

# Managing HPC Software Complexity with Spack

The most recent version of these slides can be found at:  
<https://spack-tutorial.readthedocs.io>

AWS/RADIUSS Tutorials 2023  
Virtual Event  
August 8-9, 2023





## Welcome to the RADIUSS AWS Tutorial Series!

Go to:

<https://software.llnl.gov/radiuss/event/2023/07/11/radiuss-on-aws/>

to learn more about our other tutorials and documentation!

Date	Time (Pacific)	Project
August 3, 2023	9:00a.m.–11:00a.m.	 Build, link, and test large-scale applications with <b>BLT</b>
August 8–9 2023	8:00a.m.–11:30a.m. both days	 Learn to install your software quickly with <b>Spack</b>
August 10, 2023	9:00a.m.–11:00a.m.	 Use <b>MFEM</b> for scalable finite element discretization application development
August 14, 2023	9:00a.m.–12:00p.m.	 Integrate performance profiling capabilities into your applications with <b>Caliper</b>
		 Analyze hierarchical performance data with <b>Hatchet</b>
		 Optimize application performance on supercomputers with <b>Thicket</b>
August 17, 2023	9:00a.m.–11:00a.m.	 Use <b>RAJA</b> to run and port codes quickly across NVIDIA, AMD, and Intel GPUs
		 Discover, provision, and manage HPC memory with <b>Umpire</b>
August 22, 2023	9:00a.m.–11:00a.m.	 Visualize and analyze your simulations in situ with <b>Ascent</b>
August 24, 2023	9:00a.m.–11:00a.m.	 Leverage robust, flexible software components for scientific applications with <b>Axiom</b>
August 29, 2023	9:00a.m.–11:00a.m.	 Analyze runs of your code with <b>WEAVE</b>
August 31, 2023	9:00a.m.–11:00a.m.	 Learn to run thousands of jobs in a workflow with <b>Flux</b>

# Tutorial Presenters



**Greg Becker**  
**LLNL**



**Richarda Butler**  
**LLNL**



**Tamara Dahlgren**  
**LLNL**



**Todd Gamblin**  
**LLNL**

# Tutorial Materials

Find these slides and associated scripts here:

**spack-tutorial.rtfd.io**

We also have a chat room on Spack slack.  
You can join here:

**slack.spack.io**

Join the #tutorial channel!

You can ask questions here after the conference is over.  
Over **2,400 people** can help you on Slack!

Join #tutorial on Slack: [slack.spack.io](https://slack.spack.io)

Materials: [spack-tutorial.readthedocs.io](https://spack-tutorial.readthedocs.io)

The screenshot shows the Spack documentation page on Read the Docs. The top navigation bar includes links for "Docs" and "Tutorial". Below the header, there's a search bar labeled "Search docs" and a "latest" version indicator. A sidebar on the left contains sections for "LINKS" (Main Spack Documentation), "TUTORIAL" (Basic Installation Tutorial, Configuration Tutorial, Package Creation Tutorial, Developer Workflows Tutorial), and "Read the Docs" (with a dropdown menu showing "v: latest"). The main content area displays the "Basic Installation Tutorial" page, which includes a "Prerequisites" section with a link to "Managing HPC Software Complexity with Spack". At the bottom, there are sections for "Versions" (latest, sc18, sc17, sc16, riken19, pearc19, nsf19, lanl19, isc19, ecp19), "Downloads", "HTML", "On Read the Docs" (Project Home, Builds, Downloads), "On GitHub", "View", "Edit", and "Search". A footer at the bottom right says "Hosted by Read the Docs · Privacy Policy".

Docs » Tutorial: Sp

## Tutorial: S

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Practice and Experi  
2019.

You can use these n  
and read the live de

### Slides



Practice and Experi  
Chicago, IL, USA.

### Live Demos

We provide scripts  
sections in the slide

1. We provide a  
tutorial on yo  
the container
2. When we ha  
unfamiliar wi

You should now be



Claim a VM instance! Go to: [bit.ly/spack-radius23](https://bit.ly/spack-radius23)

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Spack Tutorial VM Instances</b>					
2	Instructions:	1. Put your name in a box below to claim an account on a VM instance. Choose a relativ				
3		2. Log in to your VM: ssh <IP address>				
4						
5		Login/password are both the username from your column below (spack1/spack1, spac				
6						
7		<b>Login / Password</b>				
8	<b>IP Address</b>	spack1	spack2	spack3	spack4	spack5
9	3.73.49.217	<b>SPACK TEAM</b>				
10	3.126.55.215					
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12	35.157.75.37					
13	18.185.125.145					
14	3.72.109.188					
15	3.72.107.180					

Put your name in a cell in the Google Sheet



# Agenda (approximate)

## Tuesday 8/8

Intro	8:00 am
Basics	
Concepts	
Break	9:30 am
Environments	10:00 am
Configuration	
End	11:30 am

## Wednesday 8/9

Software Stacks	8:00 am
Packaging	
Scripting	
Break	9:30 am
Developer Workflows	10:00 am
Mirrors & Binary Caches	
End	11:30 am



# We build codes from hundreds of small, complex pieces

*Just when we're starting to solve the problem of how to create software using reusable parts, it founders on the nuts-and-bolts problems outside the software itself.*

P. DuBois & T. Epperly. ***Why Johnny Can't Build***. Scientific Programming. Sep/Oct 2003.

- Component-based software development dates back to the 60's
  - M.D. McIlroy, *Mass Produced Software Components*. NATO SE Conf., 1968
- **Pros are well known:**
  - Teams can and must reuse each others' work
  - Teams write less code, meet deliverables faster
- **Cons:**
  - Teams must ensure that components work together
  - Integration burden increases with each additional library
  - Integration must be repeated with each update to components
  - **Components must be vetted!**
- **Managing changes over time is becoming intractable**



Build-time incompatibility; fail fast



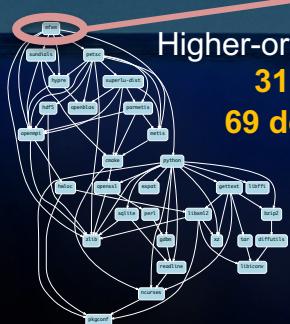
Appears to work; subtle errors later

# Modern scientific codes rely on icebergs of dependency libraries

MFEM:

