Meeting of the Technical Steering Committee (TSC) Board

Tuesday, February 6th 2018
11:00am ET

Meeting Logistics

- https://www.uberconference.com/jeff_ef

- United States : +1 (510) 224-9559 (No PIN needed).

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Agenda

- Updated email for Karl: karl@ices.utexas.edu
- Two new ARM servers hosted at TACC:
  - thanks Eric!
- Component Review #5 results posted
- ISC tutorial
  - proposals are due next week, February 13
  - Tutorials are on Sunday, June 24 (9am-1pm for half day)
- Developer Certificate of Origin
- Python 2/3 discussion
- Component deprecation discussion

Developer Certificate of Origin (follow up)

OpenMPI-derived template from last time:

By making a contribution to this project, I certify that:

1. The contribution was created in whole or in part by me and I have the right to submit it under the OpenHPC open source license; or
2. The contribution is based upon previous work that, to the best of my knowledge, is covered under an appropriate open source license and I have the right under that license to submit that work with modifications, whether created in whole or in part by me, under the OpenHPC open source license (unless I am permitted to submit under a different license); or
3. The contribution was provided directly to me by some other person who certified (1) or (2) and I have not modified it.
4. I understand and agree that this project and the contribution are public and that a record of the contribution (including all personal information I submit with it, including my sign-off) is maintained indefinitely and may be redistributed consistent with this project and the open source license(s) involved."

DCO v1.1 from Linux Foundation

By making a contribution to this project, I certify that:

(a) The contribution was created in whole or in part by me and I have the right to submit it under the open source license indicated in the file; or

(b) The contribution is based upon previous work that, to the best of my knowledge, is covered under an appropriate open source license and I have the right under that license to submit that work with modifications, whether created in whole or in part by me, under the same open source license (unless I am permitted to submit under a different license), as indicated in the file; or

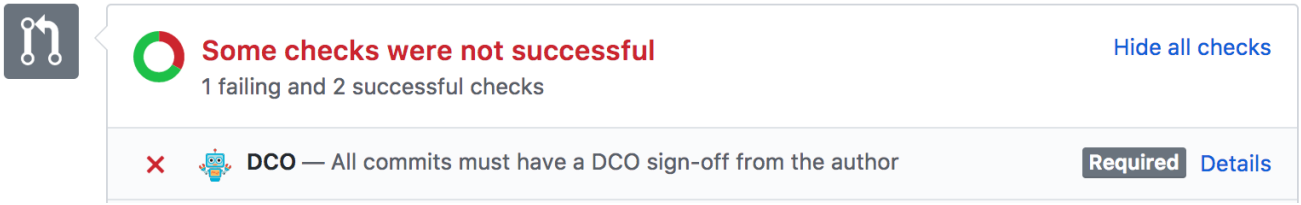
(c) The contribution was provided directly to me by some other person who certified (a), (b) or (c) and I have not modified it.

(d) I understand and agree that this project and the contribution are public and that a record of the contribution (including all personal information I submit with it, including my sign-off) is maintained indefinitely and may be redistributed consistent with this project or the open source license(s) involved.

https://probot.github.io/apps/dco/

Developer Contribution Agreement

- In addition to the webhook the OpenMPI folks published for requiring signed PRs (from last time), there look to be other public tools for github, e.g.:
  - https://probot.github.io/apps/dco/



- Propose we try to leverage existing tool first, if that isn't satisfactory, we can host a light-weight web hook on one of our servers

Python discussion: Is it time for python 3?

- The Python core team plans to stop supporting Python 2 in 2020.
- Numpy is dropping support for python 2.7 next year
  - 2018 releases will include support for both 2.7 and 3.4-3.6
- Option 1: OHPC packages only python 3 versions of numpy, scipy, and mpi4py starting with 1.3.4
  - Previous versions still available in older repositories
- Option 2: Add python 3 versions along side updated python 2.7 versions for all OHPC releases through 2018
  - Then see Option 1

- Both options will require a compatibility module to allow users to run either environment

Component deprecation

- We have now completed 5 iterations of the component review process for adding new components!
- As of yet, have not identified any policy around the possible deprecation of components
- High level question: *do we want to devise a companion policy on component deprecation?*

- Assuming the answer is "maybe", let's start thinking about some of the issues:
  - reasons we might want to deprecate a component
  - likely problems associated with deprecation
  - data we might have at our disposal to help support a decision

Component deprecation (cont.)

- Some potential reasons we might want to deprecate a component or particular build configuration (OS, architecture, interconnect, etc)
  - lack of upstream development (although, some established utilities may not require significant ongoing development)
  - inability to land generic patches to upstream development needed for working ohpc builds
  - component becomes available in useable binary RPM form elsewhere (e.g. EPEL)
  - component functionality superseded by newer development project
  - security/correctness considerations
  - broken functionality with other component version upgrades
  - incompatible license change
  - lack of usage/adoption

Component deprecation (cont.)

- Potential problems associated with deprecation:
  - hit on community good will? no one likely happy to see their component dropped
    - would clearly need published policy
    - is a rebuttal process necessary?
  - when would visibility of a deprecated component go away?
    - e.g. would we forcibly remove a previous build from being visible in [base] or [updates] repository on a given branch?
    - or, would we just not update it any more (and stop exercising during integration testing)?
  - introduces a recurring additional policy item for TSC to manage
- Potential advantages:
  - one small way to help control build and CI growth by focusing our resources on components we think provide the most value to the community
  - can perhaps be more willing to take risks on initial submission if there is a downstream pathway to deprecation
  - "threat of deprecation" might potentially o improve upstream development interaction(s)
- Other items for consideration:
  - would there be a minimum amount of time to carry a package before it might be eligible for deprecation consideration?

Component deprecation (cont.)

- Data at our disposal: quantifying usage/adoption seems tricky:
  - we certainly can track downloads on a per component basis (across OS's and architectures)
    - of course, that doesn't necessarily mean they are being used locally
  - some inference based on questions/discussions that come up on the mailing list
  - probably can't ascertain much with folks who mirror entire repository (via repo tarball or rsync)
  - admins who leverage the convenience of our meta-packages may install packages their users don't necessarily access
  - there are projects that could be leveraged for sites to monitor which development "modules" their users load
    - would require an opt-in to monitor
    - we would presumably need a periodic phone home capability to receive the data if we wanted to try and monitor usage at this level

- General thoughts, comments on how to proceed?