

Discussion session: “Community Building”

Community of Edinburgh Research Software Engineers

26 September 2018



“It takes a village to raise a child”

Origin unknown – similar to various African proverbs

<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2016/07/30/487925796/it-takes-a-village-to-determine-the-origins-of-an-african-proverb>

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Communities of Practice

- Group of people (us!) who share a particular craft or shared purpose
- Sharing ideas and tools with each other can accelerate and improve capabilities and research outcomes for you, your group, your department and your organisation
- Each community is different and works in different ways, but there are common patterns to creating vibrant and successful communities
- These discussion sessions will explore how we want to build and grow our community

Discussion session practicalities

- Only 30 minutes!
- Introductions (5 minutes)
 - Name, group / department, organization
- Discuss the topic, noting ideas and barriers
 - Highlight (15 minutes)
 - Potential activities and events that might address the theme
 - Roles and Responsibilities: how might you organize these activities?
 - Available resources that could be contributed to make things happen
 - Missing skills / experience / resources that are needed
 - Prioritise (5 minutes)
 - What's the most exciting thing? What's the easiest thing to do now?
- Wrapup – anything you've missed? (5 minutes)

Discussion themes

- Learning, improving and sharing skills (Moderator: Toni)
- Finding out what others are doing / presenting what I'm doing (Victoria)
- Cross-campus and cross-discipline network building (Mario)
- Growing our community / inclusion and support (Neil)
- Recognition, reward and recruitment (Sean)
- Making a difference (Andy)

Role of moderators

- Coordinate and assist group discussions
- Impartial: not dominating conversation nor evaluating ideas, but encouraging input from participants in their group
- Keep discussions on time and on topic
- Noting down ideas

Carpentries Cookbook

- An open resource with examples of what different communities have done and achieved
- <https://cookbook.carpentries.org/>