

# Facilitating Cloud Computing Panel

2021 VRP Workshop

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In this panel we explore the opportunities, challenges, and obstacles to facilitating cloud computing for research from a variety of perspectives (facilitation, administration, and researchers).

The panel was formed from the participants of the first cohort of the Cloud Learning and Skills Sessions (CLASS) program offered by Internet2 (<https://internet2.edu/class> ). It emerged as a result of all the discussions around facilitating research in the cloud during the 4 month program.

Panel Google Document: [2021 VRP Panel - Facilitating Cloud Computing](#)



Your role with RCD

Supporting research engagement activities at Internet2. Advancing the awareness, adoption, and maturity of tools and techniques for scientific workflows within research lifecycles.

RCD accomplishment or passion

Building a successful RCD team and infrastructure from the ground up. Former PI of the Great Plains CyberTeam. Contributing to CaRCC, Campus Champions, and other RCD community efforts.

Background

Dr. Timothy Middelkoop is a Senior Research Engagement Engineer at Internet2 and is a part of the Internet2 CLASS program.



**Timothy Middelkoop**

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Internet2

**Senior Research  
Engagement Engineer**

**Campus Champions  
Leadership Team**

Your role with RCD

Enabling the utilization of cloud capabilities by generating training content relevant to the biomedical community and creating events such as codeathons to bring together diverse communities toward solving relevant biomedical problems.

RCD accomplishment or passion

I lower the barriers of entry for data science by building programs that offer equitable access. I utilize cloud capabilities in codeathons for both collaboration and acceleration of novel ideas. I also use cloud to build reproducible data science training.

Background

Dr. Allissa Dillman serves as the workforce development and community engagement lead for the Office of Data Science Strategy (ODSS) at National Institutes of Health (NIH).



**Allissa Dillman**

[allissa.dillman@nih.gov](mailto:allissa.dillman@nih.gov)

NIH

I am the workforce development and community engagement lead for the office of data science strategy at NIH.

Your role with RCD

Research facilitator, supporting computing on-prem, cloud and national resources. Driving cloud strategy for research services

RCD accomplishment or passion

Accelerating discovery by providing effective computing/storage resources and efficient workflows for researchers and building required skills within the community

Background

Dr. Alper Kinaci is the Lead Computational Research Engineer for Research Computing Services with IT at Northwestern University. Background in Materials Science & research.



**Alper Kinaci**

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Northwestern University

**Lead Computational  
Research Engineer**

**Campus Champion**

Your role with RCD

Research Software Engineer supporting E-CAS and CLASS at Internet2.

RCD accomplishment or passion

Building foundations for Public cloud adoption in a central IT team and building expertise on Amazon Web Services, Microsoft Azure and Google Cloud Platform.

Background

Ananya Ravipati is the Research Cloud Engineer at Internet2 where she works on facilitating cloud platforms use for research related to the NSF E-CAS project and plays a key role in designing curriculum for Cloud Learning and Skills Sessions (CLASS) offered by Internet2.



**Ananya Ravipati**

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Internet2

**Research  
Software Engineer**

Your role with RCD

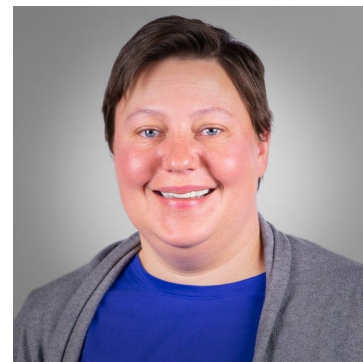
Working with researchers to assess needs and fit with our public cloud providers (AWS, Azure, GCP).  
Providing consultation and wayfinding for campus resources.

RCD accomplishment or passion

As a former software developer, I enjoy building proof of concepts & helping researchers meet their goals. I enjoy being in higher ed to “use my power for good”.

Background

Chris Lalande is the Research Cloud Technician in the Research Cyberinfrastructure group at UW-Madison.  
Member of Public Cloud team in Central IT.



**Chris Lalande**

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Your Institution

**Consultation &  
Facilitation**

**Service Wayfinding**

**Infrastructure**

**Data Management**

**Software Development**

Your role with RCD

I help humanists to identify their research computing needs, and to come up with low-cost solutions. This often involves setting up lightweight, custom web apps (though these are getting bigger!).

RCD accomplishment or passion

Helping clients to see how they can transform their project with planning on the research computing side of the equation.

Background

Dr. John Mulligan works in the Center for Research Computing, primarily with humanists and social scientists.



**John Mulligan**

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Rice University Center for Research  
Computing

**Humanities Computing  
Researcher and Research  
Facilitator**



Your role with RCD

University of Washington: Research Computing Director, eScience Institute and Central IT. Cloud advocacy/suitability/training for Researchers' computing infrastructure needs

RCD accomplishment or passion

Accelerate research / remove obstacles. Articulate necessary time investment. Democratize compute power.

Background

Dr. Rob Fatland has a background in geophysical data science. He also contributes to STEM outreach programs in K12.



**Rob Fatland**

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University of Washington

Consult with research teams

Create educational content

Data science advocacy