



# **NSF HPC Cybersecurity Overview and Updates**

**4th High-Performance Computing  
Security Workshop**

**Wichita, KS**

**May 20, 2024**

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National Science Foundation  
Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure***

# Thanks

- Pratul Agarwal, Ryan Doll, Terrance Figy, and entire OAK/Wichita State team!
- Yang Guo and NIST for co-support





# NSF: What We Do

- **Discovery:** NSF supports U.S. researchers to generate new knowledge and discoveries that transform the understanding of the world, while also transforming modern society through technological innovations. Situated at the intersection of all S&E disciplines, NSF is also uniquely positioned to identify and guide investments toward emerging frontier areas for scientific research
- **Research Infrastructure:** NSF funds supercomputers, ground-based telescopes, U.S. research stations in the Arctic and Antarctic, the world's largest and highest-powered magnet lab, long-term ecological sites, engineering centers and other infrastructure and state-of-the-art tools to sustain the nation's scientific enterprise.
- **Learning:** NSF programs support STEM education and training that attract individuals from every sector and group in society, ensuring a pipeline of people and ideas ready to solve the pressing global challenges in STEM.





# NSF Directorates and Science



# NSF Directorates and Science

Engineering

Geosciences  
(including Polar)

Social, Behavioral &  
Economic Sciences

OAC: Transforming scientific discovery through  
**cyberinfrastructure**

Engineering



# NSF's CISE/OAC and Scientific Cyberinfrastructure

- **Cyberinfrastructure (CI):** Compute, data, software, networking and people to facilitate scientific discovery and innovation.
- **Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure:** Supports and coordinates the development, acquisition and provisioning of state-of-the-art cyberinfrastructure resources, tools and services essential to the advancement and transformation of science and engineering.



# OAC investment areas

## Advanced Computing

Production and operational level advanced computing and data capabilities and services

## Networking & Cybersecurity

Advanced capabilities that preserve security and privacy

## Learning & Workforce Development

Foster a national research workforce for creating, utilizing, and supporting advanced CI

## Software & Data CI

Develop a cohesive, federated, national-scale approach to research data infrastructure

## Strategic Investments

Special opportunities, cross-cutting and national initiatives, CI for open science and public access





# OAC investment areas

Advanced Computing

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Foster a national research workforce for creating

Software & Data

Strategic Investments

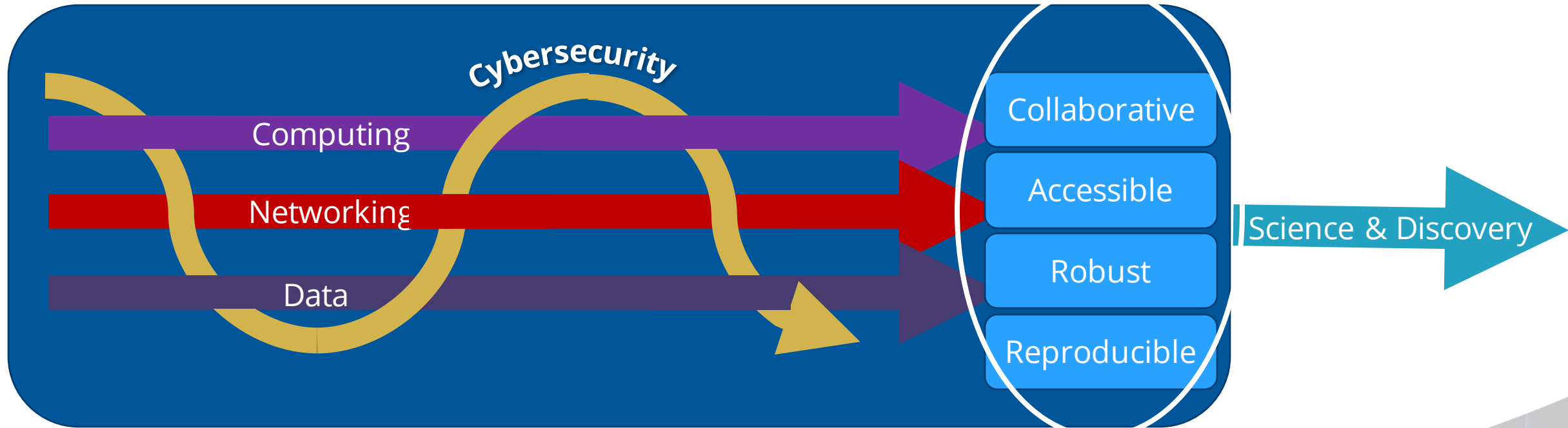
Cannot realize science goals unless cyberinfrastructure is secure, robust, and trustworthy.



