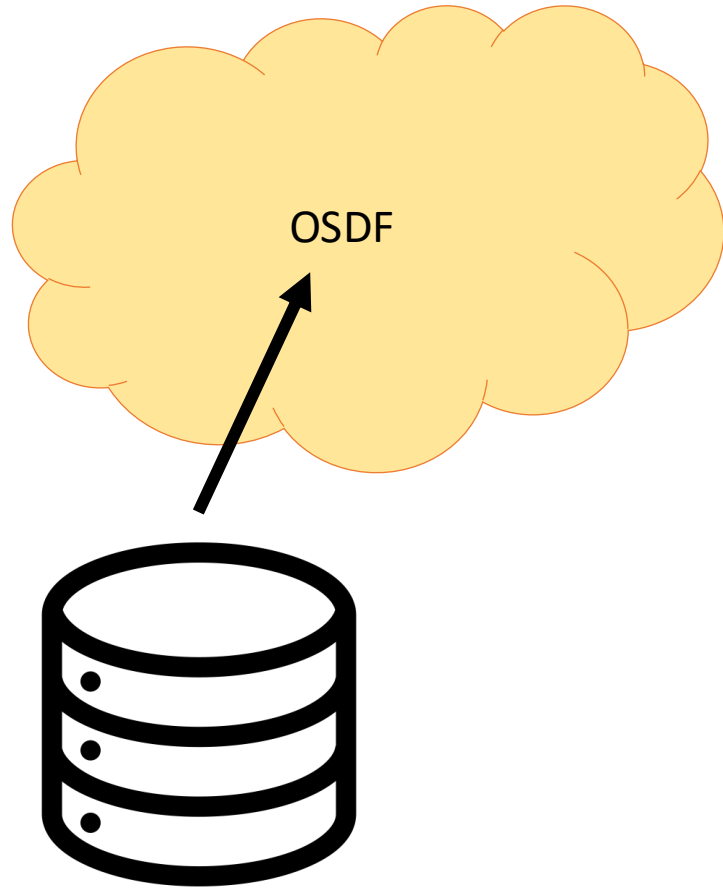
Created by Adrien Coquet
from Noun Project

- [Services we provide](#)

AND/OR

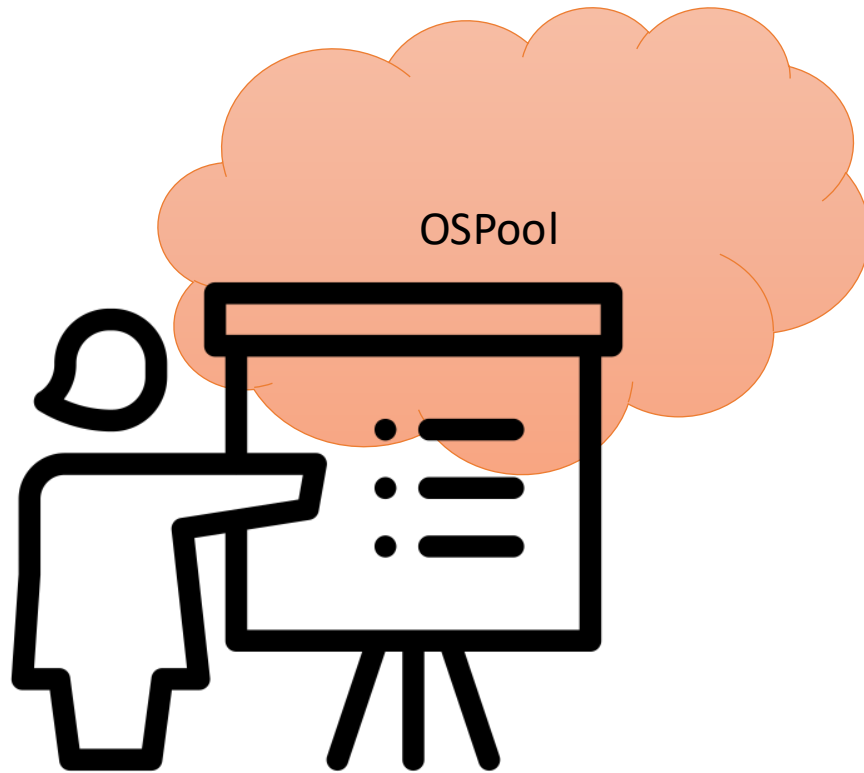
- Provide a set of curated containers or container build files
- Create github repositories with sample jobs
- Do training (see prev. slides)
(See also end of this presentation)