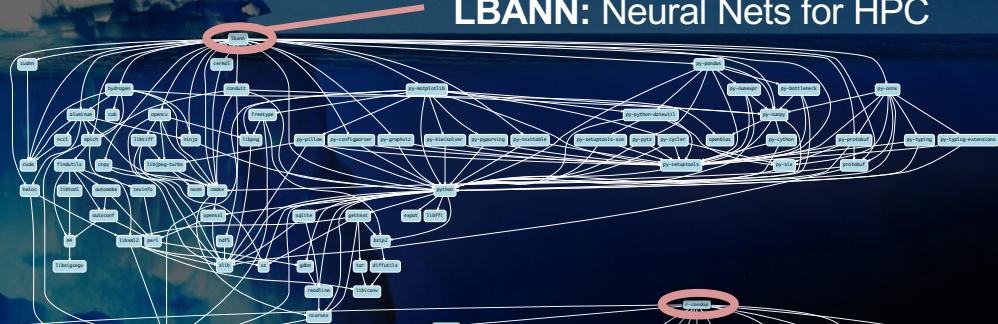
Higher-order finite elements

**31 packages,  
69 dependencies**



**71 packages  
188 dependencies**

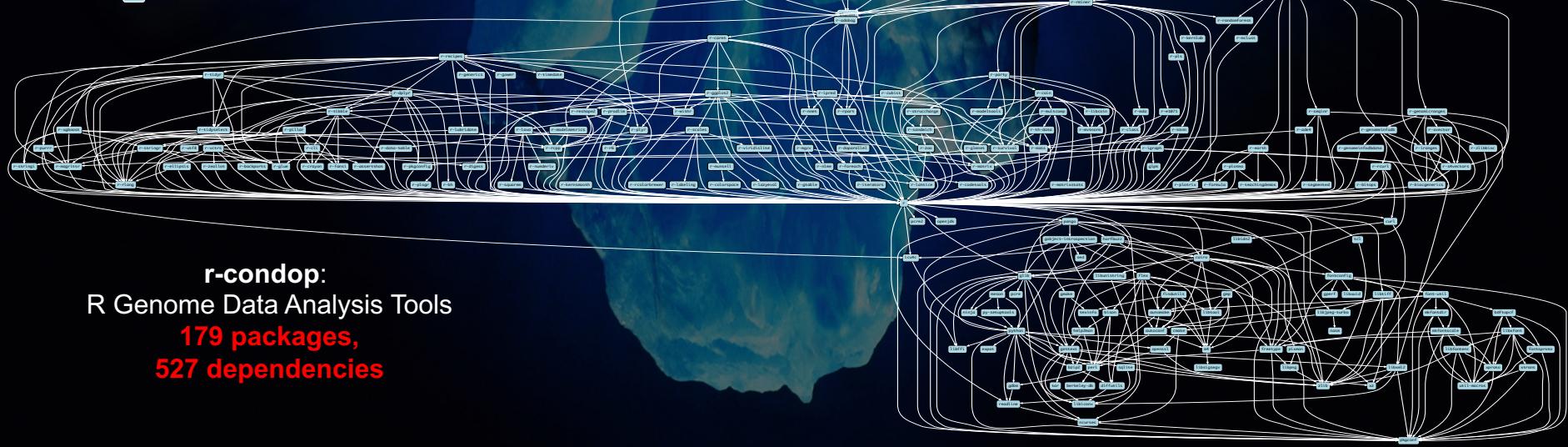
LBANN: Neural Nets for HPC



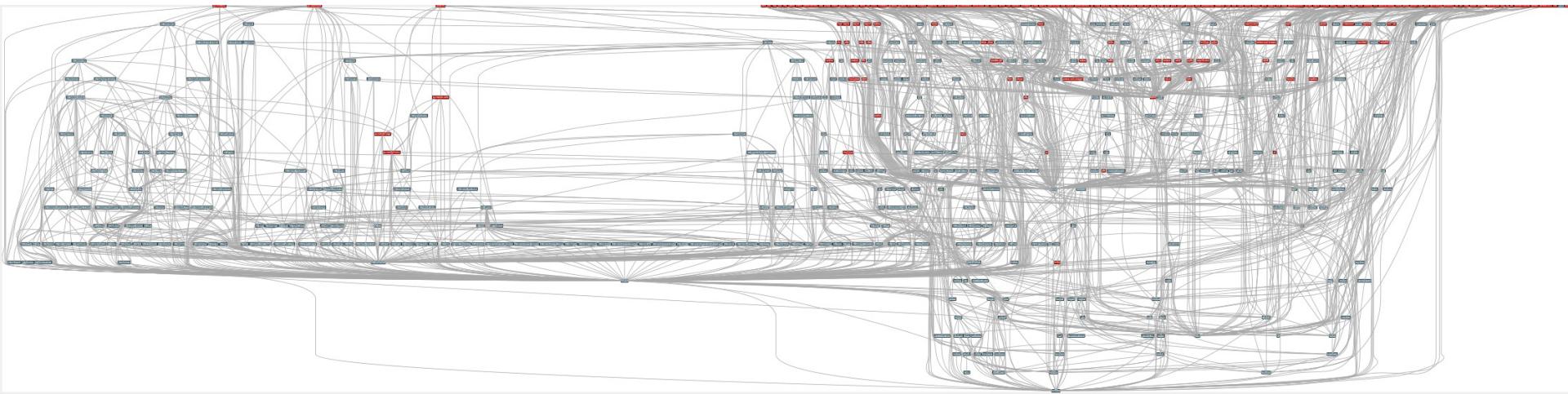
r-condop:

R Genome Data Analysis Tools

**179 packages,  
527 dependencies**



# ECP's E4S stack is even larger than these codes

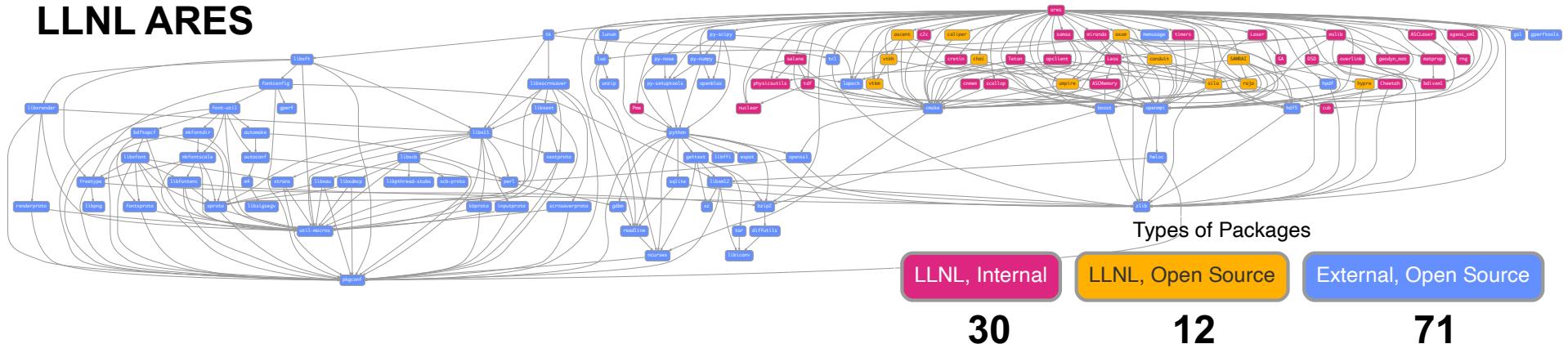


- Red boxes are the packages in it (about 100)
- Blue boxes are what *else* you need to build it (about 600)
- It's infeasible to build and integrate all of this manually



# Modern software integrates open source and internal packages

LLNL ARES



- Most modern software uses *tons* of open source
  - We *cannot* replace all these OSS components with our own
    - How do we put them all together effectively?
    - Do you *have* to integrate this stuff by hand?

# Some fairly common (but questionable) assumptions made by package managers (conda, pip, apt, etc.)

---

- **1:1 relationship between source code and binary (per platform)**
  - Good for reproducibility (e.g., Debian)
  - Bad for performance optimization
- **Binaries should be as portable as possible**
  - What most distributions do
  - Again, bad for performance
- **Toolchain is the same across the ecosystem**
  - One compiler, one set of runtime libraries
  - Or, no compiler (for interpreted languages)

Outside these boundaries, users are typically on their own

# High Performance Computing (HPC) violates many of these assumptions

- **Code is typically distributed as source**
  - With exception of vendor libraries, compilers
- **Often build many variants of the same package**
  - Developers' builds may be very different
  - Many first-time builds when machines are new
- **Code is optimized for the processor and GPU**
  - Must make effective use of the hardware
  - Can make 10-100x perf difference
- **Rely heavily on system packages**
  - Need to use optimized libraries that come with machines
  - Need to use host GPU libraries and network
- **Multi-language**
  - C, C++, Fortran, Python, others all in the same ecosystem

## Some Supercomputers



Summit  
Oak Ridge National Lab  
Power9 / NVIDIA



Fugaku  
RIKEN  
Fujitsu/ARM a64fx



Perlmutter  
Lawrence Berkeley National Lab  
AMD Zen / NVIDIA



Aurora  
Argonne National Lab  
Intel Xeon / Xe



FRONTIER  
Oak Ridge National Lab  
AMD Zen / Radeon



El Capitan  
Lawrence Livermore National Lab  
AMD Zen / Radeon

# What about containers?

- Containers provide a great way to reproduce and distribute an already-built software stack
- Someone needs to build the container!
  - This isn't trivial
  - Containerized applications still have hundreds of dependencies
- Using the OS package manager inside a container is insufficient
  - Most binaries are built unoptimized
  - Generic binaries, not optimized for specific architectures
- HPC containers may need to be *rebuilt* to support many different hosts, anyway.
  - Not clear that we can ever build one container for all facilities
  - Containers likely won't solve the N-platforms problem in HPC



We need something more flexible to **build** the containers

# Spack enables Software distribution for HPC

- Spack automates the build and installation of scientific software
- Packages are *parameterized*, so that users can easily tweak and tune configuration

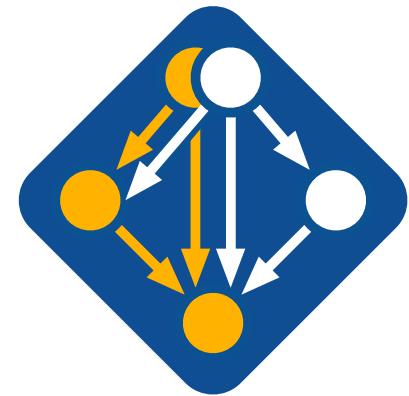
**No installation required: clone and go**

```
$ git clone https://github.com/spack/spack  
$ spack install hdf5
```

**Simple syntax enables complex installs**

```
$ spack install hdf5@1.10.5  
$ spack install hdf5@1.10.5 %clang@6.0  
$ spack install hdf5@1.10.5 +threadsafe
```

```
$ spack install hdf5@1.10.5 cppflags="-O3 -g3"  
$ spack install hdf5@1.10.5 target=haswell  
$ spack install hdf5@1.10.5 +mpi ^mpich@3.2
```



[github.com/spack/spack](https://github.com/spack/spack)

- Ease of use of mainstream tools, with flexibility needed for HPC
- In addition to CLI, Spack also:
  - Generates (but does **not** require) *modules*
  - Allows conda/virtualenv-like *environments*
  - Provides many devops features (CI, container generation, more)

# What's a package manager?

- Spack is a ***package manager***
  - Does not replace Cmake/Autotools
  - Packages built by Spack can have any build system they want
- Spack manages ***dependencies***
  - Drives package-level build systems
  - Ensures consistent builds
- Determining magic configure lines takes time
  - Spack is a cache of recipes

Package Manager

- Manages package installation
- Manages dependency relationships
- May drive package-level build systems

High Level Build System

- Cmake, Autotools
- Handle library abstractions
- Generate Makefiles, etc.

Low Level Build System

- Make, Ninja
- Handles dependencies among *commands* in a single build



# Who can use Spack?

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**People who want to use or distribute software for HPC!**

## 1. End Users of HPC Software

- Install and run HPC applications and tools

## 2. HPC Application Teams

- Manage third-party dependency libraries

## 3. Package Developers

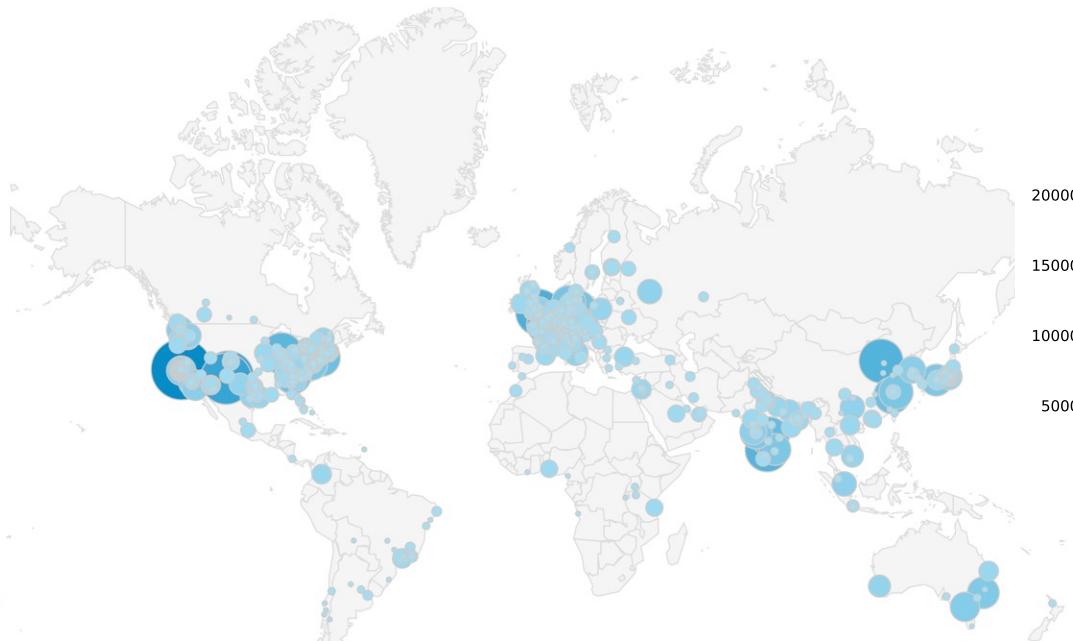
- People who want to package their own software for distribution

