

# Code and Community

(Parsl)

Ben Clifford

[benc@hawaga.org.uk](mailto:benc@hawaga.org.uk)

code is a communal artwork...

... not a toxic byproduct of the grant funding process

# what does the Parsl code-as-communal-artwork look like?

Python components

DataFlowKernel

SlurmProvider

python\_app

Features

one task can depend on another

grid/cloud execution

<https://github.com/Parsl/parsl/issues/2554>

"Research"  
Code

Production  
Code



# Research Code

# Production Code



Cloud/grid

Workflow  
progress  
visualization

Globus file  
staging

Work Queue  
integrated with  
Parsl monitoring

SlurmProvider

Task  
dependencies

# Research Code

# Production Code



# this is a hack

long-standing issues that say "it is broken"

"When (not if) it hangs or breaks, just restart it"

race conditions

integration with other features

Auto testing: pytest, mypy, coverage

Documentation

error handling (vs happy path)

Multiple contributors

power users

fast response to issues [eg. technical sponsor]

serious review from other devs

# Research Code

# Production Code



trying a new  
algorithm

Integrate with your  
main project

one-off summer project

checkmarketing

exploratory prototyping for  
feedback and understanding

5 years

Research  
Code

Production  
Code



All of this has a valuable  
place in the Parsl  
community



# How do you fit in? Issues



I'll hack around problem

I'll report it in the issue tracker

I'll fix it

A one character  
typo-fix PR in an  
error message is  
not "too small!"

Also covers new  
features, not just  
bugs

# How do you fit in? New features work better with user collaboration

Friendly criticism:

Missing usecases - "this almost addresses my usecase... but not quite... so I can't use it at all"

Bug-finding & usability

eg MPI (PR #2905) - Yadu's talk

eg DESC collaboration

(Developing in a vacuum is quite lonely)



# How do you fit in? Big Contributions (~ WorkQueueExecutor)

Research  
Code

Production  
Code



- trying a new algorithm
- one-off summer project
- checkmarketing
- exploratory prototyping for feedback and understanding
- Integrate with your main project

- integration with other features
- Auto testing: pytest, mypy, coverage
- error handling (vs happy path)
- Documentation
- fast response to issues [eg. technical sponsor]
- Multiple contributors
- power users
- serious review from other devs

# Community Profile: Cooperative Computing Lab

Building "cooperative computing tools"

mostly nothing to do with Parsl - even in competition

CCTools is the package that holds Work Queue and Task Vine

This group contributed initial WQExecutor and Task Vine executor

This group very responsive to issues about WQ and TaskVine

sharing responsibility for the WQExecutor and TaskVineExecutor - for maintenance and for introducing new features



# What we're doing - cleaner plugin points

Helping to hack on and extend Parsl: cleaner interfaces:

- inside the codebase (for hacking more easily)
- to external components (for developing/packaging/distributing separately - eg github repo and/or pip package)

Plugins in this parslfest - TaskVine (executor), ProxyStore (serialization), Falcon (file staging), Dragon (executor)

Executors, Providers, Launchers, File Staging, Serialization, Channels, Monitoring

# How do you fit in? Technical sponsor / subject champion

Someone who cares about a particular component or feature or science domain

Knows how it works... fixes bugs...

<https://github.com/Parsl/parsl/issues/2554>

You can do this informally too...

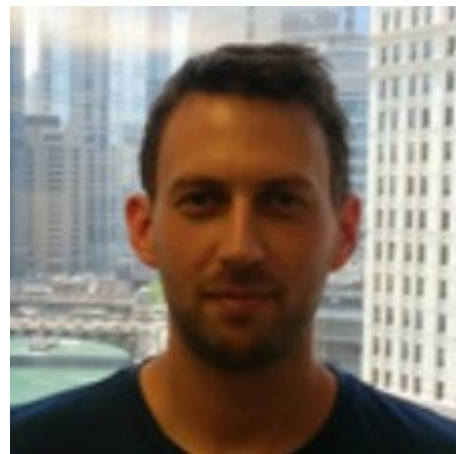
# Community Profile: Ryan Chard

from Globus Compute

Technical sponsor for PBS Provider

Only 2 PRs against PBS ever! ... easy

Motivation: wants Globus Compute (via Parsl code) to submit to PBS



# How do you fit in? Tutorials, documentation, demos, howtos, blogs, configs

Touches the code...

... but isn't PRs into our GitHub repo

eg. NERSC and ALCF - hosts configs and instructions - positive site-driven contribution



# Community Profile: Logan Ward

Power user - materials science / molecules

Minor htex features (core allocation)

Video tutorials that cover Parsl and other stuff

Documentation

Tutorial notebooks

Honest feedback

Shares experience with other users in #parsl-help



# What we're doing - untangling code

make the code more maintainable and more fun by making it simpler to understand and hack on

clearer types - type hints and automated checking (mypy, typeguard)

deleting lots of code that has served its purpose

## Conclusion: How do you fit in?

- Issues
- New features work better with user collaboration
- Big contributions
- Technical sponsor / subject champion
- Tutorials, documentations, demos, howtos, blogs, configs