

# Research Software Developers Network

Leader: Jonathan Cooper, Computer Science

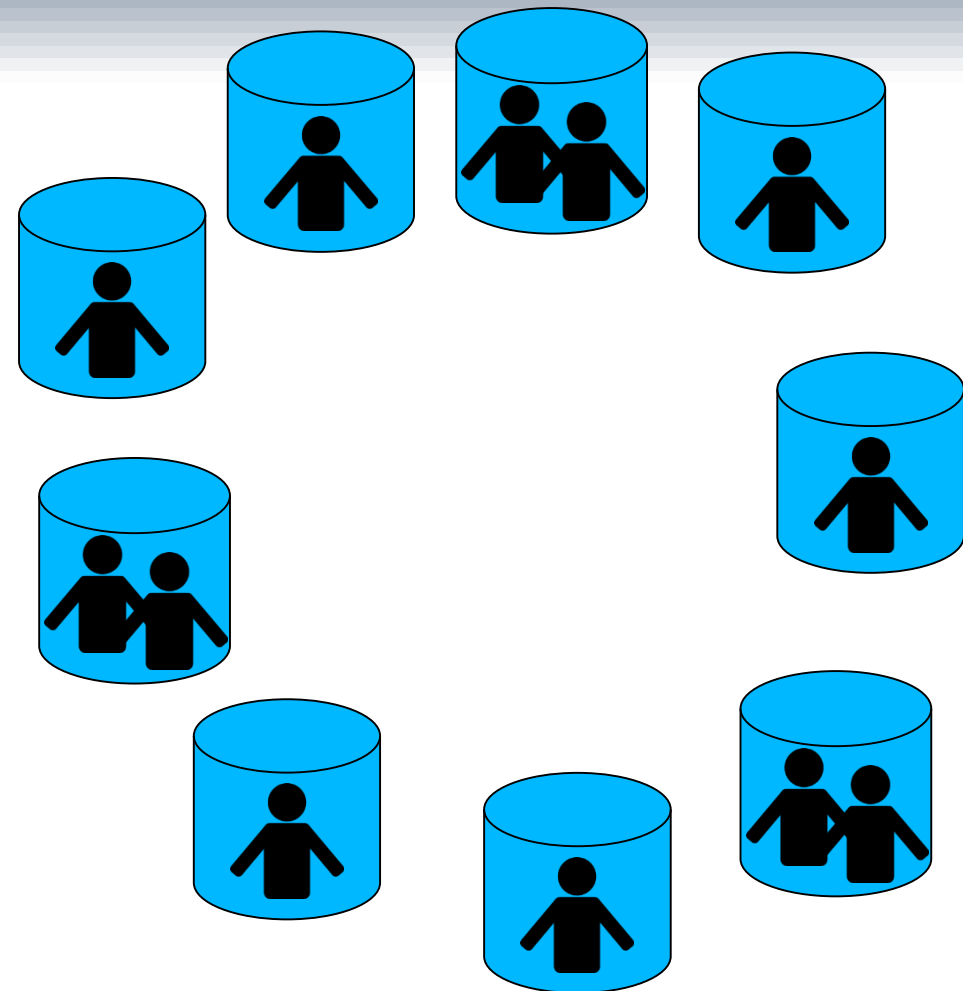


# Software and Research

- Increasingly most research is critically dependent on developing novel software or data systems
  - Crowdsourcing for humanities projects
  - Game development for experimental psychology
  - Quantitative understanding of biology
  - Safety-critical medical diagnostics