## 4. User support teams at HPC Centers

- People who deploy software for users at large HPC sites

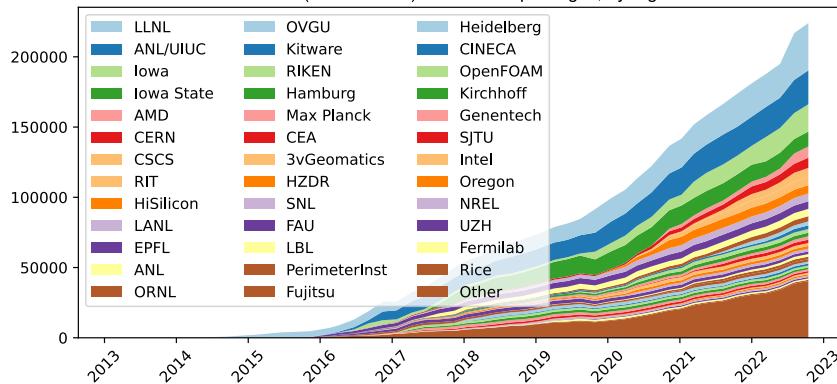


# Spack sustains the HPC software ecosystem with the help of many contributors



**Over 6,900 software packages  
Over 1,100 contributors**

Contributions (lines of code) over time in packages, by organization



Most package contributions are *not* from DOE  
But they help sustain the DOE ecosystem!

# Spack is critical for ECP's mission to create a robust, capable exascale software ecosystem.

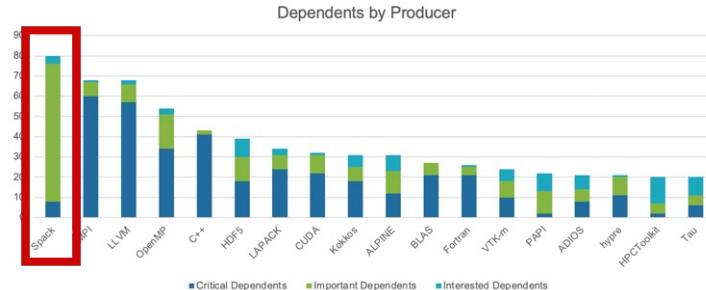


EXASCALE COMPUTING PROJECT

- Spack will be used to build software for the three upcoming U.S. exascale systems
- ECP has built the Extreme Scale Scientific Software Stack (E4S) with Spack – more at <https://e4s.io>
- Spack will be integral to upcoming ECP testing efforts.

A screenshot of the E4S Project website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, EVENTS, ABOUT, DOCUMENTATION, POLICIES, CONTACT US, and FAQ. Below the navigation bar, a banner reads "The Extreme-scale Scientific Software Stack". The main content area is titled "What is E4S?" and contains text about the project's purpose, approach, platforms, and testing. There are also sections for "Critical Dependents", "Important Dependents", and "Interested Dependents".

<https://e4s.io>



Spack is the most depended-upon project in ECP

Join #tutorial on Slack: [slack.spack.io](https://slack.spack.io)

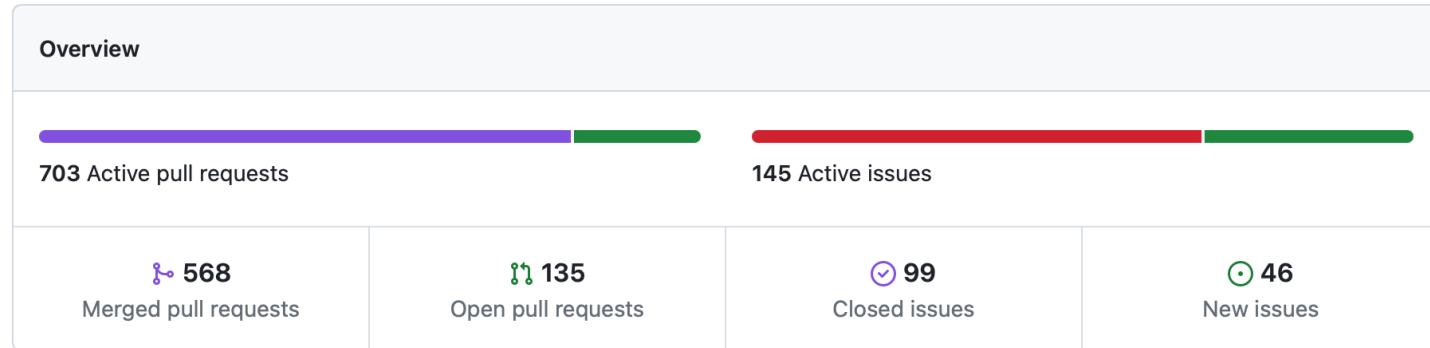
Materials: [spack-tutorial.readthedocs.io](https://spack-tutorial.readthedocs.io)



# One month of Spack development is pretty busy!

April 21, 2023 – May 21, 2023

Period: 1 month ▾



Excluding merges, **109 authors** have pushed **568 commits** to develop and **625 commits** to all branches. On develop, **1,228 files** have changed and there have been **33,421 additions** and **17,043 deletions**.



Join #tutorial on Slack: [slack.spack.io](https://slack.spack.io)

Materials: [spack-tutorial.readthedocs.io](https://spack-tutorial.readthedocs.io)



# Spack's widespread adoption has made it a de facto standard, drawing contribution and collaboration from vendors

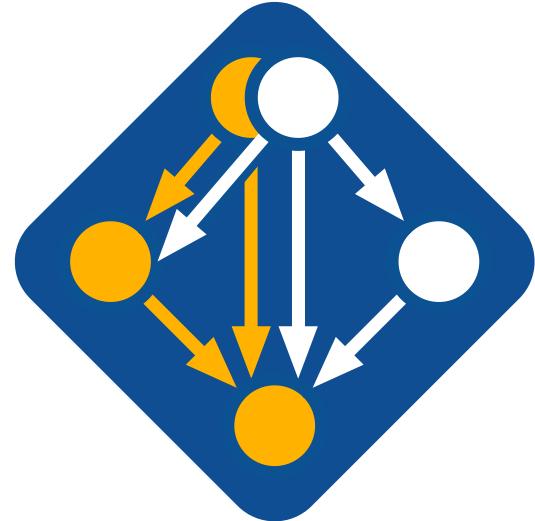
- **AWS** is investing significantly in cloud credits for Spack
  - Supporting highly scalable cloud CI system with ~250k+/year in credits
  - Integrating Spack with ParallelCluster product
  - Joint Spack tutorial with AWS drew 125+ participants
- **Google** is using Spack in their HPC Toolkit cloud cluster product
  - List packages to deploy; automatically built and cached in cluster deployment
- **AMD** has contributed ROCm packages and compiler support
  - 55+ PRs mostly from AMD, also others
  - ROCm, HIP, aocc packages are all in Spack now
- **HPE/Cray** is allowing us to do CI in the cloud for the Cray PE environment
  - Looking at tighter Spack integration with Cray PE
- **Intel** contributing OneApi support and licenses for our build farm
- **NVIDIA** contributing NVHPC compiler support and other features
- **Fujitsu and RIKEN** have contributed a **huge** number of packages for ARM/a64fx support on Fugaku
- **ARM** and **Linaro** members contributing ARM support
  - 400+ pull requests for ARM support from various companies



# Spack v0.20.0 was released in June!

Major new features:

1. `requires()` directive, enhanced package requirements
2. Exact versions with `@=`
3. New testing interface
4. More stable concretization
5. Weekly develop snapshot releases
6. Specs in buildcaches can be referenced by hash
7. New package and buildcache index websites
8. Default CMake and Meson build types are now Release



[github.com/spack/spack](https://github.com/spack/spack)

Full release notes:

<https://github.com/spack/spack/releases/tag/v0.20.0>

# Spack is not the only tool that automates builds



## 1. “Functional” Package Managers

- Nix
- Guix

<https://nixos.org/>  
<https://www.gnu.org/s/guix/>

## 2. Build-from-source Package Managers

- Homebrew, LinuxBrew
- MacPorts
- Gentoo

<http://brew.sh>  
<https://www.macports.org>  
<https://gentoo.org>

## Other tools in the HPC Space:



### ▪ Easybuild

- An installation tool for HPC
- Focused on HPC system administrators – different package model from Spack
- Relies on a fixed software stack – harder to tweak recipes for experimentation

<http://hpcugent.github.io/easybuild/>



### ▪ Conda / Mamba

- Very popular binary package ecosystem for data science
- Not targeted at HPC; generally has unoptimized binaries

<https://conda.io>



Claim a VM instance! Go to: [bit.ly/spack-radius23](https://bit.ly/spack-radius23)

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Spack Tutorial VM Instances</b>					
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8	<b>IP Address</b>	spack1	spack2	spack3	spack4	spack5
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Put your name in a cell in the Google Sheet



# Hands-on Time: Spack Basics

Follow script at [spack-tutorial.readthedocs.io](https://spack-tutorial.readthedocs.io)



# Core Spack Concepts



# Most existing tools do not support combinatorial versioning

---

- Traditional binary package managers
  - RPM, yum, APT, yast, etc.
  - Designed to manage a single stack.
  - Install *one* version of each package in a single prefix (/usr).
  - Seamless upgrades to a *stable, well tested* stack
- Port systems
  - BSD Ports, portage, Macports, Homebrew, Gentoo, etc.
  - Minimal support for builds parameterized by compilers, dependency versions.
- Virtual Machines and Linux Containers (Docker)
  - Containers allow users to build environments for different applications.
  - Does not solve the build problem (someone has to build the image)
  - Performance, security, and upgrade issues prevent widespread HPC deployment.