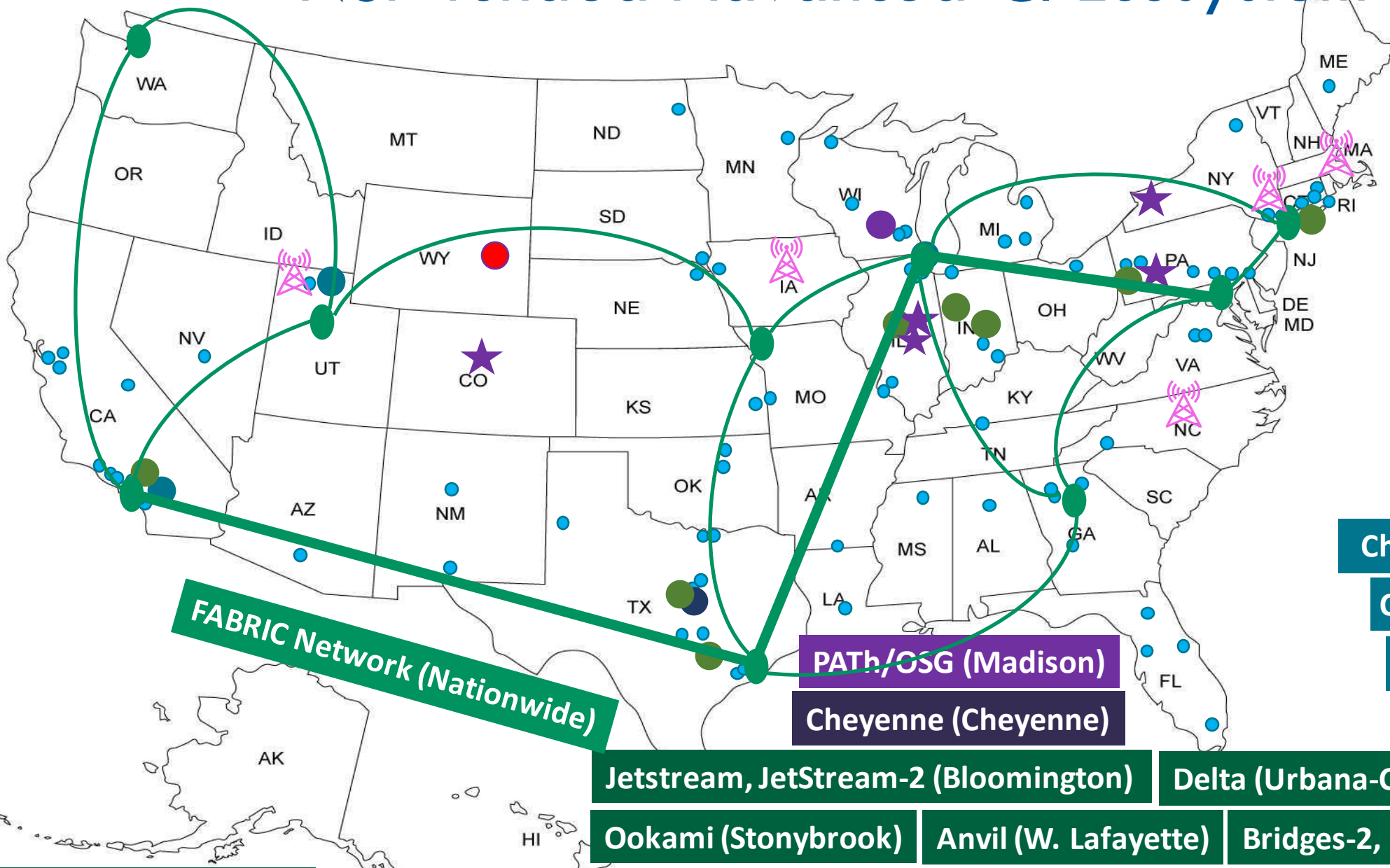


# OAC CI Cybersecurity Vision

NSF's Blueprint for a National CI Ecosystem for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: *"Agile, integrated, **robust, trustworthy**, and sustainable CI ecosystem that drives new thinking and transformative discoveries in all areas of S&E research and education"*



# NSF-funded Advanced CI Ecosystem



- ★ ACCESS PIs
- Leadership-class
- Innovative systems
- HTC Services
- NCAR
- Cloud Technologies
- Shared Campus Resources
- 📶 PAWR Testbeds

- Chameleon Lab (Chicago)
- CloudLab (Salt Lake City)
- CloudBank (San Diego)
- Frontera (Austin)

**FABRIC Network (Nationwide)**

**PATH/OSG (Madison)**  
**Cheyenne (Cheyenne)**

**Jetstream, JetStream-2 (Bloomington)**

**Delta (Urbana-Champaign)**

**Ookami (Stonybrook)**

**Anvil (W. Lafayette)**

**Bridges-2, Neocortex (Pitt)**

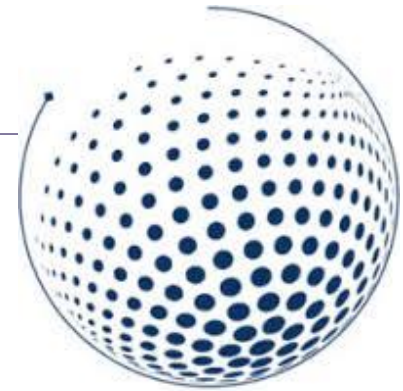
**ACES (College Station)**

**Expanse, Voyager, National Research Platform (San Diego)**

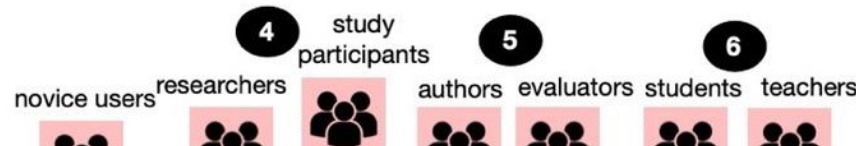
**Stampede 2, Wrangler (Austin)**



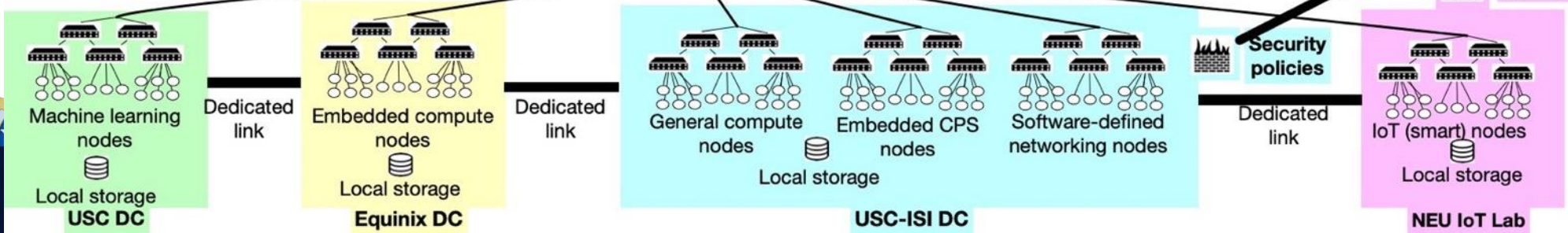
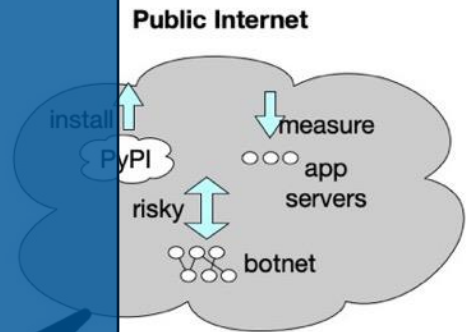
# USC/ISI SPHERE: Research Infrastructure for Cybersecurity Experimentation



SPHERE  
RESEARCH  
INFRASTRUCTURE



- **Heterogeneity:** cover 90% of research need: CPU, GPU, TEE, PLC, FPGA, IoT
- **Reproducibility:** built-in facilities; work with artifact evaluators
- **Realism:** at-scale, experimental composability, interfaces to public Internet, real traffic
- **Usability:** multiple user “portals” catering to different levels of need and experimental sophistication
- **Participation:** cater to education and research