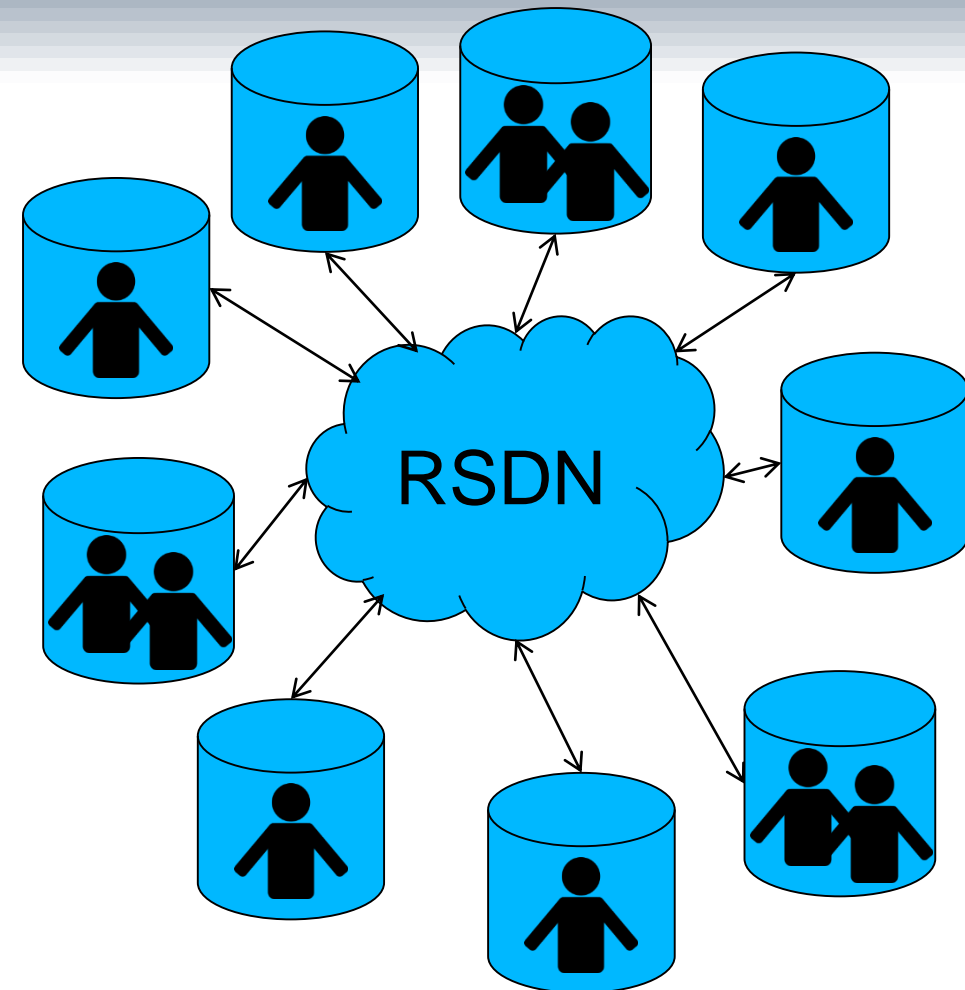
# What are Research Software Developers?

- RSDs combine expertise in development with an understanding of research
- RSD skills are applicable across academic disciplines
- Many in Oxford have this role (among others)
- Often isolated within their research group or unit



# Research Software Developers Network

- The RSDN provides a community and support structure
- Regular monthly meetings
  - Lightning talks, discussions, hackathons, training, ...
- Supporting website and mailing list
- Representative body for RSDs



# General topics requested

## Sharing expertise

What people are doing  
New/future technologies

## Networking

Showcase available  
    services/resources/tools  
Marketplace for small  
    development tasks  
Collaborative projects  
Links to other networks /  
    (un-)conferences

## Training

Tips for beginners  
Software design tips  
Drop-in clinics

## Career development

Career path stories  
Incentives for RSDs  
How to increase impact of  
    software  
Funding opportunities

# RSDN Benefits

- Reduce duplication of effort; facilitate innovation
- Better RSD staff recruitment and retention
  - Source of local verified expertise
  - Increase attraction of Oxford as employer
- Training & mentoring for RSDs (and researchers)
- Better research!

# Relevance to ITSS

- You will know many of the RSDs in the University – can you advertise the Network?
- Some of you may wish to be involved directly
- The RSDN could (should!) provide you with a resource

# Upcoming events

- 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016, 9.30-10.30am, CS LT B:  
Guest from UCL's centrally-funded RSD team
- February: hackathon session on Docker or VIVO