

# Sociotechnical aspects of new code collaborations



March 15, 2023

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Sandia National Laboratories

<https://www.sandia.gov/-emraybo/>



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
Science

*I help teams deepen understanding by being embedded, often in different cultures.*

- ERCIM Fellow
- First code team: FhG
- IDEAS-ECP/ECP  
Hardware & Integration
- Interns: Applied Math and CS



- Cultures: DARPA, DoD (Army, SOF, USMC, OSD, Team Orlando), BT Research, FhG FIT, INRIA, DOE Office of Science, Academia, National Labs
- Research: diffusion of innovations, virtual teams, teams of teams, immersive virtual environments, design of transmedia learning ecosystems, cultural awareness
- Institutional PI for ECP IDEAS Productivity since 2018, transmedia learning since 2010, games, immersive virtual environments, social simulations, and intelligent community systems since 2000
- Passion: ***Seize opportunities that allow us to learn about ourselves and others***
- Favorite question: ***Why not?***

# socio-technological

adjective

US /soh-see-oh-tek-nuh-loj-i-kuhl/

- of, relating to, or signifying the combination or interaction of social and technological factors.
- National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicine. Fostering responsible computing research: Foundations and practices. The National Academies Press, Washington, DC, 2022. URL: <https://doi.org/10.172 26/26507>.
- Trist, E. L. (1981). The sociotechnical perspective: The evolution of sociotechnical systems. In A. H. Van de Ven and W. F. Joyce (Eds.), Perspectives on organization design and behavior (pp. 19-75). New York: Wiley.

## 4 A Sociotechnical Approach

We have argued that as with any ubiquitous and influential technology, HPC scientists, researchers, educators, and practitioners should carefully consider the full impact of its influence and use within larger cultural and sociotechnical contexts, especially when considering the role of HPC in innovations such as smart cities, smart grids, driverless cars, large scale data analytics and other “intelligent” and self-organizing systems [34]. We use the term *sociotechnical* in the present paper to express the authors’ underlying theoretical perspective that society and technology are intertwined, influence each other, and that when innovating we should iteratively consider the social and cultural contexts of intended use as well as unintended consequences. According to the National Academy of Sciences [22]:

A sociotechnical approach enables identifying, designing for, and tracking the benefits and risks that arise from introducing novel technologies into social worlds. It draws on social theories and social scientific methodologies, and empirical observations that enable the development of hypotheses about the ways people interact with the world around them.

We posit that a sociotechnical approach is a precursor to practicing responsible computing and innovation. That is to say, while “ethics provides tools for the moral evaluation of behaviors, institutions, and social structures and for dealing with choices among and conflicts between values” [22], before we can adequately address moral evaluations of institutions, social structures, etc., it is necessary to evaluate our *own* behaviors, assumptions, and biases. While early pioneers may

# team

noun

US /ti:m/ UK /ti:m/

- A group (2 or more) of people who are interdependent with respect to information, resources, knowledge, and skills and who seek to combine the efforts to achieve a common goal.

Thompson, Leigh (2008). *Making the team : A guide for managers* (3rd ed.). Pearson/Prentice Hall.

## TEAMS VS. GROUPS

A group is a collection of people. A **team** is an interdependent group of people working for a shared goal. A work team is a collection of individuals who share responsibility for specific outcomes for their organizations. Not everyone who works together or is in proximity belongs to a team. A team is a group of people who are interdependent with respect to information, resources, and skills and who seek to combine their efforts to achieve a common goal. Teams have five key defining characteristics.<sup>3</sup>

First, teams exist to achieve a **shared goal**. Simply put, teams have work to do. Teams produce outcomes for which members have collective responsibility and reap some form of collective reward. Second, team members are interdependent regarding a common goal. Interdependence is the hallmark of teamwork. **Interdependence** means that team members cannot achieve their goals single-handedly but instead, must rely on each other to meet shared objectives. There are several kinds of interdependencies, as team members must rely on others for information, expertise, resources, and support. Third, teams are bounded and remain relatively stable over time. **Boundedness** means the team has an identifiable membership; members, as well as nonmembers, know who is on the team. **Stability** refers to the tenure of membership. Most teams work together for a meaningful length of time—long enough to accomplish their goal. Fourth, team members have the **authority** to manage their own work and internal processes.

# effectiveness

noun

US /ə'fek.tɪv.nəs/ UK /ɪ'fek.tɪv.nəs/

- the ability to be successful and produce the intended results.
- National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicine. Fostering responsible computing research: Foundations and practices. The National Academies Press, Washington, DC, 2022. URL: <https://doi.org/10.172 26/26507>.
- Trist, E. L. (1981). The sociotechnical perspective: The evolution of sociotechnical systems. In A. H. Van de Ven and W. F. Joyce (Eds.), Perspectives on organization design and behavior (pp. 19-75). New York: Wiley.

## Definitions

- **Team science** – Scientific collaboration, i.e., research conducted by more than one individual in an interdependent fashion, including research conducted by small teams and larger groups.
- **Science teams** – Most team science is conducted by 2 to 10 individuals, and we refer to entities of this size as science teams.
- **Larger groups** – We refer to more than 10 individuals who conduct team science as larger groups.\* These larger groups are often composed of many smaller science teams, and a few of them include hundreds or even thousands of scientists. Such very large groups typically possess a differentiated division of labor and an integrated structure to coordinate the smaller science teams; entities of this type are referred to as organizations in the social sciences.
- **Team effectiveness** (also referred to as **team performance**) – A team's capacity to achieve its goals and objectives. This capacity to achieve goals and objectives leads to improved outcomes for the team members (e.g., team member satisfaction and willingness to remain together), as well as outcomes produced or influenced by the team. In a science team or larger group, the outcomes include new research findings or methods and may also include translational applications of the research.

\*Larger groups of scientists sometimes refer to themselves as "science teams."

# Tutorial Learning Objectives

## At the conclusion of this tutorial you will be able to describe

- **What** are Scientific [research] software teams
  - *What are the challenges?*
  - *What characteristics make teams effective?*
  - *What are the cultural dynamics that influence our communication?*
- **How** to develop engaged and productive (in-person, hybrid, and virtual) teams
  - *How do we build team cultures?*
  - *What are best practices for team communication?*
- **When** you have become Teams of Teams: networks of code collaborations
  - *What are common organizational configurations?*
  - *How do we scale from a small team to a larger team, or team of teams?*
  - *What do the characteristics of a team of teams?*
- **Where** you can find resources for forming and sustaining scientific software (code) communities
  - *Where can I find training resources?*
  - *What lightweight tools may help with productivity?*



# Scientific Software Teams

*What are their challenges?*

*What characteristics make teams effective?*

*What are the cultural dynamics that influence our communication?*



Acknowledgements:

Enabling a Culture of Developer Productivity and Software Sustainability  
**Elaine M. Raybourn**, Sandia National Laboratories

Presented at the *Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) Conference on Computational Science and Engineering (CSE)19*  
SAND2019-2224 C

# Volatile, uncertain, complex, ambiguous. **Science is VUCA.**

More time spent on software

Projects are increasingly multi-institutional.

Demand for, and consequence of are greater.

Many practices can not keep up the pace with scale and complexity.

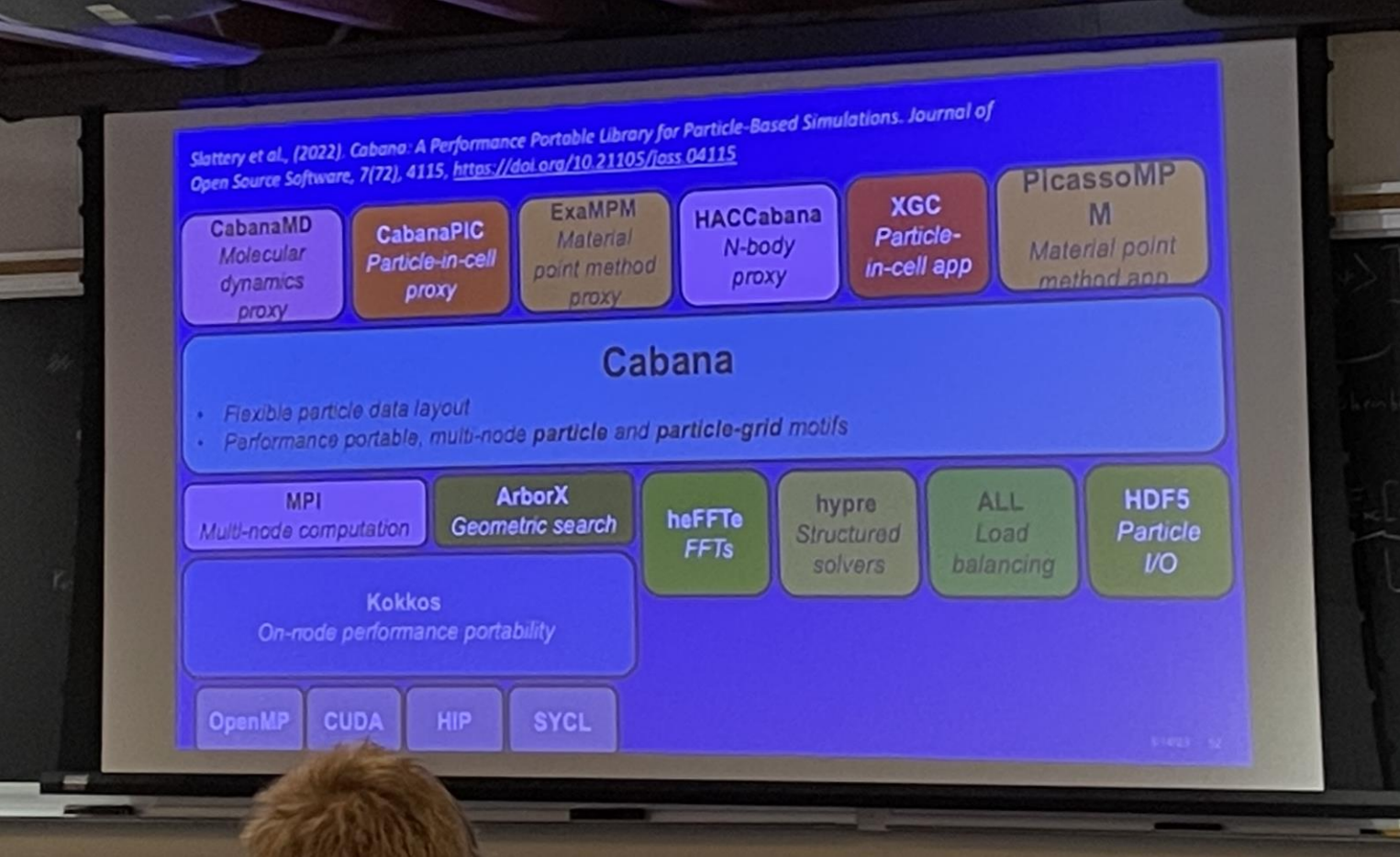


“This is an exciting and terrifying time to be doing computational science.”