# Spack provides a *spec* syntax to describe customized package configurations

```
$ spack install mpileaks                                unconstrained  
$ spack install mpileaks@3.3                            @ custom version  
$ spack install mpileaks@3.3 %gcc@4.7.3               % custom compiler  
$ spack install mpileaks@3.3 %gcc@4.7.3 +threads      +/- build option  
$ spack install mpileaks@3.3 cppflags="-O3 -g3"        set compiler flags  
$ spack install mpileaks@3.3 target=cascadelake        set target  
microarchitecture  
$ spack install mpileaks@3.3 ^mpich@3.2 %gcc@4.9.3    ^ dependency constraints
```

- Each expression is a *spec* for a particular configuration
  - Each clause adds a constraint to the spec
  - Constraints are optional – specify only what you need.
  - Customize install on the command line!
- Spec syntax is recursive
  - Full control over the combinatorial build space



# Spack packages are *parameterized* using the spec syntax

## Python DSL defines many ways to build

```
from spack import *

class Kripke(CMakePackage):
    """Kripke is a simple, scalable, 3D Sn deterministic particle transport mini-app."""

    homepage = "https://computation.llnl.gov/projects/co-design/kripke"
    url      = "https://computation.llnl.gov/projects/co-design/download/kripke-openmp-1.1.tar.gz"

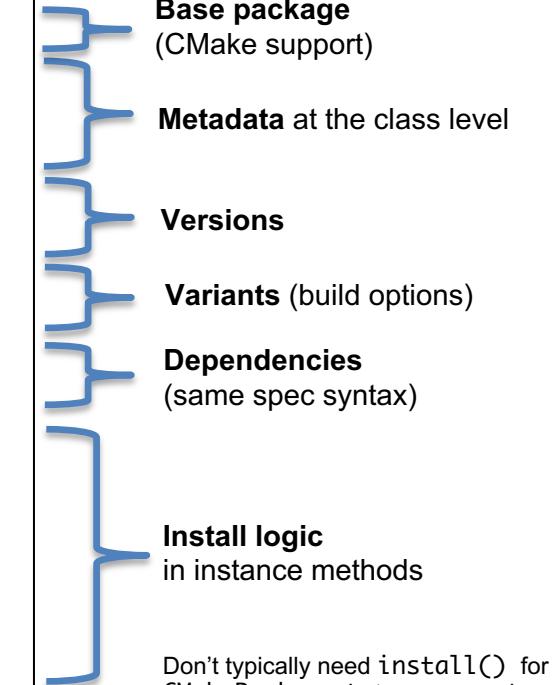
    version('1.2.3', sha256='3f7f2eef0d1ba5825780d626741eb0b3f026a096048d7ec4794d2a7dfbe2b8a6')
    version('1.2.2', sha256='eaf9ddf562416974157b34d00c3a1c880fc5296fce2aa2efa039a86e0976f3a3')
    version('1.1', sha256='232d74072fc7b848fa2adc8a1bc839ae8fb5f96d50224186601f55554a25f64a')

    variant('mpi', default=True, description='Build with MPI.')
    variant('openmp', default=True, description='Build with OpenMP enabled.')

    depends_on('mpi', when='+mpi')
    depends_on('cmake@3.0:', type='build')

    def cmake_args(self):
        return [
            '--ENABLE_OPENMP=%s' % ('+openmp' in self.spec),
            '--ENABLE_MPI=%s' % ('+mpi' in self.spec),
        ]

    def install(self, spec, prefix):
        mkdirp(prefix.bin)
        install('../spack-build/kripke', prefix.bin)
```



**One package.py file per software project!**

# Conditional variants simplify packages

## CudaPackage: a mix-in for packages that use CUDA

```
class CudaPackage(PackageBase):
    variant('cuda', default=False,
            description='Build with CUDA')

    variant('cuda_arch',
            description='CUDA architecture',
            values=any_combination_of(cuda_arch_values),
            when='+cuda')

    depends_on('cuda', when='+cuda')

    depends_on('cuda@9.0:',      when='cuda_arch=70')
    depends_on('cuda@9.0:',      when='cuda_arch=72')
    depends_on('cuda@10.0:',     when='cuda_arch=75')

    conflicts('%gcc@9:', when='+cuda ^cuda@:10.2.89 target=x86_64:')
    conflicts('%gcc@9:', when='+cuda ^cuda@:10.1.243 target=ppc64le:')
```

cuda is a variant (build option)

cuda\_arch is only present if cuda is enabled

dependency on cuda, but only if cuda is enabled

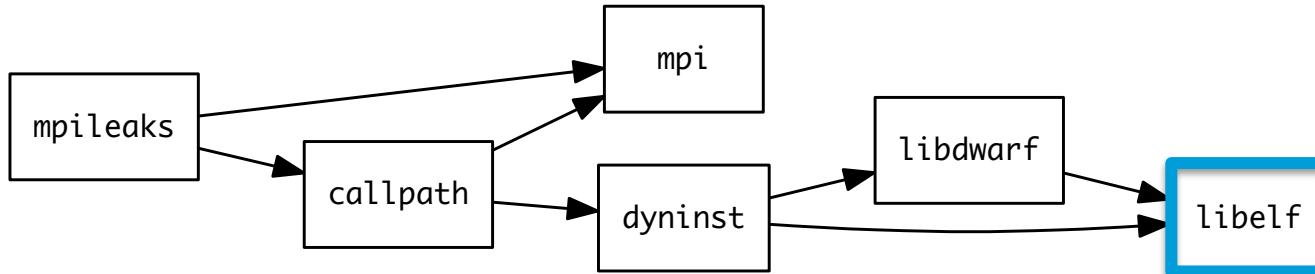
constraints on cuda version

compiler support for x86\_64 and ppc64le

There is a lot of expressive power in the Spack package DSL.



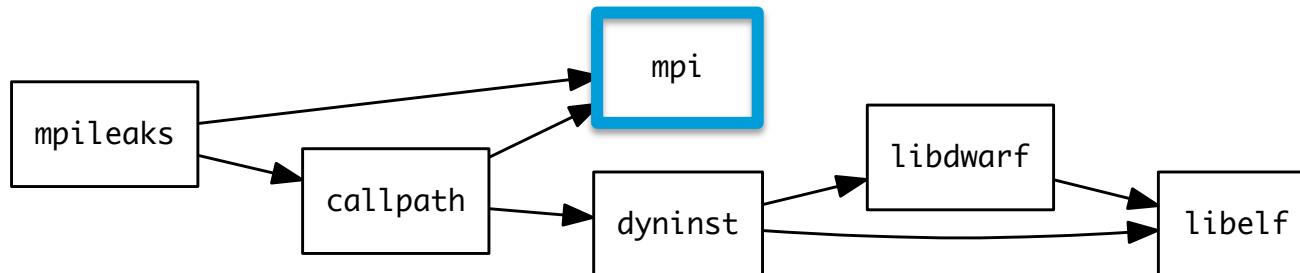
# Spack Specs can constrain versions of dependencies



```
$ spack install mpileaks %intel@12.1 ^libelf@0.8.12
```

- Spack ensures *one* configuration of each library per DAG
  - Ensures ABI consistency.
  - User does not need to know DAG structure; only the dependency *names*.
- Spack can ensure that builds use the same compiler, or you can mix
  - Working on ensuring ABI compatibility when compilers are mixed.

# Spack handles ABI-incompatible, versioned interfaces like MPI



- *mpi* is a *virtual dependency*
- Install the same package built with two different MPI implementations:

```
$ spack install mpileaks ^mvapich@1.9
```

```
$ spack install mpileaks ^openmpi@1.4:
```

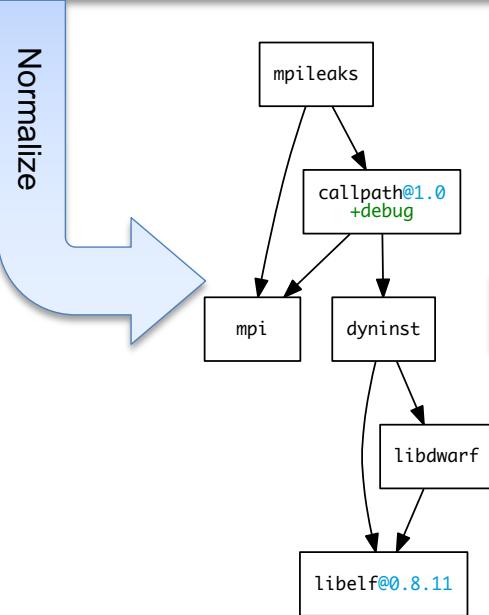
- Let Spack choose MPI implementation, as long as it provides MPI 2 interface:

```
$ spack install mpileaks ^mpi@2
```

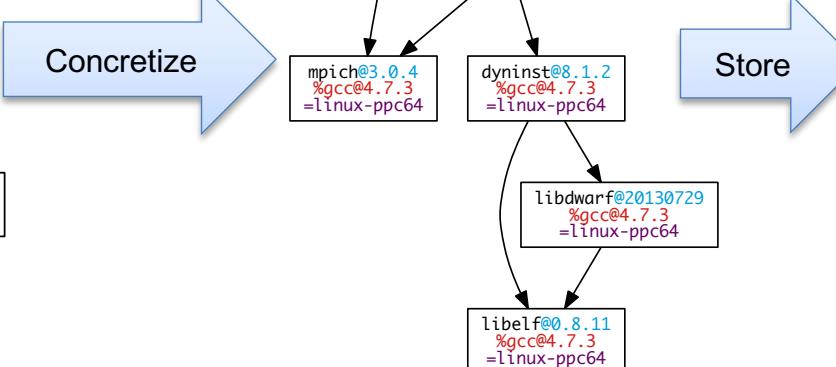
# Concretization fills in missing configuration details when the user is not explicit.

```
mpileaks ^callpath@1.0+debug ^libelf@0.8.11
```

User input: *abstract spec with some constraints*



Abstract, normalized spec with some dependencies.



Concrete spec is fully constrained and can be passed to install.