# CI resources and services for the research community

## Democratized access to advanced computing



## CI services for NSF major and mid-scale RI



Cybersecurity framework



ResearchSOC

Security Operations



Facility data lifecycle



Regulated Research

## Community and workforce development



Minority Serving CI Consortium (MS-CC)



CI Workforce Development

- Portals:**
- ACCESS: <https://access-ci.org/>
  - LCCF: <https://lccf.tacc.utexas.edu/>
  - PaTh: <https://path-cc.io/>
  - SGX3: <https://sciencegateways.org/>
  - MSCC: <https://www.ms-cc.org/>
  - RCD Nexus: <https://rcd-nexus.org/>
  - Trusted CI: <https://www.trustedci.org/>
  - Research SOC: <https://omnisoc.iu.edu/services/researchsoc/>
  - CI Compass: <https://ci-compass.org/>



# OAC Updates



# Changing user, technology, vendor and national landscape requires us to think deeply about our collective strategy for the future

**New user communities requiring computing and data infrastructure**

**New technologies, hardware specialization, slowing of Moore's law, IAAS and SAAS**

**Rise of massive data and AI**

**New business models and entrants into the ecosystem**

**New and pending legislation and initiatives**

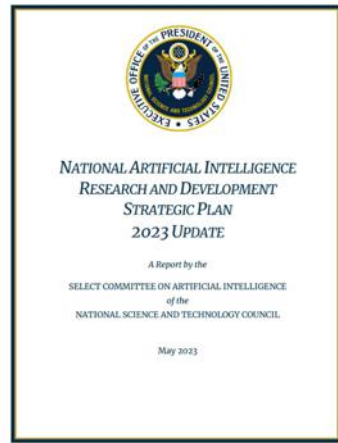


PHOTO CREDITS: KIYOSHI TAKAHASE SEGUNDO/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO, SHUTTERSTOCK, AMD GPU



# National AI Research Resource (NAIRR)

## Objective and Goals



**Objective:** To strengthen and democratize the U.S. AI Innovation ecosystem in a way that protects privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties

### Goals:



Spur  
**innovation**



Increase the **diversity**  
of talent in AI



Improve U.S.  
**capacity** for AI R&D



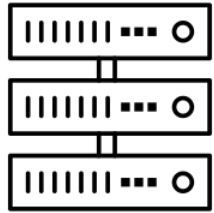
Advance  
**trustworthy AI**

The NAIRR should comprise a federated set of computational, data, testbed, and software resources from a variety of providers, along with technical support and training,



# Vision for the National AI Research Resource

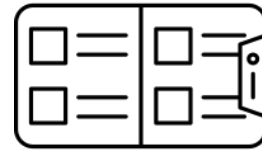
**A widely-accessible, national research infrastructure** that will advance the U.S. AI R&D environment, discovery, and innovation by empowering a diverse set of users through access to:



Secure, high-performance,  
privacy-preserving  
**computing**



High-quality  
**datasets**



Catalogs of **testbeds** and  
**educational materials**



**Training** tools and **user**  
**support** mechanisms



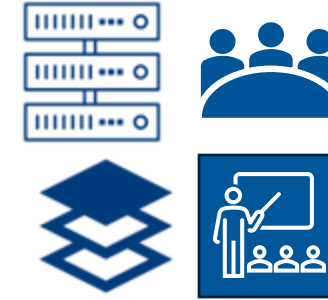
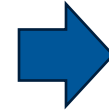
# NAIRR Pilot Organization

User Journey

  
**US-based  
Researchers,  
Educators &  
Students**



<https://nairrpilot.org>



**Pilot Resources  
and Opportunities**

The NAIRR Pilot provides infrastructure and resources; it does not fund end-user research.

Operations

**NAIRR  
Open**

Enable open AI research and access to diverse AI resources via a central portal and coordinated allocations

**NAIRR  
Secure**

Enable AI research needing privacy and security-preserving resources. Assemble exemplar privacy preserving resources.

**NAIRR  
Software**

Facilitate use of AI software, platforms, tools and services across platforms

**NAIRR  
Classroom**

Reach new communities through education, training, user support and outreach



**Governance**



**Community Design  
Process**





# OAC People Initiatives

- Workforce:
  - CI (and CI cybersecurity) depends on people with specialized skills
  - Recognized need to build and grow pipeline of CI professionals
- Research:
  - Expand access to advanced CI



# NSF-wide Strategy for CI Professionals



- Promote professional development, career paths, incentivize coordination; address sustainability
  - **Nurturing Diverse, Skilled, Capable, and Productive Communities of Cyberinfrastructure Professionals** (DCL; NSF 22-052)
    - **CI Professional Mentoring and/or Professional Development Plan** requirement in solicitations funding CI professionals
    - **Better Scientific Software Fellows** (<https://bssw.io>, partnership with DOE)
- Establish, foster, and nurture a community
  - CI CoE Pilot: **Minority Serving Cyberinfrastructure Consortium** (MSCC)
  - Research Coordination Networks: **Fostering and Nurturing a Diverse Community of CI Professionals** (RCN:CIP;-NSF 22-558)
  - **Training-based Workforce Development for Advanced Cyberinfrastructure** (CyberTraining; NSF 22-574; due May 16, 2022)
- Develop academic structures/career paths
  - CI CoE Pilot: **Research Computing and Data Resource and Career Center** (<http://rcd-nexus.org>)



# RCD Nexus: *Supporting the Professionals who advance Computational and Data-intensive Research*

## Tools, Practices, and Professional Development Resources

- RCD Capabilities Model v2.0 and Data Exploration Portal
- RCD Professional Staffing survey - Who, How many, etc.
- Advance adoption of HR Framework for RCD Job Families/classifications
- Gather and share Leading Practices for Staff Recruitment, Retention, and Professional Development, as well as Student Workforce Development
- Document Career Arcs to inform hiring, training, & career options

## Gathering the Community of Communities

- Foster connections among the communities supporting RCD professionals
- Collaborate to develop a shared voice to advocate for this new profession
- Work together to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion

[Supported by NSF OAC 210003](#)