Erik Draeger, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory  
2023 IPAM tutorial – *Future Exascale Architectures*



# Humans in the loop: Complex sociotechnical ecosystems



Used with permission. Tim Germann, IPAM, March 14, 2023



Molecular Dynamics 1 IPAM tutorial  
Tim Germann,  
Los Alamos National Laboratory

# Sociotechnical challenges for scientific software teams

- Teams are focused on obtaining scientific results from the software they write
  - Funding is *usually* for generating results and not software
  - Funding is a competitive process
  - No provision for time to write software features that don't focus on results
  - Bug fixing and refactoring releases are rare
  - Modest *formal* software engineering training. Understand formal terminology but perhaps incomplete understanding
  - Perception of SPIs being formal and heavy-weight approaches
  - Worry about significant delay to their current scientific activities or need of large investments before seeing benefits.
  - **Any productivity or sustainability improvements must be incremental, integrated into the primary feature development process, lightweight, iterative and informal.**

# Sociotechnical challenges of scientific software development

## *Technical*

- All parts of the ecosystem can be under research
- Requirements change throughout the lifecycle as knowledge grows
- Importance of reproducibility, sustainability
- Verification is complicated
- Real world is messy, so is the software

## *Social*

- Competing priorities and incentives
- Limited resources
- Perception of “invisible work” with deferred or no benefit
- Need for interdisciplinary interactions
- Boutique operations must scale!

***Science through computing is only as good as the software that produces it.***

Reflection: What makes your small or large team effective?



# Characteristics of Effective Teams



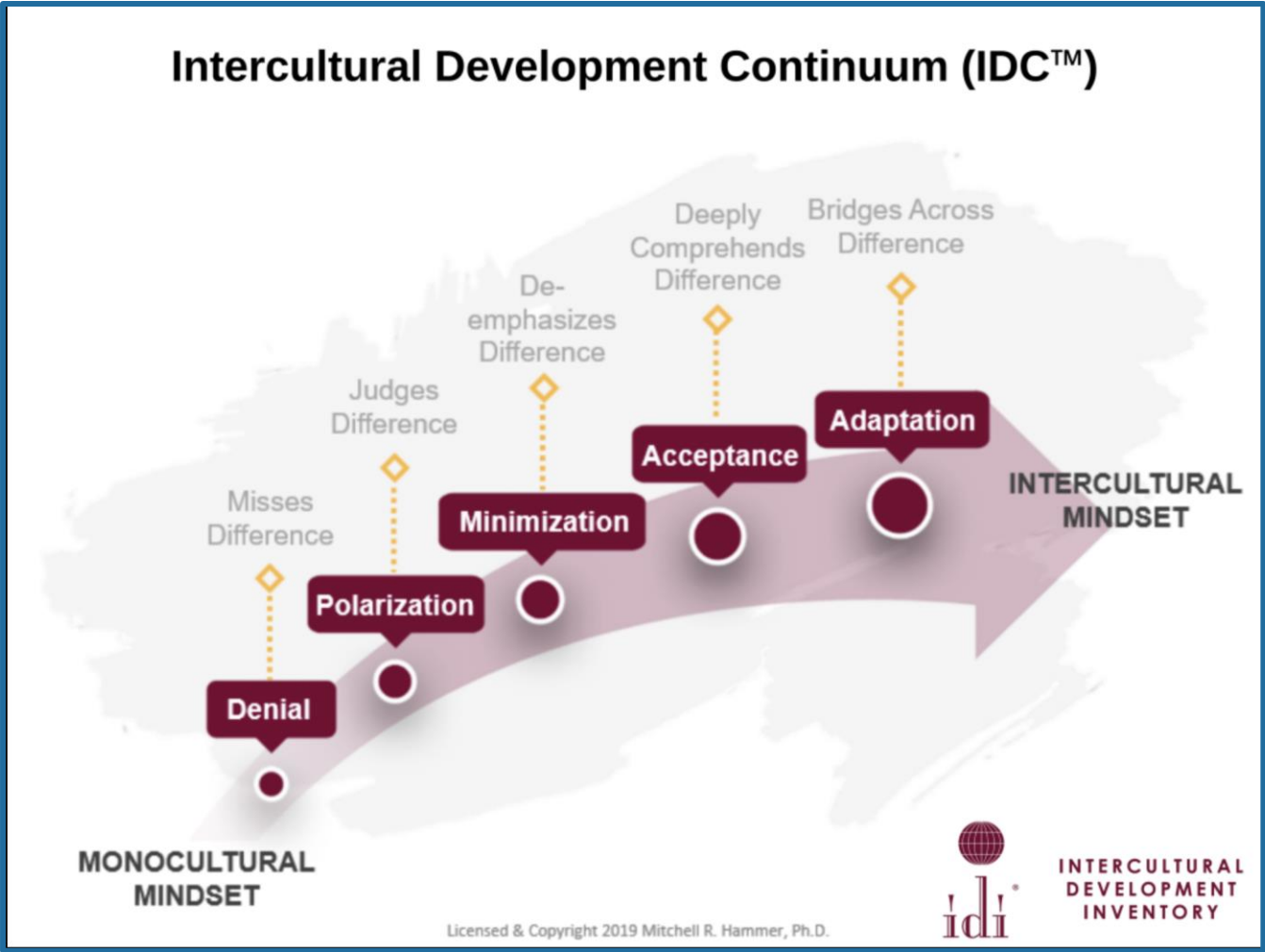
## Adaptive Thinking & Leadership

Raybourn, E.M., Deagle, E., Mendini, K., & Heneghan, J. (2005). Adaptive Thinking & Leadership Simulation Game Training for Special Forces Officers. I/ITSEC 2005 Proceedings, Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference Proceedings, November 28-December 1, Orlando, Florida, USA.

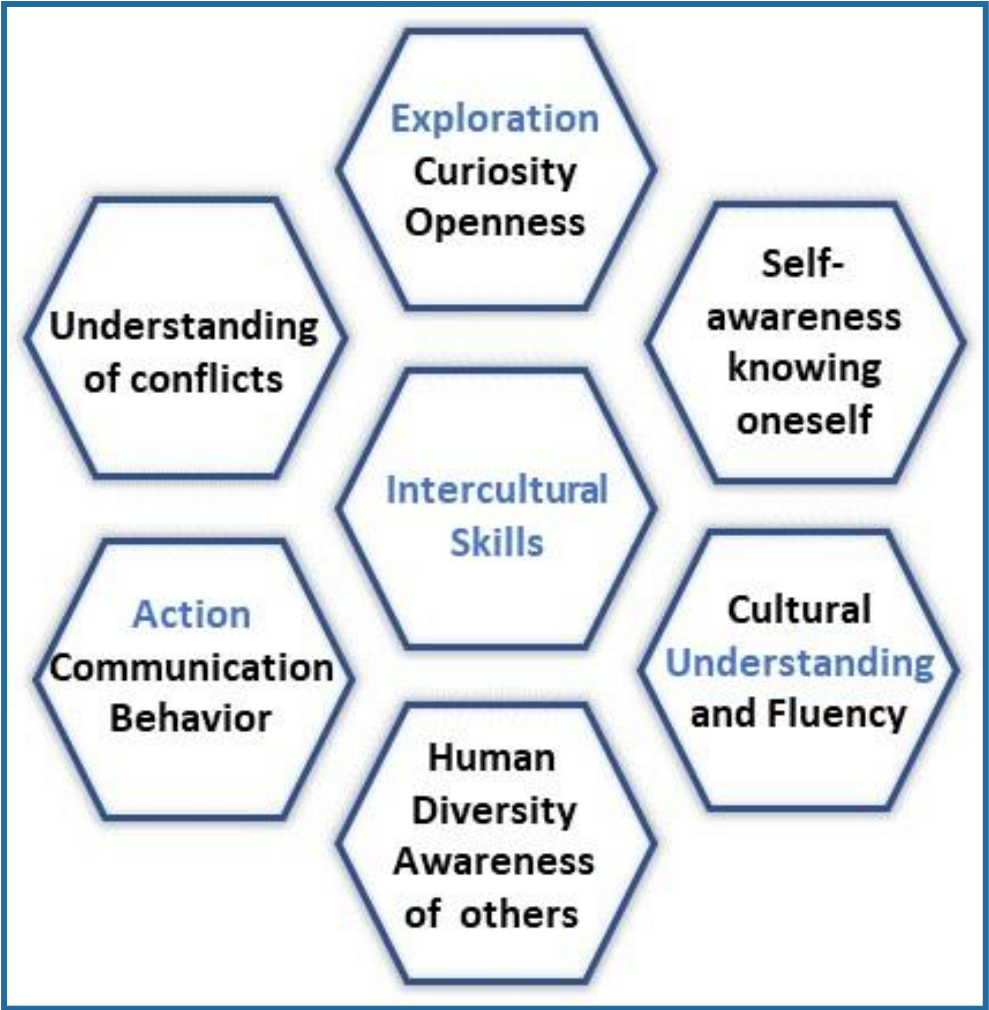
- “A team of experts does not make an expert team.”  
*Nancy Cooke, University of Arizona*
- It’s interaction, not the components, that make an effective team.
- Explicit communication is at the foundation of team cognition (shared mental model).
- Serendipity, side bars, sharing food have all been shown to enhance team interactions
- Adapting to novel change or some adversity presents opportunities to develop more resilient teams [however there are limits]
- A single team mate can impact team process positively or negatively, and serve as a model for team (anticipating needs)
- Effective teams respond quickly to perturbation and are more resilient, adaptive