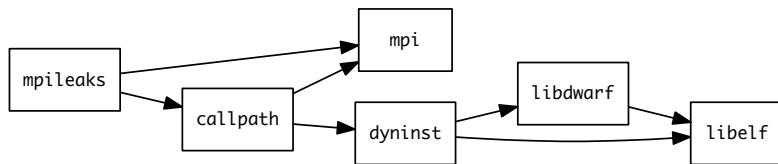
```
spec:
- mpileaks:
  arch: linux-x86_64
  compiler:
    name: gcc
    version: 4.9.2
  dependencies:
    adept-utils: kszrtkpbzac3ss2ixcjkorlaybnpt4
    callpath: bah5f4h4d2n47mgcej2mtrnnivvxy77
    mpich: aa4ar6ifj23yijqmdabekpejcli72t3
    hash: 33hjjhx17p6gyzn5ptgyses7sghyprujh
    variants: {}
  version: '1.0'
- adept-utils:
  arch: linux-x86_64
  compiler:
    name: gcc
    version: 4.9.2
  dependencies:
    boost: teesvj7ehpe5ksspjm5dk43a7qnowlq
    mpich: aa4ar6ifj23yijqmdabekpejcli72t3
    hash: kszrtkpbzac3ss2ixcjkorlaybnpt4
    variants: {}
  version: 1.0.1
- boost:
  arch: linux-x86_64
  compiler:
    name: gcc
    version: 4.9.2
  dependencies: {}
  hash: teesvj7ehpe5ksspjm5dk43a7qnowlq
  variants: {}
  version: 1.59.0
...
```

Detailed provenance is stored with the installed package



# Hashing allows us to handle combinatorial complexity

## Dependency DAG



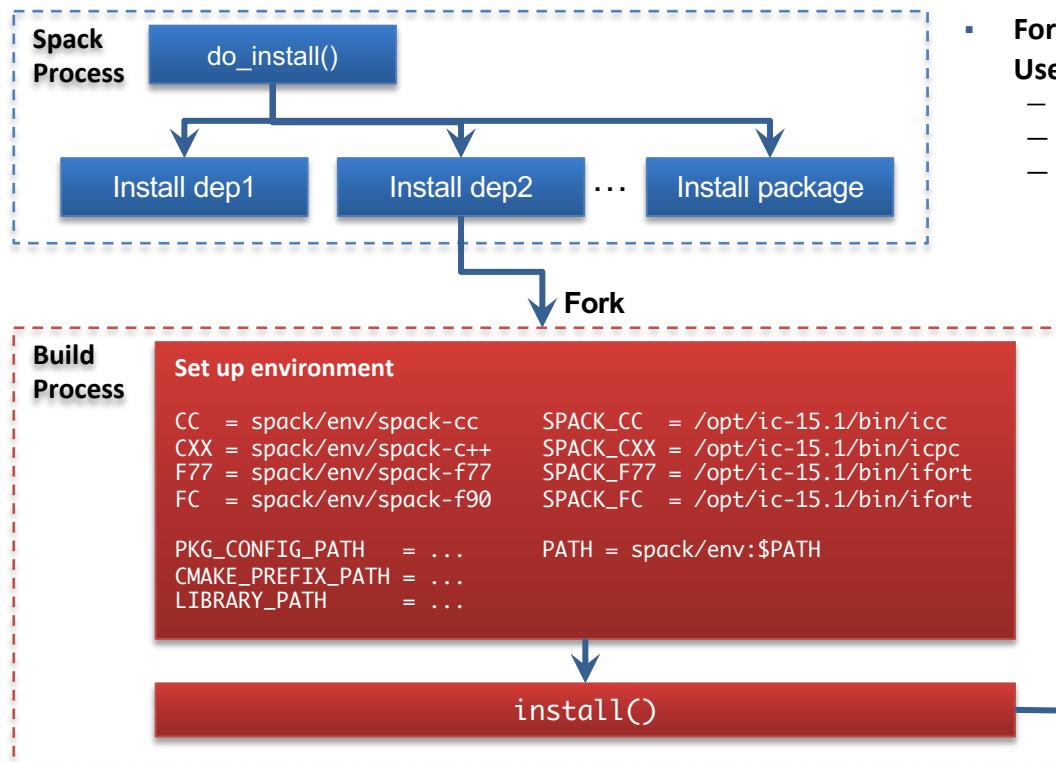
## Installation Layout

```
opt
└── spack
    ├── darwin-mojave-skylake
    │   └── clang-10.0.0-apple
    │       ├── bzip2-1.0.8-hc4sm4vuzpm4znmvrfzri4ow2mkphe2e
    │       ├── python-3.7.6-daqqpsssxb6qbfrztsezkmhus3xoflbsy
    │       ├── sqlite-3.30.1-u64v26igxvbyn23hysmklfums6tgjv5r
    │       ├── xz-5.2.4-u5eawkvaoc7vonabe6nnndkcfwuv233cj
    │       └── zlib-1.2.11-x46q4wm46ay4pltrijbgizxjrhbaka6
    └── darwin-mojave-x86_64
        └── clang-10.0.0-apple
            └── coreutils-8.29
p12kcytejqcys5dzecfrtjqxfdssvnb
```

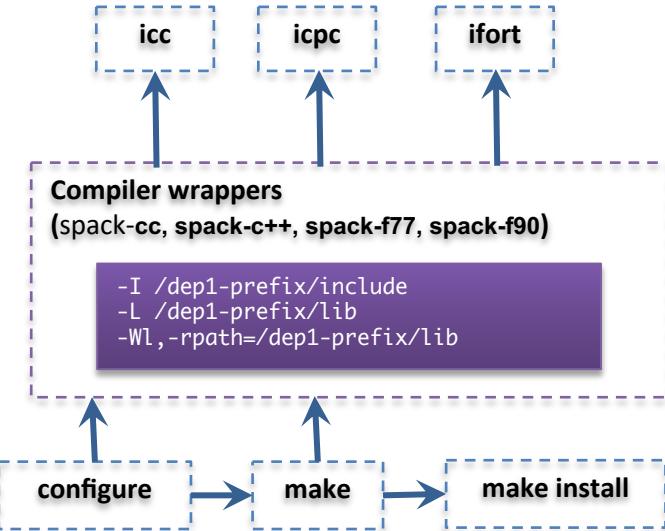
A large red arrow labeled "HASH" points from the dependency DAG diagram down to the installation layout box.

- Each unique dependency graph is a unique **configuration**.
- Each configuration in a unique directory.
  - Multiple configurations of the same package can coexist.
- **Hash** of entire directed acyclic graph (DAG) is appended to each prefix.
- Installed packages automatically find dependencies
  - Spack embeds RPATHs in binaries.
  - No need to use modules or set LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH
  - Things work *the way you built them*

# An isolated compilation environment allows Spack to easily swap compilers



- Forked build process isolates environment for each build.
- Uses compiler wrappers to:
- Add include, lib, and RPATH flags
  - Ensure that dependencies are found automatically
  - Load Cray modules (use right compiler/system deps)

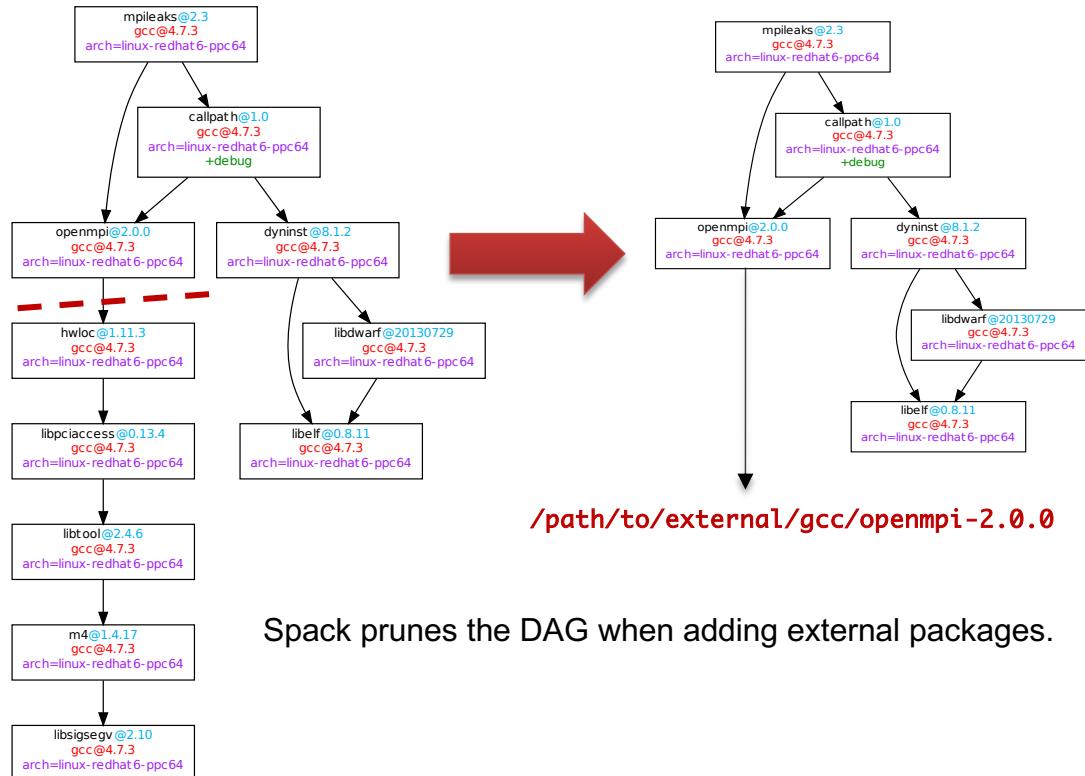


# We can configure Spack to build with external software

```
mpileaks ^callpath@1.0+debug  
^openmpi ^libelf@0.8.11
```

## packages.yaml

```
packages:  
  mpi:  
    buildable: False  
    paths:  
      openmpi@2.0.0 %gcc@4.7.3 arch=linux-rhel6-ppc64:  
        /path/to/external/gcc/openmpi-2.0.0  
      openmpi@1.10.3 %gcc@4.7.3 arch=linux-rhel6-ppc64:  
        /path/to/external/gcc/openmpi-1.10.3  
      ...
```