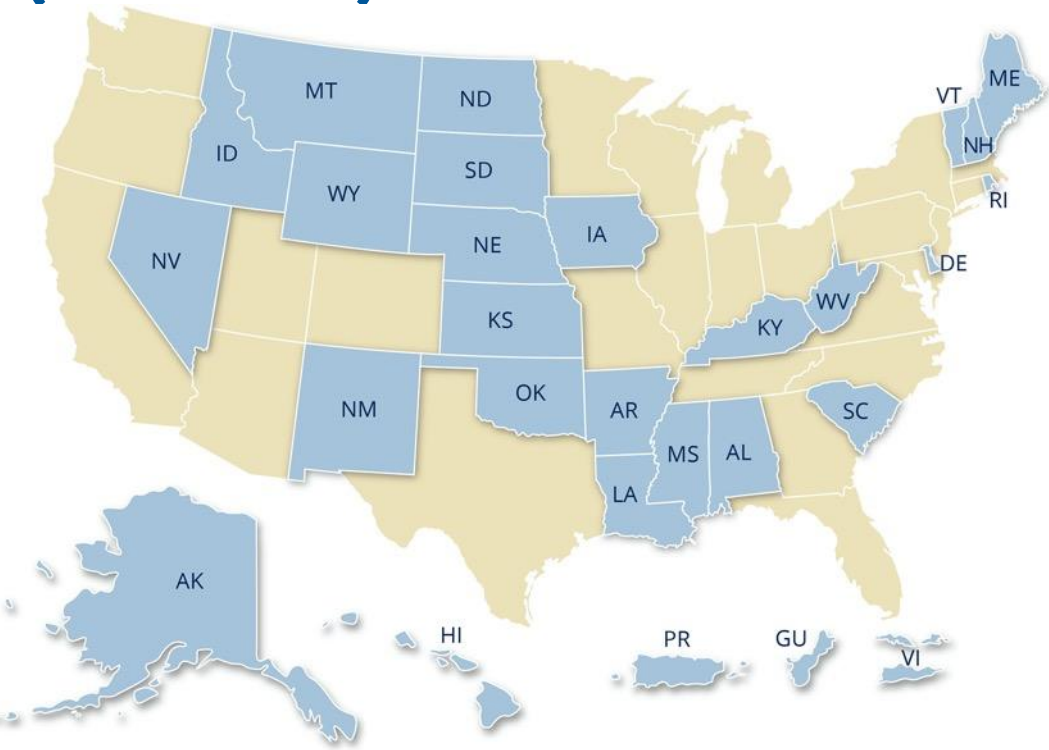
<http://rcd-nexus.org>

# EPSCoR





# Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)



AL	Alabama
AK	Alaska
AR	Arkansas
DE	Delaware
GU	Guam
HI	Hawaii
IA	Iowa
ID	Idaho
KS	Kansas
KY	Kentucky
LA	Louisiana
ME	Maine
MS	Mississippi
MT	Montana
NE	Nebraska
NH	New Hampshire
NM	New Mexico
ND	North Dakota
NV	Nevada
OK	Oklahoma
PR	Puerto Rico
RI	Rhode Island
SC	South Carolina
SD	South Dakota
VI	U.S. Virgin Islands
VT	Vermont
WV	West Virginia
WY	Wyoming

## Mission

Enhance research competitiveness of targeted jurisdictions by strengthening STEM capacity and capability

## Goals

- Catalyze research capability across and among jurisdictions
- Establish STEM professional development pathways
- Broaden participation of diverse groups and institutions in STEM
- Effect engagement in STEM at national and global levels
- Impact jurisdictional economic development



# Engaging EPSCoR jurisdictions is critical

18% of the total US population

24% of the nation's accredited universities

23% of the nation's Emerging Research Institutions

30% of the nation's MSIs

50% of the nation's HBCUs

29% of the nation's HSIs

69% of the nation's TCUs

10% of the nation's AANAPISIs

19% of the nation's African Americans

18% of the nation's Hispanics

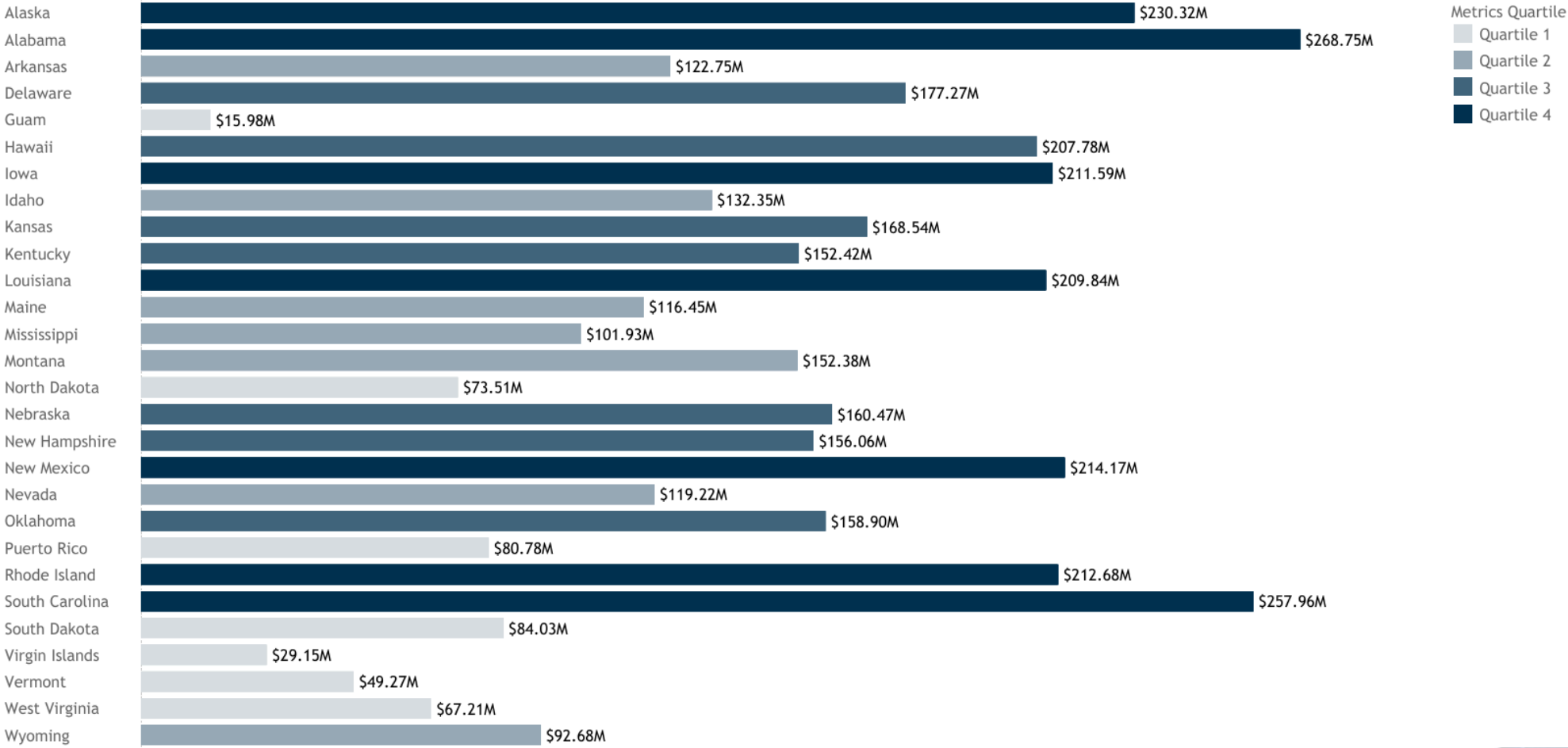
39% of the nation's American Indians

44% of the nation's Pacific Islanders



# EPSCoR jurisdictions vary in metrics including proposals submitted, institutions, awards, and obligations (FY19-22)

States by Metrics



Data from NSF by the Numbers, accessed 8/31/23.