Cooke, N.J., Gorman, J.C., Myers, C.W. and Duran, J.L. (2013), Interactive Team Cognition. *Cognitive Science*, 37: 255-285. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cogs.12009>

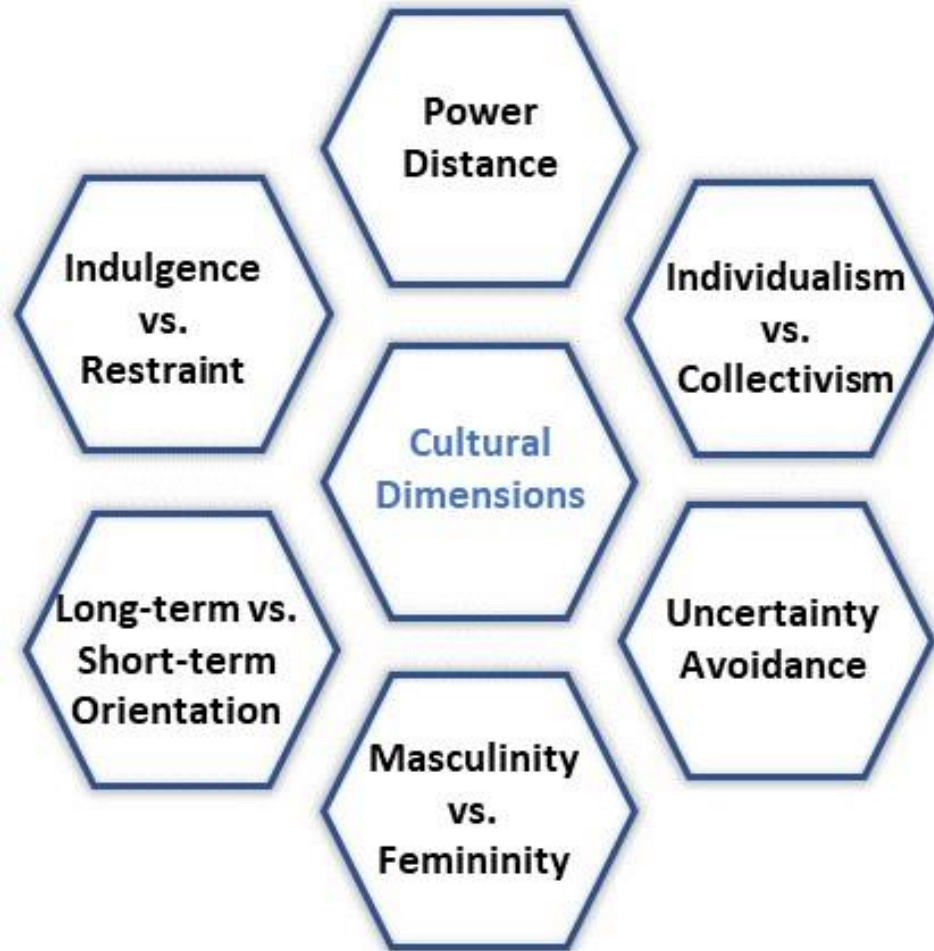
# Intercultural competence and cultural fluency



Source: <https://idiinventory.com/>



# Dimensions of culture



- Locus of control and attribution for failure
- Use of nonverbal communication
- Expression of reaction
- Group cohesion
- Use of time
- Communication style
- High / low context cultures

# To improve your team, first work on yourself

- Teams are complex adaptive systems of individuals with different preferences, skills, experiences, perspectives, and habits.
- The odds of improving that complex system in a meaningful and sustainable way are higher if every team member — including the leader — learns to master these three foundational capabilities:
  - internal self-awareness
    - What are the facts vs. my interpretations, assumptions, about another person or the situation?
    - What are my core values, and how might they be impacting my reactions?
  - external self-awareness
    - What am I doing that is helpful, not helpful?
  - personal accountability
    - Accept your role in the problem, and the solution, take responsibility for solving the problem.

Porter, J. (2019). To Improve Your Team, First Work on Yourself, Harvard Business Review  
<https://hbr.org/2019/01/to-improve-your-team-first-work-on-yourself>





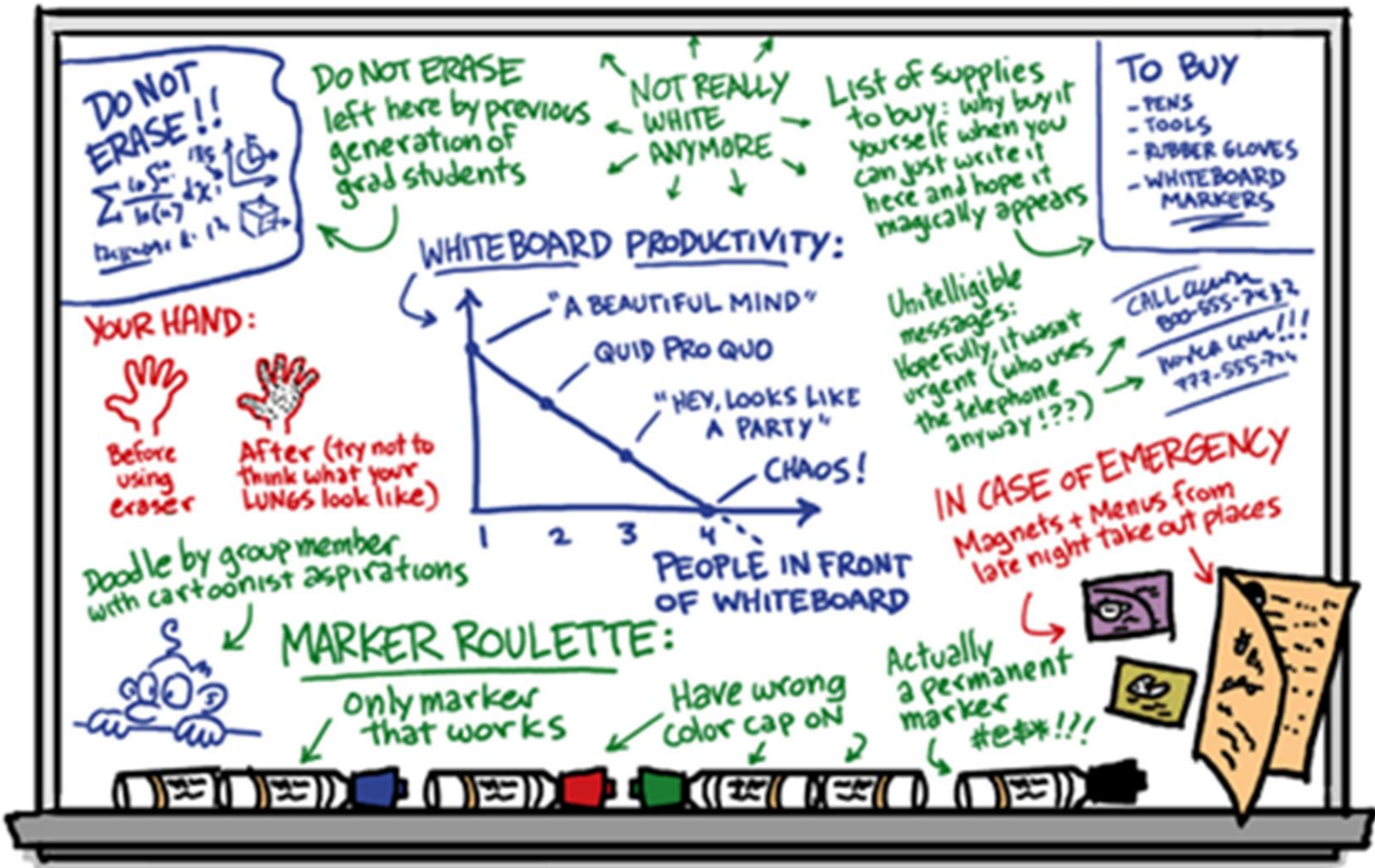
The essence of cross-cultural communication has more to do with releasing responses than with sending messages. It is more important to release the right response than to send the right message.

— Edward T. Hall —

AZ QUOTES

Source: <https://www.azquotes.com/>

# THE LAB/OFFICE WHITEBOARD



JORGE CHAM © 2008

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

Raybourn, E. M. (2021). It's Not the Whiteboard We Missed, It's How It Made Us Feel. figshare. Conference contribution. <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.19929941.v1>

Raybourn, E.M., (2020). Why We Need Strategies for Working Remotely: the Exascale Computing Project (ECP) Panel Series The International Conference for High Performance Computing, Networking, Storage, and Analysis, SC20 <https://www.osti.gov/search/identifier:1818020>

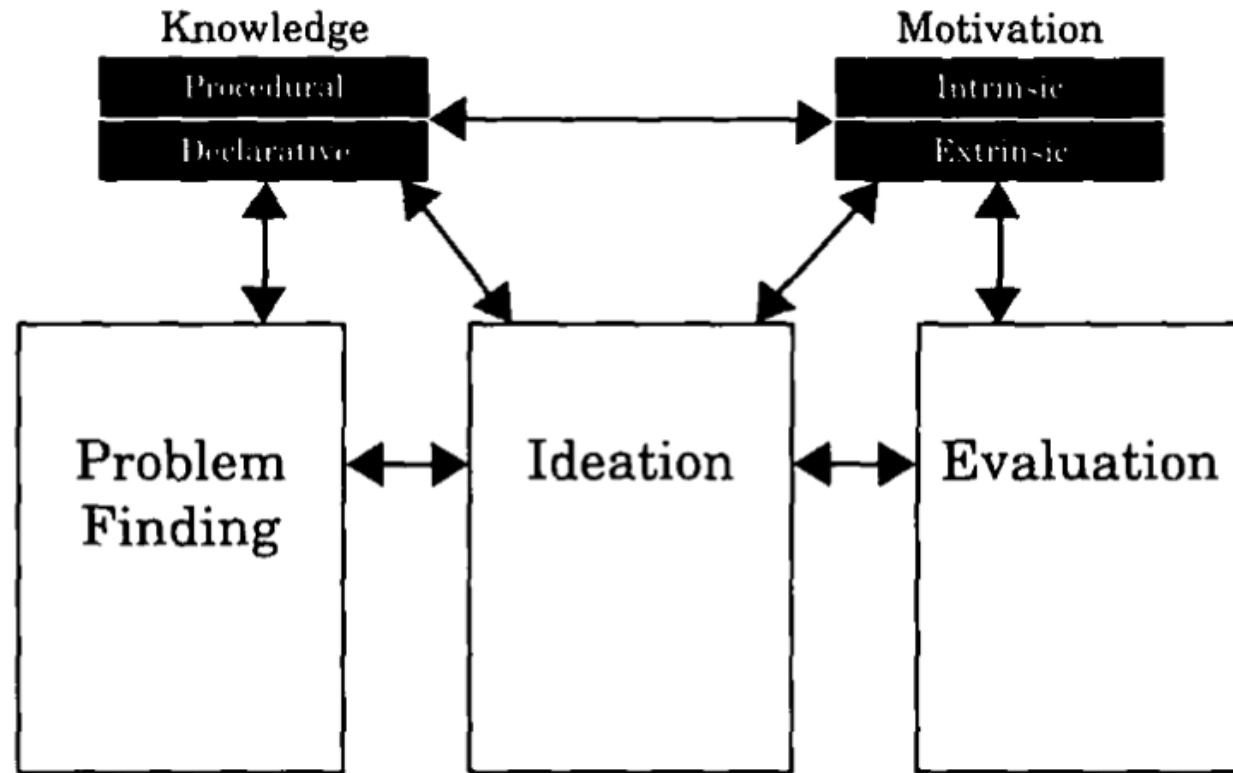
# What is creativity?