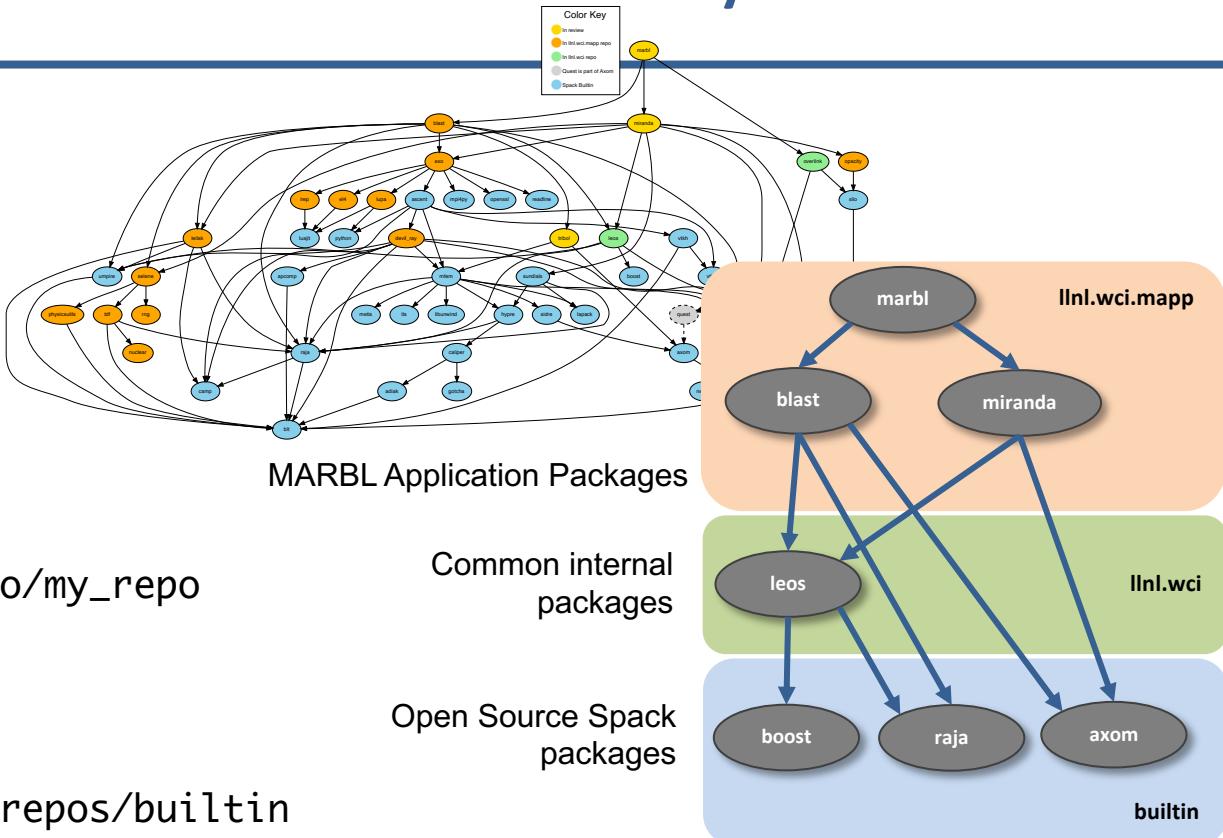


Users register external packages in a configuration file (more on these later).

Spack prunes the DAG when adding external packages.

# Spack package repositories allow stacks to be layered

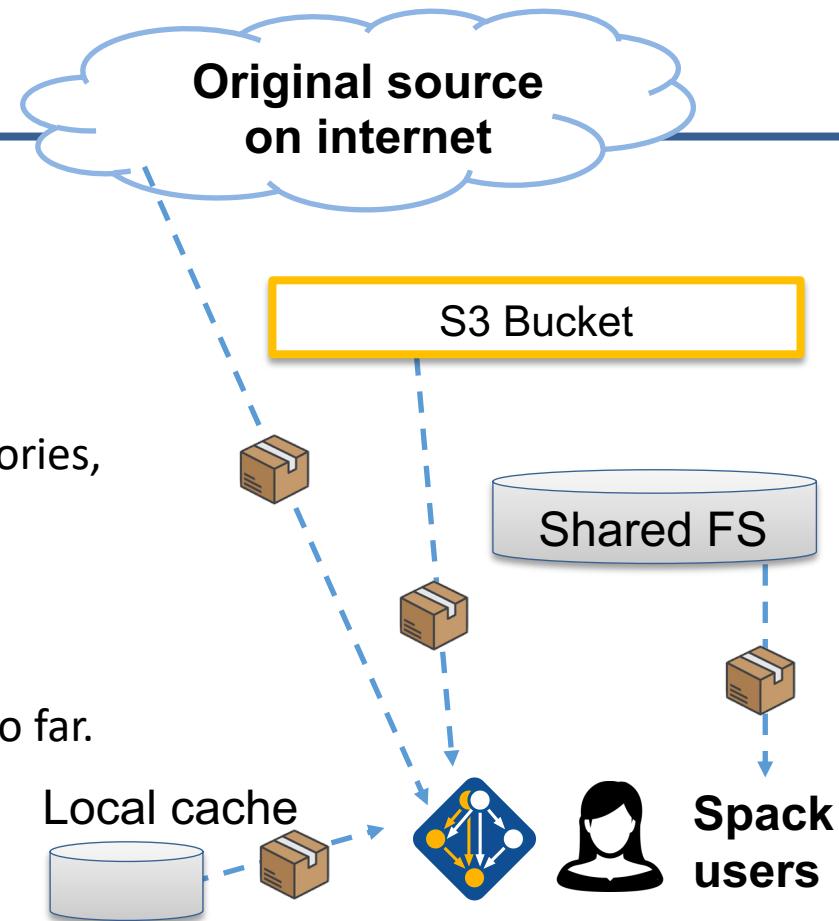
LLNL MARBL multi-physics application



```
$ spack repo create /path/to/my_repo  
$ spack repo add my_repo  
$ spack repo list  
==> 2 package repositories.  
my_repo      /path/to/my_repo  
builtin      spack/var/spack/repos/builtin
```

# Spack mirrors

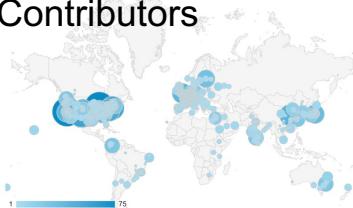
- Spack allows you to define *mirrors*:
  - Directories in the filesystem
  - On a web server
  - In an S3 bucket
- Mirrors are archives of fetched tarballs, repositories, and other resources needed to build
  - Can also contain binary packages
- By default, Spack maintains a mirror in `var/spack/cache` of everything you've fetched so far.
- You can host mirrors internal to your site
  - See the documentation for more details



# The concretizer includes information from packages, configuration, and CLI

Dependency solving  
is NP-hard

Contributors



- new versions
- new dependencies
- new constraints

package.py repository

spack  
developers



default config  
packages.yaml

admins,  
users



local preferences config  
packages.yaml

users

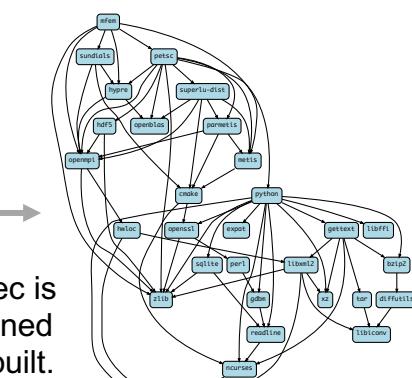
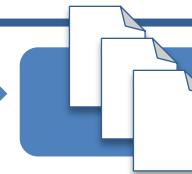


local environment config  
spack.yaml

users

Command line constraints

```
spack install hdf5@1.12.0 +debug
```



Concrete spec  
is fully constrained  
and can be built.