# Key NSF EPSCoR Highlights from CHIPS & Science Act

*(SEC. 10325: EXPANDING GEOGRAPHIC AND INSTITUTIONAL DIVERSITY IN RESEARCH)*

- Authorization of a gradual increase in funding for institutions in EPSCoR jurisdictions.

<b>FY23</b>	<b>FY24</b>	<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY26</b>	<b>FY27</b>	<b>FY28</b>	<b>FY29</b>
15.5%	16%	16.5%	17%	18%	19%	20%

- Authorization of a gradual increase in funding of scholarships, graduate fellowships and traineeships, and postdoctoral awards to support EPSCoR institutions.

<b>FY23</b>	<b>FY24</b>	<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY26</b>	<b>FY27</b>	<b>FY28</b>	<b>FY29</b>
16%	18%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%





# EPSCoR Investment Strategies

## **Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) (78-84% of EPSCoR budget)**

- ✦ Support physical, human, and cyber infrastructure within academic institutions across each jurisdiction

## **Co-Funding w/ NSF Directorates & Offices (16-22% of budget)**

- ✦ Meritorious proposals reviewed in other NSF programs that also satisfy EPSCoR programmatic criteria

## **Outreach and Workshops (0.5-1% of budget)**

- ✦ Interaction among EPSCoR Community and NSF to build mutual awareness and develop areas of potential strength



# HPC Cybersecurity @NSF



# Keeping state and momentum

- NIST NCCoE, Gaithersburg, MD
- ~100 attendees:
  - Operators
  - Researchers
  - Government
  - Industry

**NIST Interagency Report  
NIST IR 8476**

## **3<sup>rd</sup> High-Performance Computing Security Workshop**

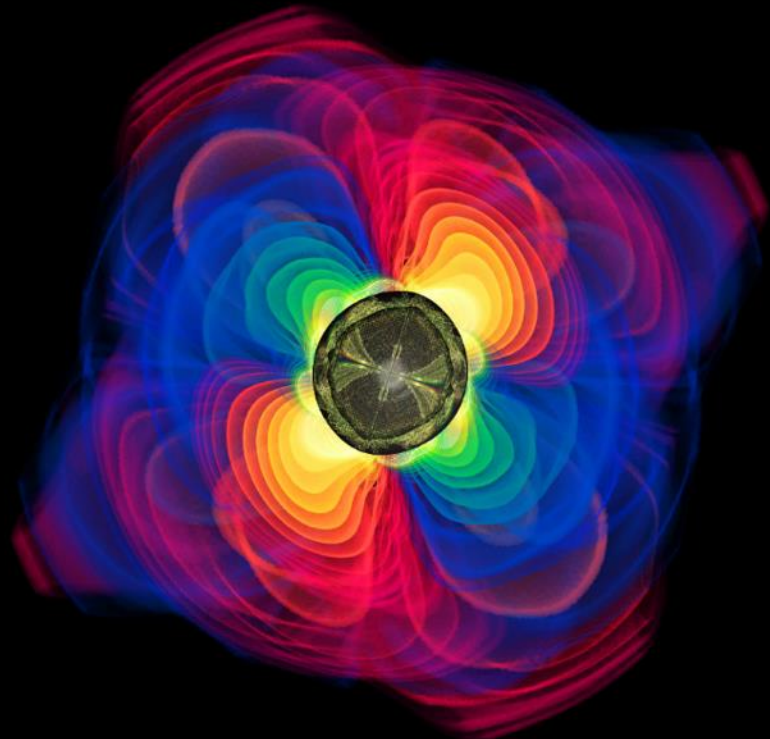
*Joint NIST-NSF Workshop Report*





## RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE GUIDE

*NSF guidance for full life-cycle oversight of  
Major Facilities and Mid-Scale Projects*



NSF Large Facilities Office  
Office of Budget, Finance and Award Management

**NSF 21-107**  
**December 2021**

# Last year: RIG Cybersecurity Thematics

- Explicit acknowledgement of individual facility uniqueness and requirements:
  - “The foundation for developing and maintaining a project’s cybersecurity program lies in the research mission and goals of the facility itself”
- Incentivize cybersecurity rather than mandate / regulate / audit
  - Carrots vs. sticks: provide supporting resources that benefit cyberinfrastructure, facility, and scientific discovery mission
- Living document:
  - As cybersecurity techniques, tools, and threats evolve, so too do the guidelines



# Vicious cycle (credit: Michael Corn, NSF RIO)

## Researcher Dilemma

## Results

## Government and Sponsor Reaction

You are focused on research, not cybersecurity (as it should be)

It is challenging to translate cybersecurity into implementables

Compromise of research data and instruments, impacting efficiency, trustworthiness, reproducibility, and funding

Increasingly complex cybersecurity requirements in grants, contracts, and data use agreements

New regulations



# Framing and Urgency

- NSF HPC increasingly considered critical infrastructure / major infrastructure
- National competitiveness and reputation can be put at risk (even w/o loss of data)
- Incidents draw attention of:
  - The press
  - Federal agencies
  - Executive offices
- Results in increased pressure on NSF to become prescriptive, creating a vicious cycle