Thinking is creative if it leads to original and adaptive ideas, solutions, or insights.

# What is innovation?

...combining existing science and technology with new ideas to solve a problem, or to introduce an entirely new capability.

M. R. Ackerman (2021). Innovation. SAND2021-2376.



**Fig. 1. Two-tier model of creative thinking.** The three boxes on the primary tier each represent sets of skills. Problem finding represents problem identification, problem definition, and so on. Ideation represents ideational fluency, originality, and flexibility. Evaluation represents valuation and critical evaluation.

M. A Runko and I. Chand (1995). Cognition and Creativity. Educational Psychology Review, Vol. 7, No. 3, 243-267.

# How to develop engaged and productive (in-person, hybrid, and virtual) teams

How do we build team cultures?

What are best practices for team communication?



Acknowledgements:

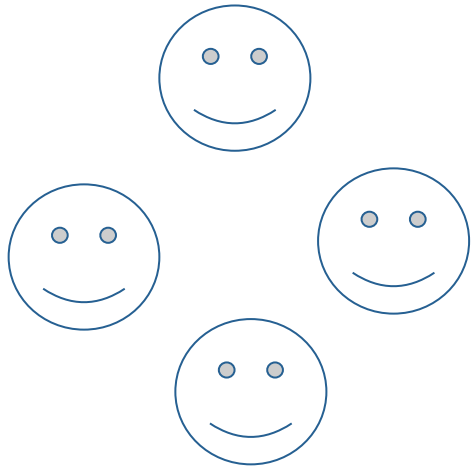
Developing Engaged and Productive Virtual Teams

**Elaine M. Raybourn**, Sandia National Laboratories  
**J. David Moulton**, Los Alamos National Laboratories  
**Todd Munson**, Argonne National Laboratories

Presented at the *Exascale Computing Project Annual Meeting, 2020*  
SAND2020-5000 C

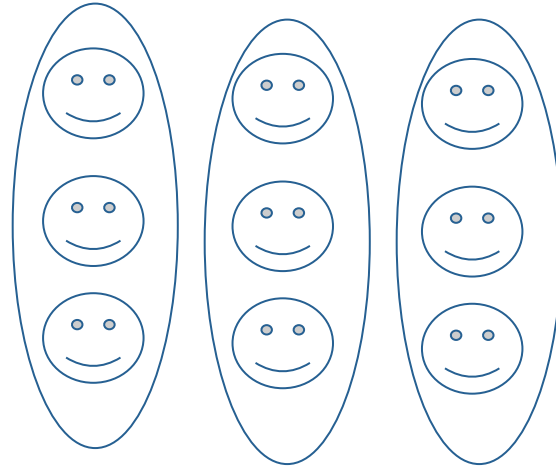
# Configurations of remote working add complexity

Fully Dispersed



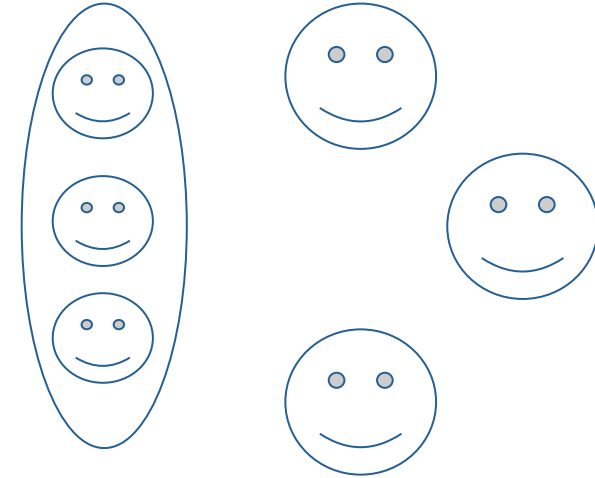
**Least conflict, most trust**

Subgroups



**Most conflict, least trust**

Group + Dispersed



**???**

Adapted from Martin Fowler (2015) [Remote versus Co-located Work](#), Sekou Bermiss (2019) Leading and Motivating Dispersed Teams.

*“There isn’t a simple dichotomy of remote versus co-located work, instead there are several patterns of distribution for teams each of which has different trade-offs and effective techniques suitable for them.”*

Thoughtworks Chief Scientist Martin Fowler, October 19, 2015

# Factors influencing virtual teams

- Physical location, geography
- time (more time zones = more difficult to lead)
- team configuration
- size (smaller = easier to lead)
- commitment, common goals, expertise
- communication (verbal, visual, nonverbal)
- Technology, technology literacy
- asynchronous
- synchronous decision making
- culture
- seniority
- language
- experience with virtual teaming
- Technical hurdles
- Technical disagreements— consensus on how to do it (prioritizing paths)

(Lokeski & Reilly (2008), Adapted from Sekou Bermiss, John Daly 2019, UT Executive Education Managing Dispersed Teams

news

Society | DOI:10.1145/3563109 Logan Kugler

## The Impact of Virtual Meetings

*Virtual meetings have mixed effects on employee productivity, creativity, and relationships.*

**O**VER THE LAST two years, office workers of the world have gotten a tantalizing taste of either fully remote work or partially remote hybrid work. Many don't want to go back to commuting to a workplace full-time, no matter the cost.

According to research from the ADP Research Institute, which surveyed more than 32,000 workers, fully 64% said they would consider looking for a



"With increased use and adoption of virtual services that are continually adapting to offer a better experience, the way we communicate will change," says Elaine Raybourn, a social scientist in the Statistics and Human Systems Group in the Applied Information Sciences Center of Sandia National Laboratories, where she focuses on the future of remote work. "The onus is on each of us to navigate the challenge space of what it means to communicate effectively with different tools, learn where our strengths are, and how to address our weaknesses."

One major area where companies are being forced to evolve is assessing—and optimizing—the impact of virtual meetings. Virtual meetings that occur over videoconferencing technologies such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams have both unique advantages and disadvantages

in the Applied Information Sciences Center of Sandia National Laboratories, where she focuses on the future of remote work. "The onus is on each of us to navigate the challenge space of what it means to communicate effectively

must carefully weigh the pros and cons of virtual meetings—and of remote work as a whole.

### The Benefits of Going Virtual

There's no question that virtual meetings provide some major benefits to

Kugler, L. "The impact of virtual meetings." The Communications of the ACM, November 2022, Vol. 65 No. 11, Pages 19-21 <https://cacm.acm.org/magazines/2022/11/265812-the-impact-of-virtual-meetings/fulltext>.

Department of Energy (2022). "Work shift: A Sandia researcher looks at how COVID-19 has reshaped the computational science community and remote work – in lasting ways." <https://ascr-discovery.org/2022/06/work-shift/>

# Building (virtual) team culture

## Create shared responsibility and accountability

- Provide more explicit direction than in F2F teams
  - Get agreement and buy-in on goals, objectives, processes
- Negotiate norms for communication and virtual presence
  - Frequency of feedback, communication flows
  - Availability: promptly return phone calls, emails
- Use clear communication to define team identity, task, goals, documentation, redundancy
  - Clarify expectations, plan communication (choose right medium, communication channel)
  - Establish reliable workflows and processes
  - Establish regular expectations
- Help teams feel part of a community
  - Listen, turn on video if possible
  - Trust your colleagues and employees
- Identify individual/group rewards

## Establish norms for meetings and artifacts

- Meetings
  - Send out a clear meeting agenda in advance
  - Team configuration: have roles for individuals during meetings (facilitator, note taker, time keeper, etc.)
  - Team members post in workflow tools in advance/ during to augment discussion
  - Start each meeting with social relationship building
  - Perform check-in's with participants during meetings to help engagement, and inclusion
  - Ensure the minutes and future work plan is documented and accessible to all
- Artifacts
  - Utilize and regularly populate collaborative workspaces
  - Report outcomes
  - If applicable, document retrospectives



# Scaling Productivity and Innovation on the Path to Exascale with a “Team of Teams” Approach



Acknowledgements:

