



SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS AND COMPUTING

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Bloomington

September 1, 2011

Mr. Josh Greenberg
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
630 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2550
New York, NY, 10111

Dear Mr. Greenberg,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal being submitted by the Mozilla Foundation and Software Carpentry to teach fundamental computational skills to scientists and engineers. As a Professor (and former department chair) of Computer Science at Indiana University, I have watched successive waves of graduate students in disciplines ranging from economics to cosmology struggle to actually make use of the vast resources available through the Web and the Internet in their work. The proposed training will enable students to create new tools to accelerate their research and to share their ideas and results with colleagues in new ways. It will truly empower them to work effectively in the emerging data-centric "fourth paradigm" of scientific discovery.

I have worked with one of the proposal's authors (Dr. Gregory Wilson) several times over the past fifteen years, and I have used his course material here at IU. Having led development of several major open source packages, I am very excited by the synergies that will be made possible in combining Software Carpentry's ideas with Mozilla's experience in creating and defending the open web. I look forward to helping create and deliver more material that will give students the mindset they need to make the web work for them, and will both host workshops here at IU and work towards getting them formal recognition within the university.

Sincerely,

Andrew Lumsdaine
Professor, Computer Science
Director, Open Systems Lab
Indiana University