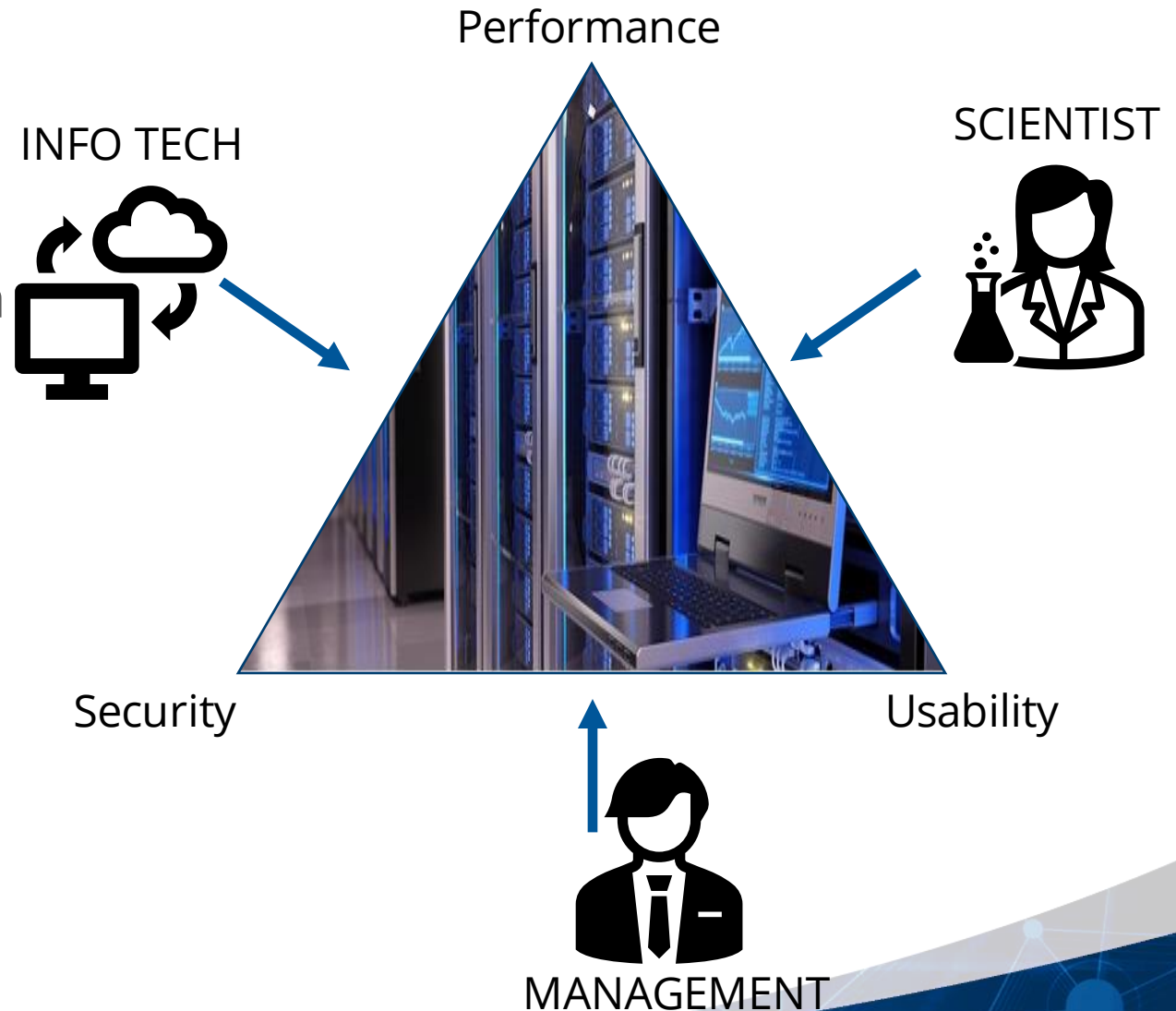
# RIG Directions

- Updates coming in 2025; under purview of NSF's Research Infrastructure Office (RIO)
- Theme: cybersecurity is risk management, requires leadership engagement, building resilience
- Possible additions / reporting requirements:
  - Cyber risk register
  - Cybersecurity budgets
  - Information assurance management plan



# How is NSF HPC Security Unique

- Novel architectures
  - E.g., neuromorphic, quantum, experimental
- Specialized software, workloads, and data
  - Users bring own code
- Unique users
  - Highly collaborative / distributed
  - International
- Performance focus
  - Availability secondary
- Science mission
  - Trust in science
- Different adversaries
  - Open data





# A (few) challenges from 2023

## 3<sup>rd</sup> High-Performance Computing Security Workshop

*Joint NIST-NSF Workshop Report*

- Operators:
  - New access methods (beyond ssh/bastion)
  - Host homogeneity (feature and bug)
  - MFA w/ remote / non-institutional users?
  - Dynamic workloads
  - User-installed / compiled code
  - Supply chain security
  - Virtualization / containers
  - Compliance (NIST RMF)
  - "Protect the science"



# OAC Supported HPC Security Research



# Whither Cybersecurity: We do open and unclassified science!"

- How can cybersecurity benefit the cyberinfrastructure?
- Imagine a world where...
  - Data has strong integrity protection, to prevent accidental or malicious modification
  - Research artifacts contain provenance meta-data
  - Collaboration between scientists and infrastructure is seamless and natural
  - Computation and sharing of sensitive data is possible without compromising privacy
  - Infrastructure is highly available and not vulnerable to mis-use
  - Third-parties can replicate and reproduce research findings
  - The public trusts science



# NSF 23-517: Cybersecurity Innovation for Cyberinfrastructure (CICI)

- The objective of the CICI program is to develop, deploy and integrate solutions that benefit the broader scientific community by securing science data, workflows, and infrastructure.

	<b>Applied research to:</b>
Usable and Collaborative Security for Science ( <b>UCSS</b> )	Facilitate scientific collaboration, adopt security into scientific workflows. Overcome security and usability obstacles to data and resource sharing.
Reference Scientific Security Datasets ( <b>RSSD</b> )	Capture science-specific workflow/workload behavior. Gather and curate canonical science workload datasets that can facilitate techniques to help secure science CI.
Transition to Cyberinfrastructure Resilience ( <b>TCR</b> )	Improve the robustness and resilience of scientific cyberinfrastructure through testing, evaluation, hardening, validation, and transition of novel cybersecurity research





# Traffic Light Protocol

- System of markings that designates the extent to which recipients may share potentially sensitive information
- Used (to great effect) at NSF TrustedCI 2023 Cybersecurity summit

8:30 AM

**[TLP:RED] How we failed to handle a triple-combo attack against the R&E HPC community worldwide...in the middle of a pandemic (In-Person Only)**

**(Romain Wartel)**

**Auditorium-50**



## Here are the 4 LABELS

**TLP:RED**

**LIMITED TO RECIPIENT ONLY-** You can act on a TLP:RED cybersecurity document if you receive one, but you must not convey it to anyone else.