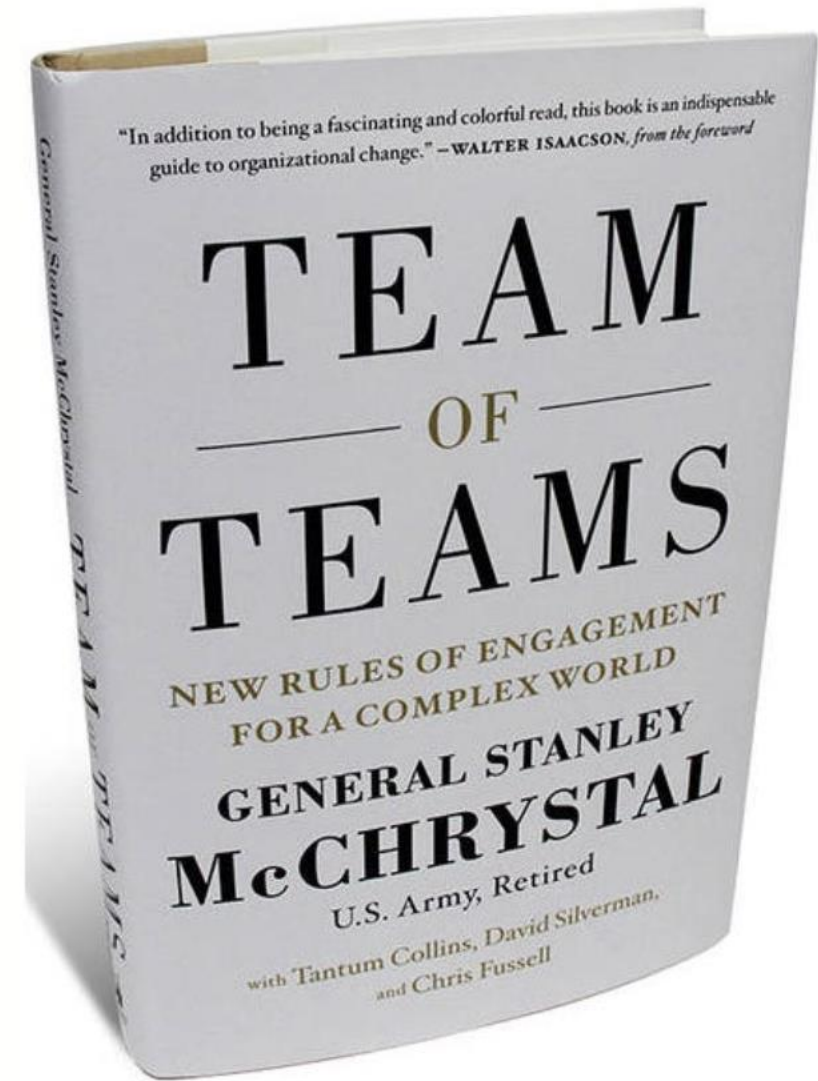
Scaling Productivity and Innovation on the Path to Exascale with a “Team of Teams” Approach

**Elaine M. Raybourn**, Sandia National Laboratories  
**J. David Moulton**, Los Alamos National Laboratory  
**Aimee Hungerford**, Los Alamos National Laboratory

Presented at *HCI in Business, Government and Organizations (HCIBGO)*  
Human Computer-Interaction International (HCII) July 29, 2019  
SAND2019-8389 C

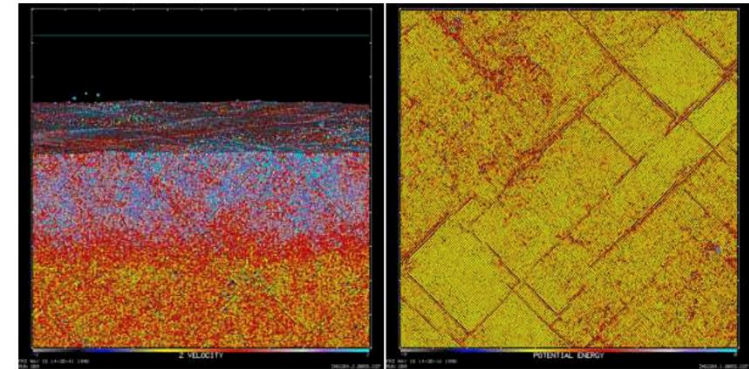
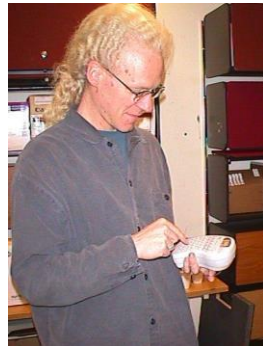
# Talk Outline

- Motivation and introduction
- Scaling teams to a ***Team of Teams***
  - Shared Consciousness
  - Empowered Execution
  - Humble Gardener
- Enhancing productivity and innovation
- Conclusion



# Small teams: Critical, effective, but just a part of a greater whole.

- The mythical hero programmer/developer is (or is becoming) extinct.
- If you've been on an effective small team you are likely a believer already.
- This day in history (almost) 25 years ago:
  - A small team, built Avalon the first Linux cluster to break into the Top500 Super Computer list
  - A small team, demonstrated its application to MD simulations in a Gordon Bell entry

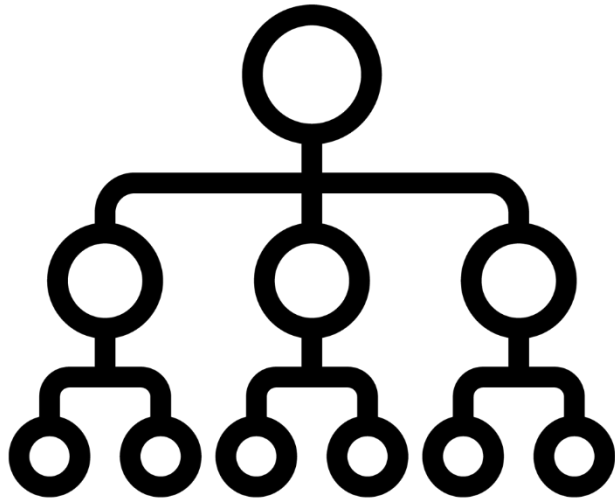


M. S. Warren et al., *Avalon: An Alpha/Linux Cluster Achieves 10 Gflops for \$150K, SC 1998.*

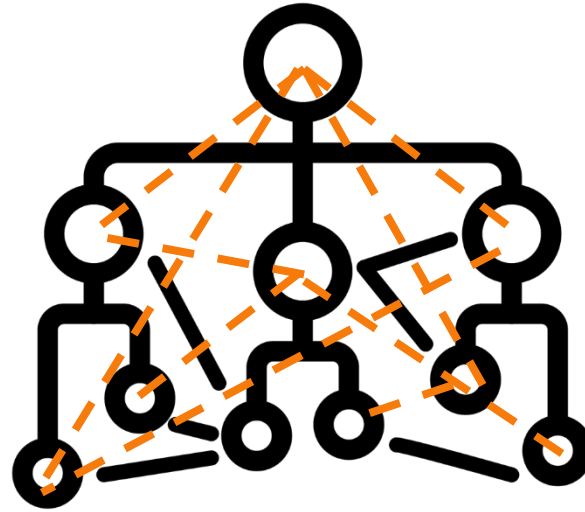
- Characteristics of an effective, small team:
  - Trust, common purpose, shared consciousness, decentralized decisions and autonomy.

***But how can we scale it up?***

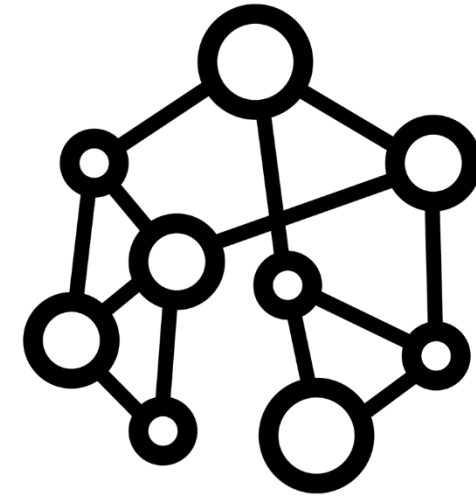
From few to few, toward many to many.



HIERARCHY



HYBRID



NETWORK

- **Hierarchies:** Efficiency focused, can only leverage silos in predictable ways.
- **Networks:** Agile, adaptable, and resilient, well suited to uncertain environments.
- **Hybrid:** Bring adaptability and resilience of networks to existing organizations.

# ECP by the Numbers

7  
YEARS  
\$1.8B

A seven-year, \$1.8 B R&D effort that launched in 2016

6  
CORE DOE  
LABS

Six core DOE National Laboratories: Argonne, Lawrence Berkeley, Lawrence Livermore, Los Alamos, Oak Ridge, Sandia

