
Software Foundations: A Panel Discussion

Leadership Scientific Software (LSSw) Meeting 14

20 July 2023

Panel people

Moderator

- Daniel S. Katz, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign (as part of Sustainable Research Software Institute [SRSI] seedling project)

Panelists

- Leah Silen, Executive Director, NumFOCUS
- Suresh Marru, Member, Apache Software Foundation; Vice President, Apache Airavata Project Management Committee
- Michael Dolan, Senior Vice President and General Manager of Projects and Legal, Linux Foundation
- Mike Milinkovitch, Executive Director, Eclipse Foundation

ECP background

- A strategy for securing the sustainability of scientific software is important
- Urgently required to secure DOE/SC's long-term vision of software sustainability
- Sustainable Research Software Institute (SRSI, formerly Open Scientific Software Foundation) proposed a self-sustaining not-for-profit open-source organization to facilitate long-term research software stewardship
- Goal: ensure environment that supports the software is sustainable
 - By creating a community that is invested, works toward common goals, shares important ideas, and provides common services and infrastructure that benefit the whole community
- Mission: Provide an equitable and resilient center of gravity that enables and supports a thriving and sustainable ecosystem of research software projects
 - A not-for-profit organization that acts as an open and transparent facilitator to allow collections of teams, groups, and organizations to advance research software through a shared ecosystem

Foundations background

- Foundation models have proven highly successful for open-source software
 - Examples: Linux Foundation, Apache Foundation, Eclipse Foundation and NumFOCUS
 - Espouse neutrality, open participation, meritocracy, collaboration, and are self-maintaining
 - Provide business models that create important collaboration and funding opportunities for open-source software projects in order to enable them to grow their communities and strive to become more sustainable
- Have clearly demonstrated that sustainable funding models are not only achievable, but are fundamental to ensuring that the open source software ecosystem continues to proliferate

Panel objective

- Engage with representatives of these foundations in a discussion about how foundations are essential to the sustainability of open-source software
 - In opening remarks, panelists will briefly describe their foundations and how they do and can support software such as individual ECP projects
 - They will also discuss how they could work with ECP projects collectively to help further our sustainability efforts
 - Followed by open discussion / Q&A, including from ECP software developers and other members of the ECP stakeholder community

Thank you!

Please check out <https://software4science.org>
and join the SRSI mailing list for updates!

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