**TLP:AMBER**

**LIMITED DISCLOSURE-** This information can only be shared on a need-to-know basis among those within your organization and its customers.

The source may restrict sharing to the organization by setting TLP:AMBER+STRICT.

**TLP:GREEN**

**LIMITED DISCLOSURE TO COMMUNITY-** You may share this information within your community. The TLP leaves it up to you to be reasonable about which people constitute your community,

**TLP:CLEAR**

**DISCLOSURE IS NOT LIMITED-** Recipients can share this information with everyone.



## Ex 1: Bespoke Code

- Written in legacy languages
- Maybe unmaintained
- Maybe source not even available
- How to ensure security?
- Binary vulnerability analysis

### Project Summary

Software upholds both the modern society and critical scientific cyberinfrastructure. Software powering scientific cyberinfrastructure often appears in the form of binaries and lacks maintenance and security practices. In past decades, emerging binary analysis techniques have changed how we analyze binary programs. We need significant technology transition effort to identify, implement, and evaluate these techniques using a robust binary analysis framework on a comprehensive corpus of binary programs, covering critical and legacy scientific software. The outcome will be a Cyber Reasoning System (CRS) for automatically finding and mitigating vulnerabilities in legacy binaries, and an open and comprehensive corpus of legacy binaries commonly seen in scientific software and cyberinfrastructure.

### Planned Deliverables

We plan to produce a Cyber Reasoning System (CRS) that is capable of finding and mitigating vulnerabilities in legacy binary programs. We will also produce a comprehensive corpus of legacy binaries that are commonly seen in scientific software and cyberinfrastructure. We will release both the CRS and our redistributable binary corpus to the public with a permissive license.

### Scientific and Broader Impacts

This project will provide novel and robust means to discover vulnerabilities in complex and real-world legacy binaries that are prevalent in scientific settings and cyberinfrastructure. Additionally, the binary corpus will be a large-scale and objective data set for evaluating future binary analysis techniques. It will help improve the security of scientific cyberinfrastructure, the cyber world, our society, and the nation as a whole.

This project will also benefit computer security education. We plan to create a course at ASU, "Automated Binary Code Analysis," to teach our students how to create and tweak binary analysis techniques and apply them, in practice and at scale, on real-world software.

### Research Challenges

- Building comprehensive corpora of legacy scientific binaries
- Building a flexible and scalable CRS
- Integrating state-of-the-art vulnerability discovery and mitigation techniques

### Contact Information

- Ruoyu "Fish" Wang, fishw@asu.edu
- Yan Shoshitaishvili, yans@asu.edu





# Ex 2: HPC Config Vulnerabilities

## CICI:SIVD: Context-Aware Vulnerability Detection in Configurable Scientific Computing Environments

Mu Zhang, Sneha Kasera and Hari Sundar, University of Utah

### Motivation and Overview

- Detecting configuration-related software vulnerabilities in high-performance computing (HPC) systems is difficult due to the highly configurable environments.
- State-of-the-art bug detectors cannot solve this problem because they do not take into account the specialized HPC contexts of interdependent software components.
- Connecting analysis to contexts is extremely hard in generic settings, as the combination of hardware and software resources varies greatly.
- This project develops **deployment-specific vulnerability detection** that leverages unique HPC characteristics to facilitate the discovery of configuration errors.

### Technical Approach

- Study the deployment contexts in real-world high-performance computing systems and develop both offline and online tools to automatically collect such contextual information.
- Apply extracted contexts to detecting misconfiguration and configuration-triggered code vulnerabilities at both deployment time and incrementally at runtime.
- Test the novel tools in real-world testbeds and high-performance computing environments to evaluate their accuracy, efficiency and effectiveness.

### Intellectual Merit

- **Novel Insights:** HPC deployments are highly configurable and software vulnerabilities originate from specific deployment contexts.
- **New and HPC-Specific Approach:** This research takes full advantage of the *de facto* workflow of high-performance computing systems, so as to make it possible to enable vulnerability detection in a deployment context-aware manner.
- **Customized Techniques:** The understanding of high-performance computing contexts allows us to customize state-of-the-art analysis techniques and make them more efficient in this new domain.
- **Realistic Testbed:** This project builds a novel, comprehensive and realistic HPC security testbed that can facilitate the design, implementation and evaluation of these new techniques.

### Broader Impact

- Sharing the HPC security testbed with faculty, graduate researchers and undergraduate students who otherwise do not have access to such an interdisciplinary platform
- Providing a comprehensive understanding of the software security problems in real-world scientific computing systems
- Making a significant impact on the robustness of the national bottom line, as scientific computing are increasingly applied to critical areas in our society such as COVID-related research
- Disseminating our code, data and publication to the public
- A variety of educational activities including mentoring 10-12th graders in the GREAT-Advanced Robotics Camp at University of Utah, developing new graduate and undergraduate courses, etc.



# Ex 3: Computing on Private Data

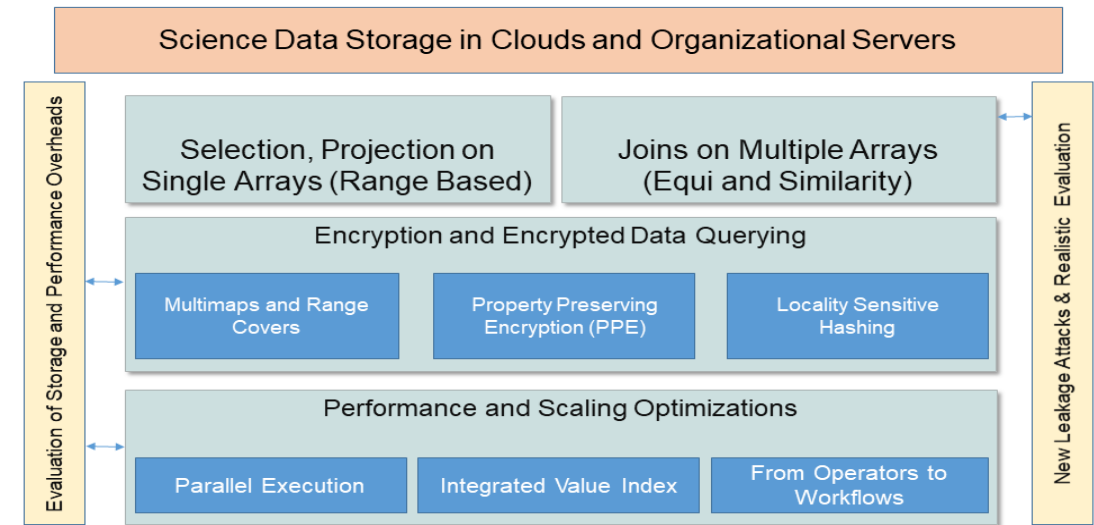
## CICI: UCSS: ARMOR: Secure Querying of Massive Scientific Datasets

