

BoF: Next Steps for the Research Software Engineering Community

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THIS IS A 60 MINUTE BOF

DESCRIPTION

The term Research Software Engineer (RSE), coined by the UK RSE association (<https://rse.ac.uk>)[1], describes a growing number of people in academia who combine expertise in programming with an intricate understanding of research. Although this combination of skills is incredibly valuable, these people lack a formal place in the traditional academic system.

Inspired by the success of the RSE Association in the UK, we continue to work towards establishing an Australasian Chapter of the RSE Association (<https://rse-aunz.github.io>). Together with international bodies and support from national institutions such as AeRO, NeSI, CAUDIT, the Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC) and other research institutions, we aim to campaign for the recognition and adoption of the RSE role within the research ecosystem. Appropriate recognition, reward and career opportunities for RSEs are also needed. We would like to discuss the shortcomings and what worked in the year of events to allow RSEs to meet, exchange knowledge and collaborate.

This 60 minute BoF will cover the community building activities that have occurred, identify future plans and activities for the coming year in Australia and New Zealand, and discuss the next steps that were identified at the pre-conference workshop. If you are an academic or researcher who codes, a professional software engineer working in the research space, a systems administrator who maintains research systems, or someone who is passionate about quality research software, please join us at this event to actively work on how we can grow this community and advocate for others. Together we can build a thriving community that benefits research software engineers and ultimately contributes to a more efficient and sustainable research ecosystem.

FORMAT

The 1 hour session will be divided into:

- Lightning Talks (5 minutes each)
 - Findings of the 2018 International RSE Survey
 - An overview of RSEConUK 2019
 - Summary of the pre-conference workshop
 - RSE-AUNZ activities in 2018-2019
 - RSE-AUNZ plans for 2019-2020
- Discussion session to align the RSE-AUNZ activities and plans for 2020 with the RSE community's goals (35 minutes)

REFERENCES

1. Research Software Engineers Association. Available from: <https://rse.ac.uk>, accessed 21st June 2019.