# We use logic programming to simplify package solving

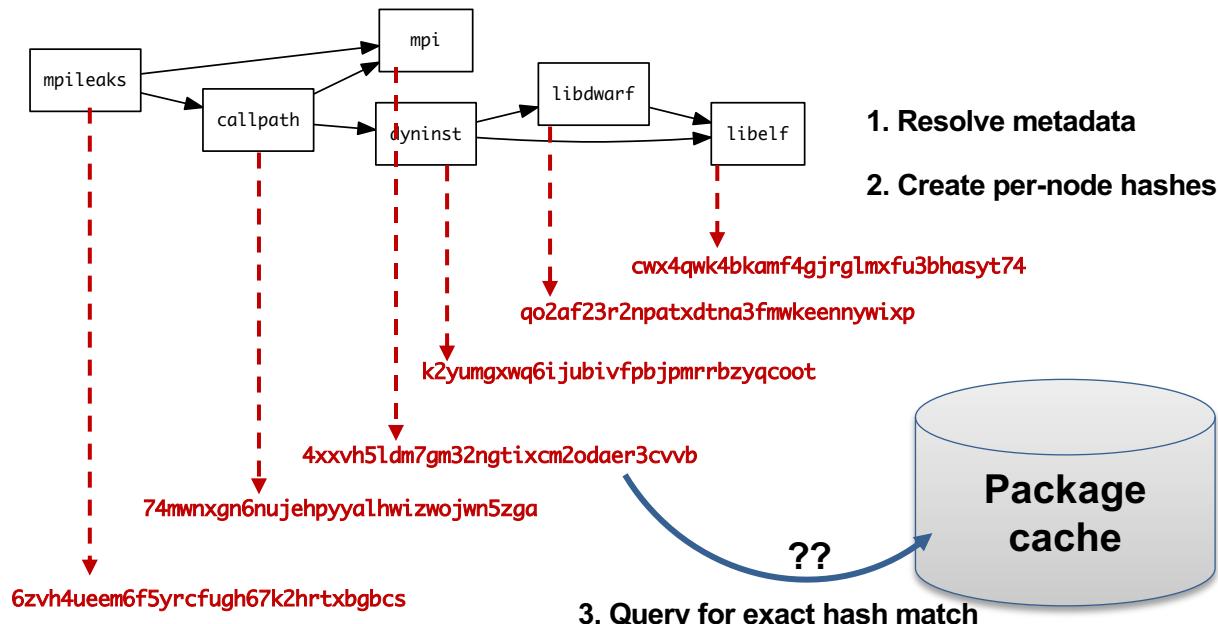
- New concretizer leverages Clingo (see [potassco.org](http://potassco.org))
- Clingo is an Answer Set Programming (ASP) solver
  - ASP looks like Prolog; leverages SAT solvers for speed/correctness
  - ASP program has 2 parts:
    1. Large list of facts generated from our package repositories and config
    2. Small logic program (~800 lines)
      - includes constraints and optimization criteria
- New algorithm on the Spack side is conceptually simpler:
  - Generate facts for all possible dependencies, send to logic program
  - Optimization criteria express preferences more clearly
  - Build a DAG from the results
- New concretizer solves many specs that old concretizer can't
  - Backtracking is a huge win – many issues resolved
  - Conditional logic that was complicated before is now much easier

```
%-----  
% Package: ucx  
%-----  
version_declared("uctx", "1.6.1", 0).  
version_declared("uctx", "1.6.0", 1).  
version_declared("uctx", "1.5.2", 2).  
version_declared("uctx", "1.5.1", 3).  
version_declared("uctx", "1.5.0", 4).  
version_declared("uctx", "1.4.0", 5).  
version_declared("uctx", "1.3.1", 6).  
version_declared("uctx", "1.3.0", 7).  
version_declared("uctx", "1.2.2", 8).  
version_declared("uctx", "1.2.1", 9).  
version_declared("uctx", "1.2.0", 10).  
  
variant("uctx", "thread_multiple").  
variant_single_value("uctx", "thread_multiple").  
variant_default_value("uctx", "thread_multiple", "False").  
variant_possible_value("uctx", "thread_multiple", "False").  
variant_possible_value("uctx", "thread_multiple", "True").  
  
declared_dependency("uctx", "numactl", "build").  
declared_dependency("uctx", "numactl", "link").  
node("numactl") :- depends_on("uctx", "numactl"), node("uctx").  
  
declared_dependency("uctx", "rdma-core", "build").  
declared_dependency("uctx", "rdma-core", "link").  
node("rdma-core") :- depends_on("uctx", "rdma-core"), node("uctx").  
  
%-----  
% Package: util-linux  
%-----  
version_declared("util-linux", "7.29.2", 0).  
version_declared("util-linux", "7.29.1", 1).  
version_declared("util-linux", "7.25", 2).  
  
variant("util-linux", "libuuid").  
variant_single_value("util-linux", "libuuid").  
variant_default_value("util-linux", "libuuid", "True").  
variant_possible_value("util-linux", "libuuid", "False").  
variant_possible_value("util-linux", "libuuid", "True").  
  
declared_dependency("util-linux", "pkgconfig", "build").  
declared_dependency("util-linux", "pkgconfig", "link").  
node("pkgconfig") :- depends_on("util-linux", "pkgconfig"), node("util-linux").  
  
declared_dependency("util-linux", "python", "build").  
declared_dependency("util-linux", "python", "link").  
node("python") :- depends_on("util-linux", "python"), node("util-linux").
```

Some facts for the HDF5 package



# --fresh only reuses builds if hashes match



- Hash matches are very sensitive to small changes
- In many cases, a satisfying cached or already installed spec can be missed
- Nix, Spack, Guix, Conan, and others reuse this way

# --reuse (now the default) is more aggressive

- --reuse tells the solver about all the installed packages!
- Add constraints for all installed packages, with their hash as the associated ID:

```
installed_hash("openssl","lwatuuysmwkhahrnrywvn77icdhs6mn").  
imposed_constraint("lwatuuysmwkhahrnrywvn77icdhs6mn","node","openssl").  
imposed_constraint("lwatuuysmwkhahrnrywvn77icdhs6mn","version","openssl","1.1.1g").  
imposed_constraint("lwatuuysmwkhahrnrywvn77icdhs6mn","node_platform_set","openssl","darwin").  
imposed_constraint("lwatuuysmwkhahrnrywvn77icdhs6mn","node_os_set","openssl","catalina").  
imposed_constraint("lwatuuysmwkhahrnrywvn77icdhs6mn","node_target_set","openssl","x86_64").  
imposed_constraint("lwatuuysmwkhahrnrywvn77icdhs6mn","variant_set","openssl","systemcerts","True").  
imposed_constraint("lwatuuysmwkhahrnrywvn77icdhs6mn","node_compiler_set","openssl","apple-clang").  
imposed_constraint("lwatuuysmwkhahrnrywvn77icdhs6mn","node_compiler_version_set","openssl","apple-clang","12.0.0").  
imposed_constraint("lwatuuysmwkhahrnrywvn77icdhs6mn","concrete","openssl").  
imposed_constraint("lwatuuysmwkhahrnrywvn77icdhs6mn","depends_on","openssl","zlib","build").  
imposed_constraint("lwatuuysmwkhahrnrywvn77icdhs6mn","depends_on","openssl","zlib","link").  
imposed_constraint("lwatuuysmwkhahrnrywvn77icdhs6mn","hash","zlib","x2anksgssxsxa7pcnhzg5k3dhgacglze").
```



# Telling the solver to minimize builds is surprisingly simple in ASP

1. Allow the solver to *choose* a hash for any package:

```
{ hash(Package, Hash) : installed_hash(Package, Hash) } 1 :- node(Package).
```

2. Choosing a hash means we impose its constraints:

```
impose(Hash) :- hash(Package, Hash).
```

3. Define a build as something *without* a hash:

```
build(Package) :- not hash(Package, _), node(Package).
```

4. Minimize builds!

```
#minimize { 1@100, Package : build(Package) }.
```



# With and without --reuse optimization

```
(spackle):solver> spack solve -Il hdf5
=> Best of 9 considered solutions.
=> Optimization Criteria:
  Priority Criterion           Installed  ToBuild
  1  number of packages to build (vs. reuse)      -    20
  2  deprecated versions used                  0    0
  3  version weight                          0    0
  4  number of non-default variants (roots)     0    0
  5  preferred providers for roots            0    0
  6  default values of variants not being used (roots) 0    0
  7  number of non-default variants (non-roots)   0    0
  8  preferred providers (non-roots)          0    0
  9  compiler mismatches                   0    0
 10  OS mismatches                         0    0
 11  non-preferred OS's                   0    0
 12  version badness                      0    2
 13  default values of variants not being used (non-roots) 0    0
 14  non-preferred compilers              0    0
 15  target mismatches                  0    0
 16  non-preferred targets              0    0

- zznqf3  hdf5@1.10.7%apple-clang@13.0.0-cxx-fortran-hl-ipa-java+mpi+shared-szip+threadsafe+tools api=default b
  ^cmake@3.21.4%apple-clang@13.0.0-doc+ncurses+openssl+owlibs+qt build_type=Release arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^ncurses@6.2%apple-clang@13.0.0-symlinks+termlib abi=None arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^krfureok  ^pkcconf@1.8.0%apple-clang@13.0.0 arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^openssl@1.1.1%apple-clang@13.0.0-docs certs+system arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^perl@5.34.0%apple-clang@13.0.0+cpnm+shared+threads arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^berkeley-db@18.1.40%apple-clang@13.0.0+cxx+docs+stl patches=b231fcc4d5cff05e5c3a4814f
  ^bzzip2@1.0.8%apple-clang@13.0.0-debug-pic+shared arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^diffutils@3.8%apple-clang@13.0.0 arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^libiconv@1.16%apple-clang@13.0.0 libs=shared,static arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^gdbm@1.19%apple-clang@13.0.0 arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^readline@8.1%apple-clang@13.0.0 arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^zlib@1.2.11%apple-clang@13.0.0+optimize+pic+shared arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^openmp@4.1.1%apple-clang@13.0.0-atomic+cuda-cxx-exceptions+gfps+internal-hwloc+java+legacy
  ^hwloc@2.6.0%apple-clang@13.0.0-cairo-cuda-gl-libudev+libxml2-netloc-nvml+opencl+pci+rocm+sh
  ^xz@5.2.5%apple-clang@13.0.0-pic libs=shared,static arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^libevent@2.1.2%apple-clang@13.0.0+openssl arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^openssl@1.1.1%apple-clang@13.0.0+openssl arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^libedit@3.1-20210216%apple-clang@13.0.0 arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
```

Pure hash-based reuse: all misses

```
(spackle):spack> spack solve --reuse -Il hdf5
=> Best of 10 considered solutions.
=> Optimization Criteria:
  Priority Criterion           Installed  ToBuild
  1  number of packages to build (vs. reuse)      -    4
  2  deprecated versions used                  0    0
  3  version weight                          0    0
  4  number of non-default variants (roots)     0    0
  5  preferred providers for roots            0    0
  6  default values of variants not being used (roots) 0    0
  7  number of non-default variants (non-roots)   2    0
  8  preferred providers (non-roots)          0    0
  9  compiler mismatches                   0    0
 10  OS mismatches                         0    0
 11  non-preferred OS's                   0    0
 12  version badness                      6    0
 13  default values of variants not being used (non-roots) 1    0
 14  non-preferred compilers              15   4
 15  target mismatches                  0    0
 16  non-preferred targets              0    0

- yfkfnsp  hdf5@1.10.7%apple-clang@12.0.5-cxx-fortran-hl-ipa-java+mpi+shared-szip+threadsafe+tools api=default b
  ^cmake@21.1%apple-clang@12.0.5-doc+ncurses+openssl+owlibs+qt build_type=Release arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^ncurses@6.2%apple-clang@12.0.5-symlinks+termlib abi=None arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^openssl@1.1.1%apple-clang@12.0.5-docs+systemcerts arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^perl@5.34.0%apple-clang@12.0.5+cpnm+shared+threads arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^berkeley-db@18.1.40%apple-clang@12.0.5+cxx+docs+stl patches=b231fcc4d5cff05e5c3a4814f
  ^bzzip2@1.0.8%apple-clang@12.0.5-debug-pic+shared arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^diffutils@3.8%apple-clang@12.0.5+atomic+cuda-cxx-exceptions+gfps+internal-hwloc+java+legacy
  ^hwloc@2.6.0%apple-clang@12.0.5-cairo-cuda-gl-libudev+libxml2-netloc-nvml+opencl+pci+rocm+sh
  ^libiconv@1.16%apple-clang@12.0.5 libs=shared,static arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^xz@5.2.5%apple-clang@12.0.5-pic libs=shared,static arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^pkcconf@1.8.0%apple-clang@12.0.5 arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^libevent@2.1.12%apple-clang@12.0.5+openssl arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^openssl@1.1.1%apple-clang@12.0.5+openssl arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^libedit@3.1-20210216%apple-clang@12.0.5 arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^perl@5.34.0%apple-clang@12.0.5+cpnm+shared+threads arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^berkeley-db@18.1.40%apple-clang@12.0.5+cxx+docs+stl patches=b231fcc4d5cff05e5c3a4814f
  ^bzzip2@1.0.8%apple-clang@12.0.5-debug-pic+shared arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^gdbm@1.19%apple-clang@12.0.5 arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
  ^readline@8.1%apple-clang@12.0.5 arch=darwin-bigsur-skylake
```