I want to help people share data



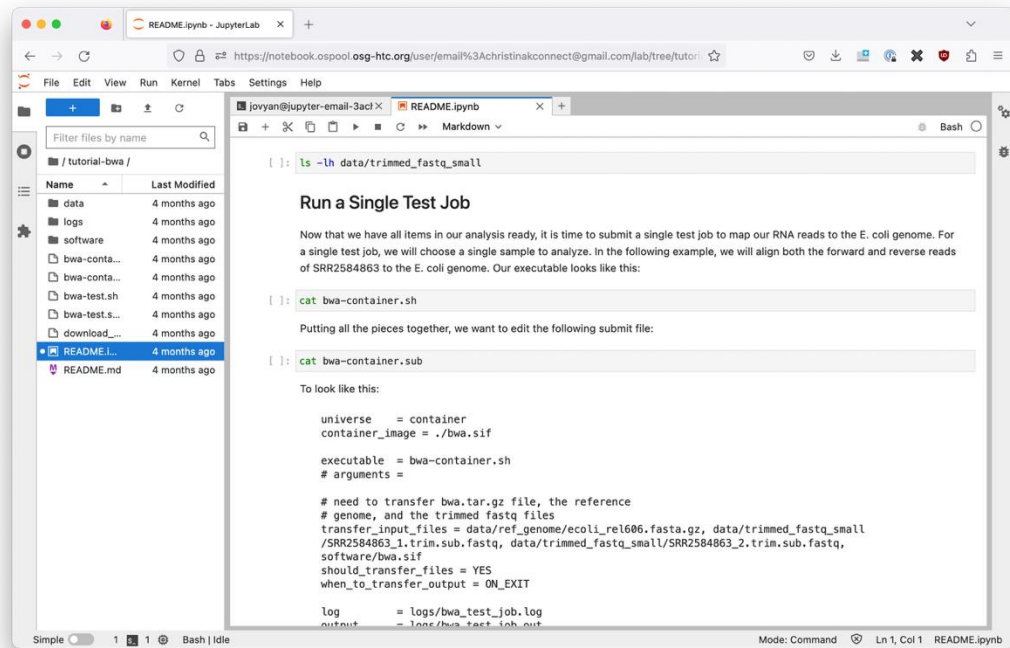
- **Option 1:** Set up data origins on your local storage to make data available via the OSDF
 - For example, making a local dataset available for more people to use.
- **Option 2:** Reach out to us; we have a chunk of storage available for use by interested groups.

I want to use the OSPool for teaching



- Introduce batch computing or job submission in a class
- Run a workshop on high throughput methods
- Provide experience with computing in a domain science class

OSPool Notebooks



osg-htc.org/notebooks

- Starts Jupyter on an HTCondor Access Point
- Guest access (no account needed) or full accounts
- No software installation required
- GUI interface
- Can create interactive bash or python notebooks



Teaching resources

- [OSPool Resources for Teaching and Education](#)
- [Bring the OSPool to Your Event](#) (talk)
- Use any of our existing training materials:
 - [Slides from monthly training](#)
 - [Tutorials](#)
 - [OSG School materials](#)



Facilitating HTC workloads



Identify



Communicate



Support

Magnifying Glass by Adam Novantio from the Noun Project
Conversation by Maxim Kulikov from the Noun Project
sprout by lastspark from the Noun Project



Find HTC workloads

- Where might there be HTC users at your institution?
 - User submitting 100s of jobs on local cluster.
 - “Non-traditional” computing domains, especially those doing statistical and “data science” work.
 - People with lots of pieces of data (sensors? images? samples?)
- Places to look
 - New faculty orientation, new student orientation
 - Lab/department meetings



Discuss HTC workloads

Tell me about
your research
...and how does
computing fit in?

What is the
smallest “piece” of
your workflow?

How are you running it now?

- compute/data requirements?
- your computing background?

How much
would you like
to run?



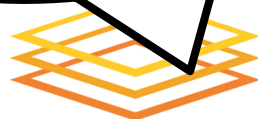
Discuss HTC workloads

Want to understand the long-term goals of a user

Identify learning curve and potential benefit to user

Determine if problem can be broken into small pieces = HTC

Understand potential to scale



The big picture

The goal is always a better research outcome for the researcher.

- **Choosing a “best-fit” computing approach that scales as much as possible**
 - HTC workloads compatible with the OSG can get a lot of computing.
- **Communicating the benefits and effort investment of that approach**
 - Is running on the OSG as “simple” as your desktop? Nope! Is it more powerful? Yes!
 - Quantify things! “You can achieve 10,000 runs in 2 days.” “You’re starting with 4,000, but you could easily run 40,000!”
- **Always keep this goal in mind when troubleshooting and providing guidance.**
 - Before solving a researcher’s question, stop and ask: is this the *real* problem?
 - Introduce skills that will help researchers help themselves.

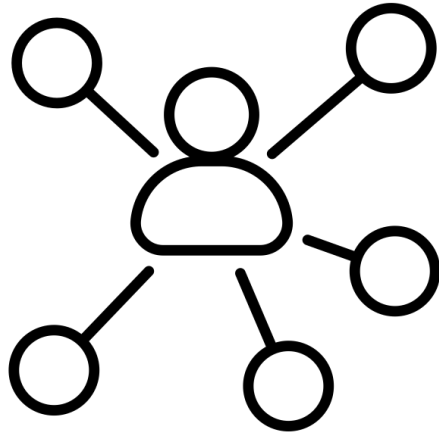


Building relationships

- **Responsive:** Establish your presence and reliability
- **Investigative:** Get to the “real” problem
 - When a user asks for something – what do they *really* need?
 - When issues keep happening – what needs to be fixed systemically?
- **Proactive:** Look out for researcher’s interests
 - Reach out to researchers with problems; frame issues as something that prevents them from getting research done. Emphasize good citizenship!
 - Connect users doing similar work



Stay connected



Created by Tini Sumiarsih
from Noun Project

We want to stay connected with YOU!

- Would you attend a community meeting every other month?
- Other options
 - Come to office hours
 - See us at conferences (e.g. PEARC)
 - Invite us to a local conference or regional meeting!
 - Visit and shadow the UW Madison team



Working together

- You are part of OUR network of support and community of practice in high throughput computing
- We can be more effective in transforming science and improving HTC technologies with individual advocates like you.
- Let us know how we can help you!!

support@osg-htc.org



Any goals to share with the group?

- What is one thing you'd like to try in the next 6-8 weeks?
- Let's try to meet sometime in September and discuss.



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