PI: Hoda Maleki. co-PIs: Gagan Agrawal, Benjamin Fuller



### Problem and Motivation

- Scientific Shared Data is:
  - Massive, infrequently and sparsely accessed
  - A driver of new discovery
  - Sensitive and Private, represents a strategic advantage
- Natural approaches to protect scientific data in a shared cloud:
  - Policy, rely on cloud providers
  - Trusted hardware execution environment
  - General purpose cryptographic primitives with high overheads
  - **Specialized searchable encryption techniques - THIS PROJECT**



### Approach

- Combine multimap with search algorithm of Cash et al. and range covers.
- Augment Kamara and Moataz's construction with Boolean multimaps, property-preserving encryption, and m-out of-n locality sensitive hash.
- Evaluate the security of our approach by current leakage attacks
  - Consider snapshot and persistent adversaries.
- Prove the security and privacy properties of our approach
- Prototype solutions, simulate data sizes and queries, and evaluate the overhead of storage, network bandwidth, and request/response time.

### Key Outcomes

- New Encryption and Query Processing Techniques
  - Address challenges of equality-based selection, multidimensional range selection, and joining on value similarity or ranges queries.
- Scale and Efficiency Oriented Designs
  - Novel representation supporting joins and encryption
  - Integrate required parallelism with encryption.
- Demonstration of Low Overheads and Leakage in Science Contexts.
- New curriculum development and involvement of students from underrepresented groups.





# CICI: TCR: Prompt, Reliable, and Safe Security Update for Cyberinfrastructure

Ex. 4:  
Prioritizing  
patches,  
understanding  
dependencies  
in HPC

## Patch Presence Management

- **Goal:** Identify available but unadopted patches in a prompt fashion for cyberinfrastructure.
- **Proposed Research:** Adapting open-source frameworks to provide affordable patch management and exploring patch presence detection and automated exploit generation to detect unadopted patches and assess their urgencies.

Thrust 1

## Patch Safety Assessment

- **Goal:** Understand the safety of an available patch when deployed to the target cyberinfrastructure.
- **Proposed Research:** Developing a system-wide dependency analysis to understand the components impacted by a target patch and assembling a low-cost testbed on the fly to assess the safety of the patch to the entire system.

Thrust 3

## Patch Reliability Testing

- **Goal:** Assess whether an available patch can reliably fix the target vulnerability without hurting the normal functionality.
- **Proposed Research:** Introducing directed fuzz testing and regression fuzz testing as methods to evaluate patch quality for cyberinfrastructure and tailoring differential program analysis to analyze the testing outcomes and measure the reliability of available patches.

Thrust 2

**Technical Innovations:** Prompt, reliable, and safe security updates for cyberinfrastructure under challenging conditions, including limited monetary resources, insufficient admin expertise, and highly diverse environments.

**Broader Impacts:** Deployment to protect Utah CHPC (a 5,600-user platform) and possibly other cyberinfrastructure platforms (e.g., PNNL, ORNL, OARC), undergrad- and grad-level courses, underrepresented students' education, and K-12 outreach.

Contribution



# Ex 5. HPC container security and minimization

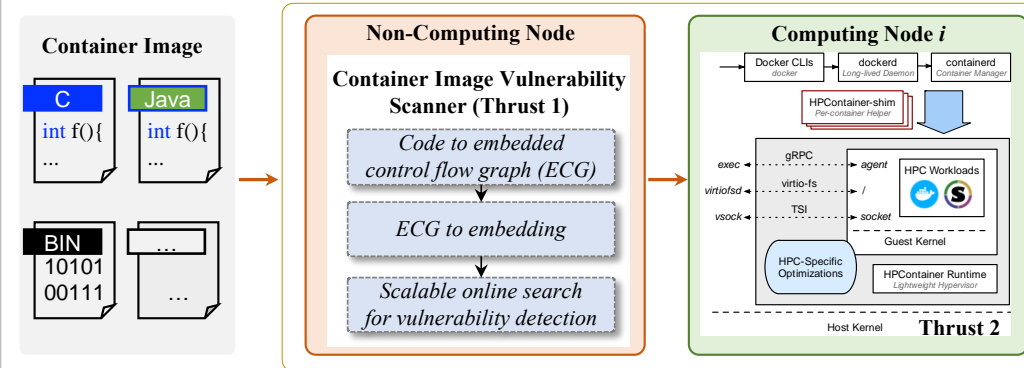
## CICI: UCSS: Secure Containers in High-Performance Computing Infrastructure

### Problem:

- Goal: *Designing secure containers for high-performance computing (HPC) infrastructures.*
- Existing solutions are insecure:
  - *Container images are insecure.* E.g., a recent study on neuroscience container images shows that there are *460 vulnerabilities per image.*
  - *The weak isolation between containers and hosts can lead to vulnerabilities.* We have observed 11 such vulnerabilities since 2017.

### Research Overview:

- The proposed work in a simplified HPC infrastructure.



### Thrust 1: Efficient vulnerability detection for container images

- Goal: *Designing an efficient image vulnerability scanner to detect the images uploaded to the HPC infrastructure.*
- Task 1-1 converts different types of code to embedded control flow graph (ECG).
- Task 1-2 converts ECG to code embedding with graph neural network and triplet-loss network.
- Task 1-3 proposes an efficient locality-sensitive hashing-based online search method.

### Thrust 2: Secure, Lightweight and High-Performance Container Runtime

- Goal: *Designing a container runtime tailored for the HPC infrastructure, which is both secure and high-performance.*
- Task 2-1 uses a lightweight virtual machine hypervisor as the container runtime with various optimizations.
- Task 2-2 customizes the runtime based on HPC requirements on hypervisor feature, file system, network, and GPU.
- Task 2-3 designs a dynamical image debloating method that can remove unnecessary files, software, and packages.



# Community Feedback

- Here to listen / learn from the broader HPC community
- We welcome your feedback and input!
  - What is OAC doing that's working well?
  - What can we do better?
  - What should we be doing?



# Thank You

*“Make no little plans; They have no magic to stir men's blood ...”*

Daniel H. Burnham, Architect and City Planner Extraordinaire, 1907.

*“If you want to travel fast, travel alone;  
if you want to travel far, travel together”*

African Proverb.

*Robert Beverly*

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