- Staff from most of the 17 DOE national laboratories take part in the project

3  
TECHNICAL  
FOCUS  
AREAS

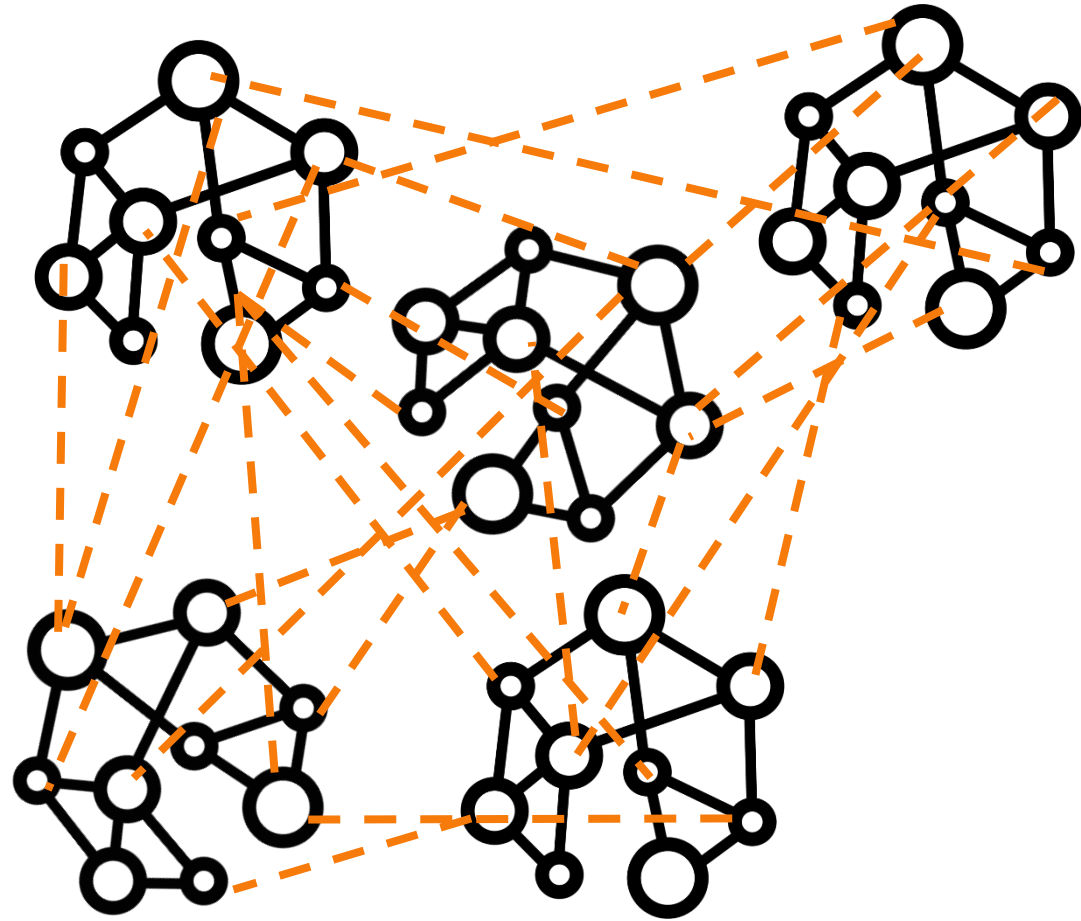
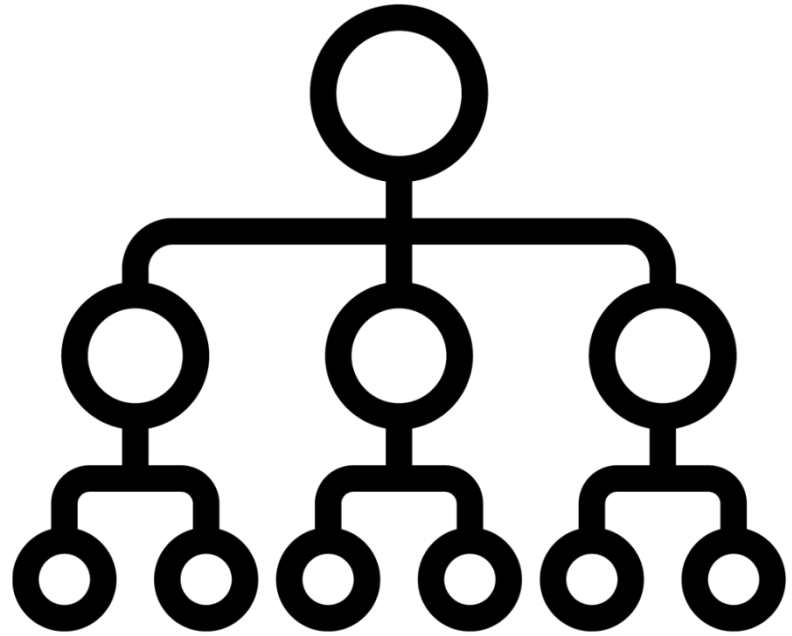
Three technical focus areas (Application Development, Software Technology, Hardware and Integration)

81  
R&D TEAMS  
1000  
RESEARCHERS

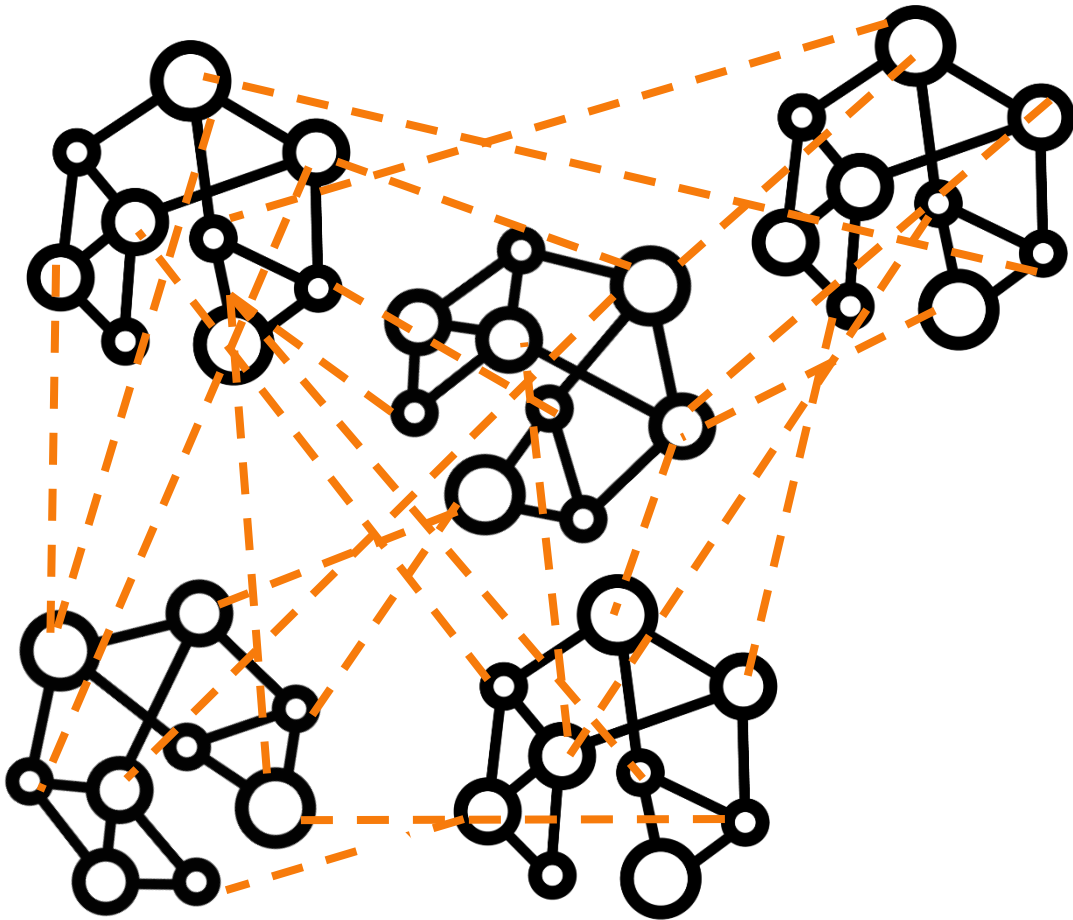
81 R&D teams, approximately 10 researchers per team

- Hundreds of consequential milestones delivered on schedule and within budget since project inception

# Command of Teams vs. Team of Teams



# *Team of Teams: Scale the productivity of small teams and leverage the accelerated communication of a large network*



## **Several key ingredients include:**

- Shared consciousness, aligning narrative
- Empowered execution
- Leading like a gardener (shift focus from moving pieces to shaping the ecosystem)
- Embedded members or liaisons build the network and breakdown silos

***Provide opportunities for our teams to foster this culture, and develop these skills***

- McChrystal, S., Collins, T., Silverman, D., Fussell, C. (2015). Team of teams: New rules of engagement for a complex world. Penguin Random House LLC: NY.
- Raybourn, E.M., Moulton, J.D., Hungerford, A. (2019). Correction to: Scaling Productivity and Innovation on the Path to Exascale with a "Team of Teams" Approach. In: Nah, FH., Siau, K. (eds) HCI in Business, Government and Organizations. Information Systems and Analytics. HCII 2019. Lecture Notes in Computer Science(), vol 11589. Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-22338-0\\_39](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-22338-0_39)

# Scaling to a Team of Teams: Shared Consciousness

As CSE teams work toward next-generation challenges—they may be composed of multiple, previously successful, existing teams, where software is a primary means of collaboration.

This aggregate team is best viewed as *a Team of Teams* that needs to develop ***shared consciousness***:

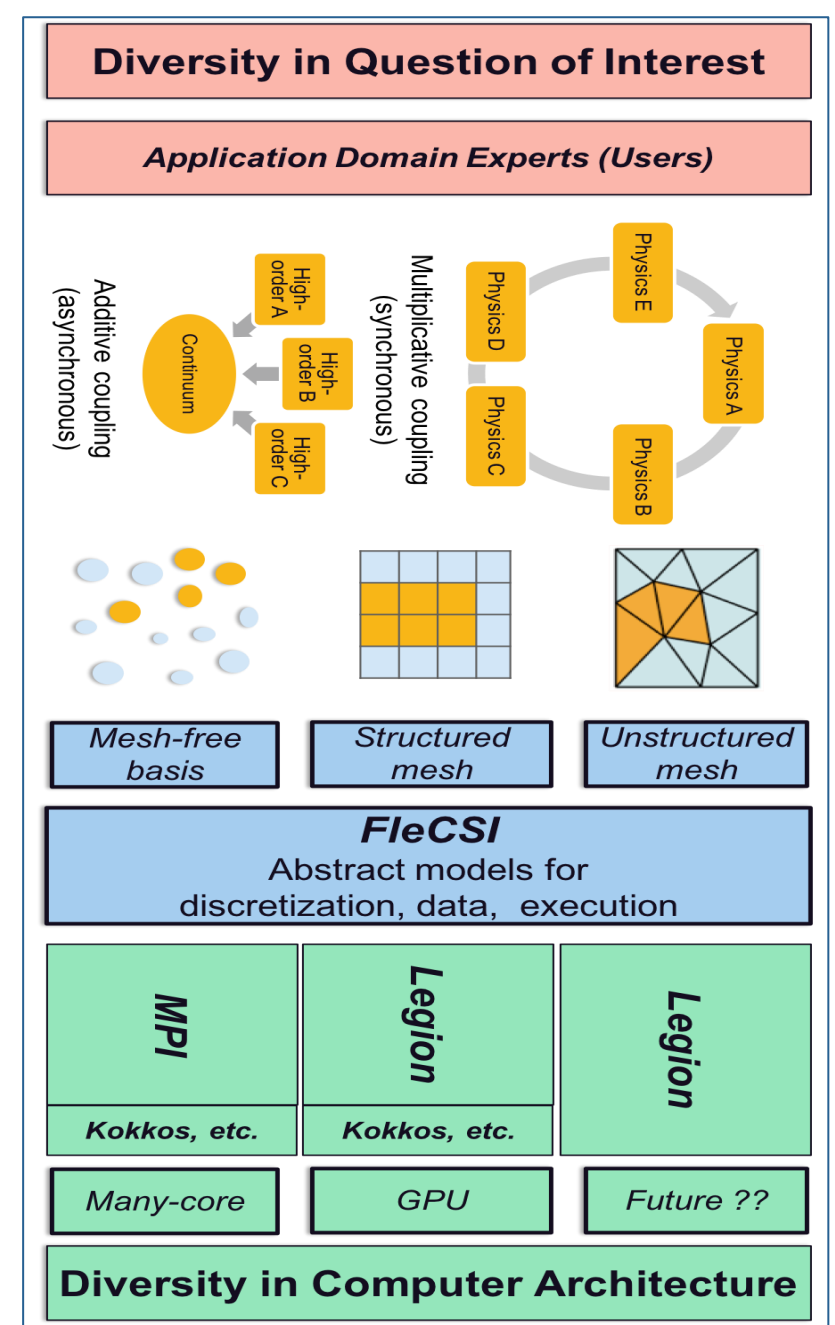
- A common conceptual model or big picture understanding of the entire interconnected project is necessary.
- Built on information sharing that is transparent and efficient
- Since teams are increasingly distributed and virtual, demanding increased use of cloud-based development tools and video/whiteboard meeting tools, and inclusive ways of using these tools
- The best cadence of project-wide meetings is project dependent.



# ASC Ristra: New Code from Existing Components

Ristra Next Generation Code project is part of the ASC Advanced Technology Development Mitigation (ATDM) program.

- Vision is to support diverse science applications and compute architectures through easily swapped components.
- **Code team was inherited from existing teams**
  - Production code support and development teams
  - Academic research teams
- **Cultures differ between the component teams**
  - **Coding styles, Vocabulary / Jargon, Expected timelines**
  - **Reporting requirements** – publications ... informal conversations with the Project Lead
  - **Communication avenues** – in person ... social media
  - **Software development environments** – tar file ... git repository
- Past efforts with these goals and these initial conditions have mostly failed (historical success rate < 10%)
- Starting under a cloud! How to proceed?



# ASC Ristra: Overcoming Cultural and Technical Changes

## Cultural Changes:

- Ignore the naysayers
- Unstructured collaboration time is key to gelling as a team (of teams).
- Pay attention to the balance of staff (diversity, experience, personality)
- Management support for the kick-off phase is critical
  - Shield from delivering a product just for delivery's sake
  - Exploration without product delivery is important
- Stable collaboration environment
  - Say no to the shiny new tool unless it really fixes a problem

## Technical Tools:

- Dedicated collaboration area for impromptu meetings
- Atlassian development tools: Confluence, Jira, Bitbucket
- Tutorials for adopted development tools
- Docker containers



Illustration by [www.vecteezy.com](http://www.vecteezy.com)



# Scaling to a Team of Teams: Empowered Execution

- Reconsider hierarchical “command structures” that are not effective at scale for a more agile, networked configuration.
- Foster authority of sub-teams and individuals to act without explicit senior leadership consultation.
- Provide opportunities for team members to understand each of the interdependent parts of the system so that generalized awareness can be fused with specialization.
- Introduce transparency to establish a culture of shared consciousness.
- Synchronization of team cadence (hybrid model) to reaffirm the aligning narrative.

# Realizing Empowered Execution in ECP projects

- Most in this community have strong entrepreneurial tendencies, so why is empowered execution challenging?
- Empowered Execution:
  - **Is not** independent wild west hero style bug creation, or random API updates.
  - **Is** disciplined focused autonomous development within smaller teams **that is** guided by, and well aligned with, the by the big picture.
  - **Is** consistent with the accepted best practices, styles, etc. of the broader team.
- Projects are experimenting with a range of methodologies that foster hands-off:
  - Bull pens, sprints, virtual scrums (with extended schedules)
  - Various workflows (e.g., pull requests) balance supervision and autonomy.
- Eyes-on reflects an overall situational awareness, and may be captured by the interaction and logging that development creates through these tools and workflows.

# From chess master to gardener: Lead like a gardener

- New software development and communication tools increase our ability to observe, analyze and even control our teams:
  - But centralized control is too slow, it hinders cross-fertilization, and stifles innovation
  - Complexity of science today makes our expectations of leaders unrealistic, and attempts to micro manage ineffective.
- Avoid the temptation to lead as a chess master, with a reductionist view that has each team categorized and controlled.
- Lead like a humble gardener:
  - Create and nurture an environment (i.e., culture, structure, and processes) to enable smart autonomy and shared consciousness.
  - Gardening is not passive: it drives the rhythm and transparency, and builds and maintains the trust needed for cross-functional cooperation.

# Enhancing Productivity and Innovation



- Are your “regular” large team meetings as effective as McChrystal’s O&I (operations & intelligence brief)?
  - Is attendance mandatory, engage staff at all levels, always considerate and encouraging, ...
  - Logistics, agenda run by assistant, avoids mixed message from multi-tasking leader
  - Is the frequency right to balance synchronization with empowered execution.
  - Is there real open discussion, evaluation, development ...

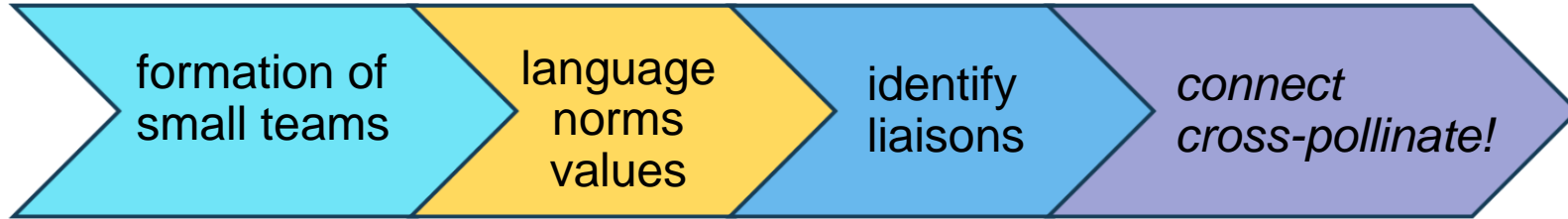
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yHR1kK1\\_cE0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yHR1kK1_cE0)

[Forbes: Lead like a humble gardener](#), by [Chunka Mui](#)

# Conclusions

- Do you have an aligning narrative on which you can build "shared consciousness"?
  - Start with why (Simon Sinek), capture the belief or purpose that attracts people to your team. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4ZoJKF\\_VuA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4ZoJKF_VuA)
  - Does the ecosystem you're building, provide the adaptability and sustainability needed?
- Do you have the right people in critical roles?
  - Embedded members or Liaisons build the network that tears down the silos. They need to be your best people, highly motivated with a reputation of selflessness and excellence.
  - Do the small teams have effective leadership and suitable culture?
    - Empowered execution depends on shared consciousness
    - Build trust across and within teams

# In a perfect world...



IPAM Weeks 1 - 3



IPAM Weeks 4 - 10



IPAM Weeks 11 - 14



# Resources for forming new scientific software (code) collaborations



Acknowledgements:

Better Scientific Software tutorial

**David E. Bernholdt**, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

**Anshu Dubey**, Argonne National Laboratory

**Patricia A. Grubel**, Los Alamos National Laboratory

Presented at SC22

# The IDEAS-ECP team improves developer productivity and software sustainability as key aspects of increasing overall scientific productivity

- 1 Customize and curate methodologies**
  - Target scientific software productivity and sustainability
  - Use workflow for best practices content development

- 2 Incrementally and iteratively improve software practices**
  - Determine high-priority topics for improvement and track progress
  - *Productivity and Sustainability Improvement Planning (PSIP)*  
<https://github.com/bssw-psip>



- 3 Establish software communities**
  - Determine community policies to improve software quality and compatibility
  - Create Software Development Kits (SDKs) to facilitate the combined use of complementary libraries and tools
- 4 Engage in community outreach**
  - Strategies for Working Remotely Series
  - HPC Best Practices Webinar Series
  - Tutorials Better Scientific Software site
  - PSIP Tutorials

# Building an Online Community

<https://bssw.io>

- **New community-based resource for scientific software improvement**
- A central hub for sharing information on practices, techniques, experiences, and tools to improve developer productivity and software sustainability for computational science & engineering (CSE)



## Goals

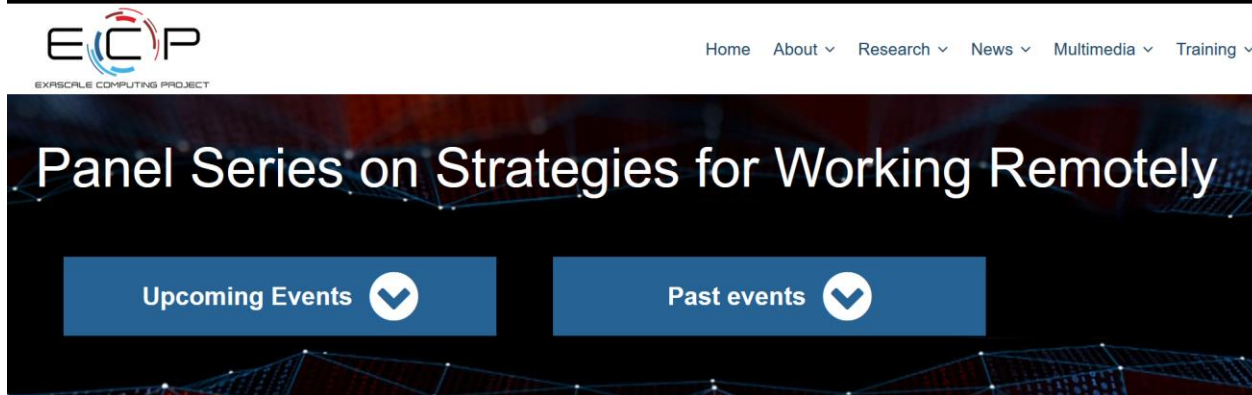
- Raise awareness of the importance of **good software practices** to scientific productivity and to the quality and reliability of computationally-based scientific results
- Help CSE researchers **increase effectiveness** as well as leverage and impact
- **Facilitate CSE collaboration via software** in order to advance scientific discoveries

## Site users can...

- **Find information** on scientific software topics
- **Contribute new resources** based on your experiences
- Create content tailored to the unique needs and perspectives of a focused scientific domain

# The ECP Panel Series – Community Dialog

How the DOE Labs are fighting COVID-19 +



## UPCOMING EVENTS

[Strategies for Working Remotely Panel Series – Sustainable Hybrid Approaches](#)

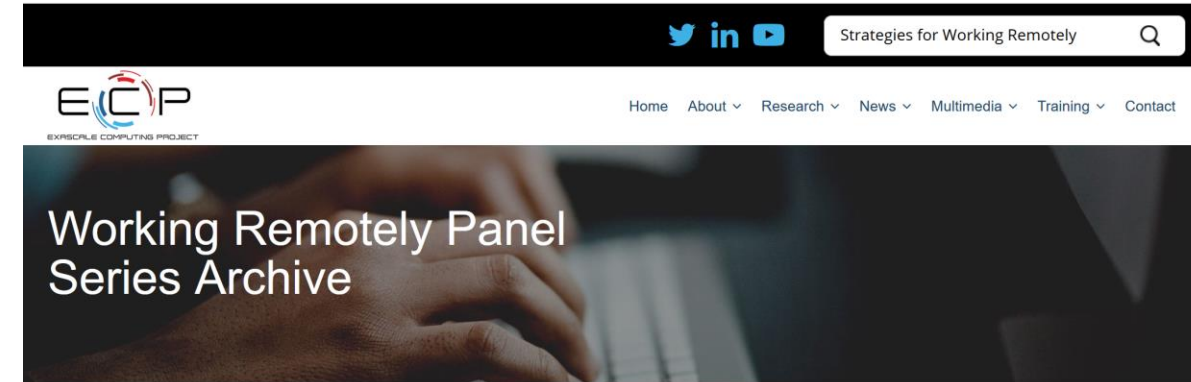
October 29, 2020

In Spring 2020 many workers abruptly transitioned from a primarily on-site to a



E. M. Raybourn, IPAM 2020-03-15

<https://www.exascaleproject.org/strategies-for-working-remotely/>



## ALL PAST EVENTS

[Strategies for Working Remotely Panel Series – How to Make Teams Tick](#)

August 27, 2020

In response to the need for many to transition to unplanned remote work, the IDEAS-ECP Productivity project launched the panel series Strategies for Working Remotely. This panel discussion "How to Make Virtual Teams Tick" addresses ways to bring teams who have been disrupted by change back into balance.

[View Training Event >](#)

[Strategies for Working Remotely Panel Discussion – Virtual Onboarding and Mentoring](#)

June 30, 2020

Several laboratories have onboarded interns and new team members to work remotely with geographically dispersed teams. What are some lessons learned and best practices that we can take away from this experience? Staff members of DOE laboratories will speak about their experiences in onboarding and mentoring new hires virtually.

[View Training Event >](#)

[Strategies for Working Remotely: Making the Transition to Virtual Software Teams](#)

May 21, 2020

As working remotely has suddenly become a near-universal experience, many software teams are now functioning as completely virtual teams. This panel brings together staff members of DOE laboratories, who will speak about experiences in recent transitions from co-located and partially distributed software teams to fully virtual software teams.

[View Training Event >](#)

[Strategies for Working Remotely: Challenges Faced by Parents Who are Working Remotely, and Overcoming Them](#)

April 24, 2020

While working remotely is challenging enough, many are currently experiencing unique complexities involved with parenting, transitioning to online school at home, and

[Strategies for Working Remotely: Advice from Colleagues with Experience](#)

April 3, 2020

Working remotely has suddenly become a near-universal experience for staff members of research organizations, but for some it has been a way of life for years. This panel brought together five staff members of U.S. Department

# Many ECP Software products are available (many on GitHub)

For example...

## Programming Models and Runtimes Products

- Legion
- ROSE
- Kokkos
- DARMA
- Global Arrays
- RAJA
- CHAI
- Umpire
- MPICH
- PaRSEC
- Open MPI
- Intel GEOPM
- LLVM OpenMP compiler
- OpenMP V&V Suite
- BOLT
- UPC++
- GASNet-EX
- Qthreads

- <http://legion.stanford.edu>
- <https://github.com/rose-compiler>
- <https://github.com/kokkos>
- <https://github.com/darma-tasking>
- <http://hpc.pnl.gov/globalarrays/>
- <https://github.com/LLNL/RAJA>
- <https://github.com/LLNL/CHAI>

## Mathematical Libraries Products (16)

- xSDK
- hypre
- FleCSI
- MFEM
- Kokkoskernels
- Trilinos
- SUNDIALS
- PETSc/TAO
- libEnsemble
- STRUMPACK
- SuperLU
- ForTrilinos
- SLATE
- MAGMA-sparse
- DTK
- Tasmanian

- <https://xsdk.info>
- <http://www.llnl.gov/casc/hypre>
- <http://www.flecsi.org>
- <http://mfem.org/>
- <https://github.com/kokkos/kokkos-kernels/>
- <https://github.com/trilinos/Trilinos>
- <https://computation.llnl.gov/projects/sundials>
- <http://www.mcs.anl.gov/petsc>
- <https://github.com/Libensemble/libensemble>
- <http://portal.nersc.gov/project/sparse/strumpack/>
- <http://crd-legacy.lbl.gov/~xiaoye/SuperLU/>
- <https://trilinos.github.io/ForTrilinos/>
- <http://icl.utk.edu/slate/>
- <https://bitbucket.org/icl/magma>
- <https://github.com/ORNL-CEES/DataTransferKit>
- <http://tasmanian.ornl.gov/>

etc...

## Development Tools (19)

- SICM
- QUO
- Kitsune
- SCR
- Caliper
- mpiFileUtils
- Gotcha
- TriBITS
- Exascale Code Generation Toolkit
- PAPI
- CHiLL Autotuning Compiler
- Search using Random Forest
- HPCToolkit

- <https://confluence.exascaleproject.org/display/STSS07>
- <https://github.com/lanl/libquo>
- <https://github.com/lanl/kitsune>
- <https://github.com/llnl/scr>
- <https://github.com/llnl/caliper>
- <http://github.com/hpc/mpifileutils>
- <https://tribits.org>
- <http://icl.utk.edu/exas-papi/>

- [hpctoolkit.org](http://hpctoolkit.org)
- [www.paradyn.org](http://www.paradyn.org)
- [www.cs.uoregon.edu/research/tau](http://www.cs.uoregon.edu/research/tau)
- [ft.ornl.gov/research/papyrus](http://ft.ornl.gov/research/papyrus)
- [m.org/](http://m.org/)
- [www.cs.uoregon.edu/research/pdt/home.php](http://www.cs.uoregon.edu/research/pdt/home.php)

# Resources mentioned during IPAM tutorial

- xSDK <https://xsdk.info>
- E4S <https://e4s.io>
- Strategies for Working Remotely <https://www.exascaleproject.org/strategies-for-working-remotely/>
- HPC Best Practices Webinar <https://ideas-productivity.org/events/hpc-best-practices-webinars/>
- BSSw Tutorials <https://bssw-tutorial.github.io/>
- Better Scientific Software site <https://bssw.io>
- Productivity Sustainability Improvement Planning (PSIP) <https://github.com/bssw-psip>

# Follow IDEAS and BSSw

- IDEAS Productivity mailing list: <http://eepurl.com/cQCyJ5>
  - Announcements of IDEAS-organized events
    - Best Practices for HPC Software Developers webinar series
    - Strategies for Working Remotely panel series
    - Software-focused events at major scientific meetings (e.g., SIAM, ISC, SC, etc.)
  - Typically 2-3 messages per month
- BSSw Digest: <https://bssw.io/pages/receive-our-email-digest>
  - Updates on BSSw content
    - New blog posts, events, and resources
    - BSSw Fellowship
  - Typically 1-2 messages per month
  - Also: RSS feed: <https://bssw.io/items.rss>



# Resources

- Bluewaters webinar series: [Scientific Software Ecosystems series](#)
- Fussell, C. & Goodyear, C. W. (2017). One mission: How leaders build a team of teams, Penguin Random House LLC: NY.
- Hansen, M. T. (2018). Great at work: How top performers do less, work better, and achieve more. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster.
- McChrystal, S., Collins, T., Silverman, D., Fussell, C. (2015). Team of teams: New rules of engagement for a complex world. Penguin Random House LLC: NY.
- McNulty, E.J. (2015). [Leading in an increasingly VUCA world](#). Strategy+ Business.
- Mui, C. (2016). [Lead Like a Humble Gardener](#). Forbes.
- Raybourn E.M., Moulton J.D., Hungerford A. (2019) Scaling Productivity and Innovation on the Path to Exascale with a “Team of Teams” Approach. In: Nah F.H., Siau K. (eds) HCI in Business, Government and Organizations. Information Systems and Analytics. HCII 2019. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol 11589. Springer, Cham.
- Walker, J. (2018) [The DoD office you’ve never heard of—and why that’s about to change](#). Defense News.
- Webinar series: [Best Practices for HPC Software Developers](#)



# Where the objectives met?

## We've concluded! Can you now describe

- **What** are Scientific [research] software teams
  - *What are the challenges?*
  - *What characteristics make teams effective?*
  - *What are the cultural dynamics that influence our communication?*
- **How** to develop engaged and productive (in-person, hybrid, and virtual) teams
  - *How do we build team cultures?*
  - *What are best practices for team communication?*
- **When** you have become Teams of Teams: networks of code collaborations
  - *What are common organizational configurations?*
  - *How do we scale from a small team to a larger team, or team of teams?*
  - *What do the characteristics of a team of teams?*
- **Where** you can find resources for forming and sustaining scientific software (code) communities
  - *Where can I find training resources?*
  - *What lightweight tools may help with productivity?*



# Citation and Acknowledgements

## Citation

- The requested citation is: Elaine M. Raybourn, Sociotechnical aspects of new code collaborations. Tutorial presented in New Mathematics for the Exascale: Applications to Materials Science, Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IPAM), March 13-16, 2023. SAND2023-01912O.

## Acknowledgements

- Thanks to collaborators who contributed to the development of slides in sections of the tutorial: J. David Moulton, Los Alamos National Laboratories; Aimee Hungerford, Los Alamos National Laboratory; Todd Munson, Argonne National Laboratories; David E. Bernholdt, Oak Ridge National Laboratory; Anshu Dubey, Argonne National Laboratory; and Patricia A. Grubel, Los Alamos National Laboratory
- This work was supported by the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science, Office of Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR), and by the Exascale Computing Project (17-SC-20-SC), a collaborative effort of the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science and the National Nuclear Security Administration.
- This work was performed in part at Sandia National Laboratories. Sandia National Laboratories is a multi-mission laboratory managed and operated by National Technology and Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC., a wholly owned subsidiary of Honeywell International, Inc., for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-NA0003525.

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