With reuse: 16 packages were reusable



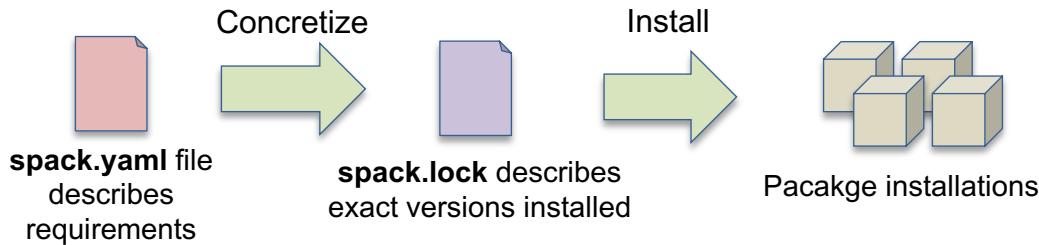
# Use `spack spec` to see the results of concretization

```
$ spack spec mpileaks
Input spec
-----
mpileaks

Concretized
-----
mpileaks@1.0%gcc@5.3.0 arch=darwin-elcapitan-x86_64
  ^adept-utils@1.0.1%gcc@5.3.0 arch=darwin-elcapitan-x86_64
    ^boost@1.61.0%gcc@5.3.0+atomic+chrono+date_time~debug+filesystem~graph
      ~icu_support+iostreams+locale+log+math~mpi+multithreaded+program_options
      ~python+random +regex+serialization+shared+signals+singlethreaded+system
      +test+thread+timer+wave arch=darwin-elcapitan-x86_64
    ^bzzip2@1.0.6%gcc@5.3.0 arch=darwin-elcapitan-x86_64
    ^zlib@1.2.8%gcc@5.3.0 arch=darwin-elcapitan-x86_64
  ^openmpi@2.0.0%gcc@5.3.0~cxxm~pmi~psm~psm2~slurm~sqlite3~thread_multiple~tm~verbs+vt arch=darwin-elcapitan-x86_64
    ^hwloc@1.11.3%gcc@5.3.0 arch=darwin-elcapitan-x86_64
      ^libpciaccess@0.13.4%gcc@5.3.0 arch=darwin-elcapitan-x86_64
      ^libtool@2.4.6%gcc@5.3.0 arch=darwin-elcapitan-x86_64
        ^m4@1.4.17%gcc@5.3.0+sigsegv arch=darwin-elcapitan-x86_64
          ^libsigsegv@2.10%gcc@5.3.0 arch=darwin-elcapitan-x86_64
  ^callpath@1.0.2%gcc@5.3.0 arch=darwin-elcapitan-x86_64
  ^dyninst@9.2.0%gcc@5.3.0~stat_dysect arch=darwin-elcapitan-x86_64
    ^libdwarf@20160507%gcc@5.3.0 arch=darwin-elcapitan-x86_64
    ^libelf@0.8.13%gcc@5.3.0 arch=darwin-elcapitan-x86_64
```



# Spack environments enable users to build customized stacks from an abstract description



- spack.yaml describes project requirements
- spack.lock describes exactly what versions/configurations were installed, allows them to be reproduced.
- Can be used to maintain configuration of a software stack.
  - Can easily version an environment in a repository

Simple spack.yaml file

```
spack:  
  # include external configuration  
  include:  
    - ./special-config-directory/  
    - ./config-file.yaml  
  
  # add package specs to the `specs` list  
  specs:  
    - hdf5  
    - libelf  
    - openmpi
```

Concrete spack.lock file (generated)

```
{  
  "concrete_specs": {  
    "6s63so2kstp3zyvjezglndmavy6l3nul": {  
      "hdf5": {  
        "version": "1.10.5",  
        "arch": {  
          "platform": "darwin",  
          "platform_os": "mojave",  
          "target": "x86_64"  
        },  
        "compiler": {  
          "name": "clang",  
          "version": "10.0.0-apple"  
        },  
        "namespace": "builtin",  
        "parameters": {}  
      }  
    }  
  }  
}
```

# Environments, spack.yaml and spack.lock

Follow script at [spack-tutorial.readthedocs.io](https://spack-tutorial.readthedocs.io)



# Hands-on Time: Configuration

Follow script at [spack-tutorial.readthedocs.io](https://spack-tutorial.readthedocs.io)



# We'll resume at: 10:00 PT

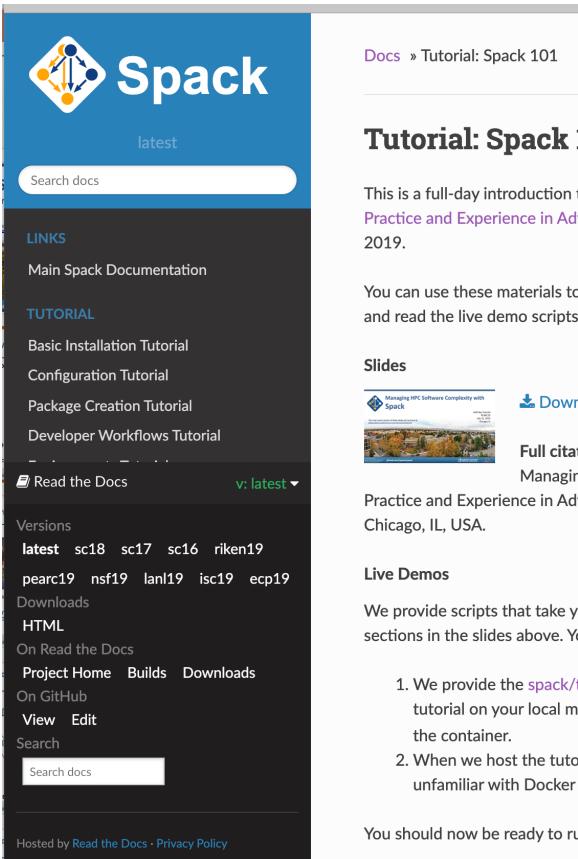
Find the slides and associated scripts here:

[spack-tutorial.rtfd.io](http://spack-tutorial.rtfd.io)

Remember to join Spack slack so you can get help later!

[slack.spack.io](https://slack.spack.io)  
Join the #tutorial channel!

Get a VM here →



The screenshot shows a screenshot of the Spack documentation website. At the top right, there's a link to "Docs" and "Tutorial: Spack 101". Below that is a large blue header with the Spack logo and the word "Spack". A search bar says "Search docs". On the left, there's a sidebar with "LINKS" (Main Spack Documentation), "TUTORIAL" (Basic Installation Tutorial, Configuration Tutorial, Package Creation Tutorial, Developer Workflows Tutorial), and a dropdown for "Read the Docs" with "latest" selected. The main content area has sections for "Versions" (latest, sc18, sc17, sc16, riken19, pearc19, nsf19, lan19, isc19, ecp19), "Downloads" (HTML, On Read the Docs, Project Home, Builds, Downloads), "On GitHub" (View, Edit), "Search" (Search docs), and a footer with "Hosted by Read the Docs · Privacy Policy". To the right of the main content, there's a sidebar with "Slides" (Managing HPC Software Complexity with Spack), "Full citation", "Practice and Experience in Ad...", "Chicago, IL, USA.", "Live Demos", and "We provide scripts that take you through sections in the slides above. You should now be ready to run the scripts in the container." There's also a "Download" button.

# Hands-on Time: Stacks

Follow script at [spack-tutorial.readthedocs.io](https://spack-tutorial.readthedocs.io)



# Spack packages are *parameterized* using the spec syntax

## Python DSL defines many ways to build

```
from spack import *

class Kripke(CMakePackage):
    """Kripke is a simple, scalable, 3D Sn deterministic particle transport mini-app."""

    homepage = "https://computation.llnl.gov/projects/co-design/kripke"
    url      = "https://computation.llnl.gov/projects/co-design/download/kripke-openmp-1.1.tar.gz"

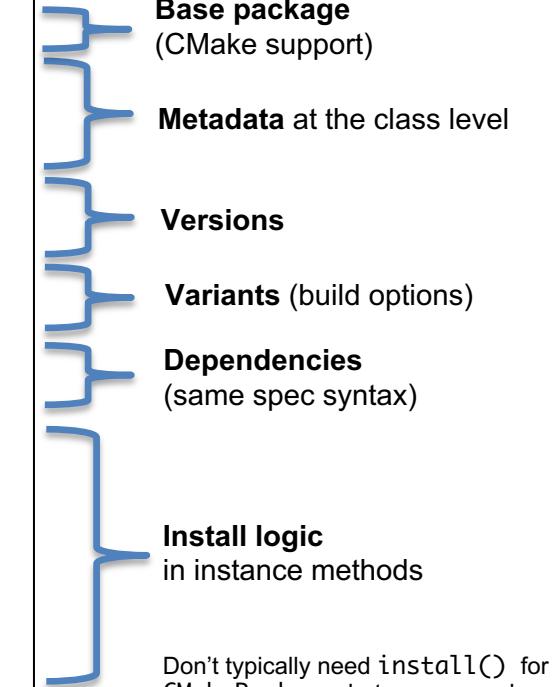
    version('1.2.3', sha256='3f7f2eef0d1ba5825780d626741eb0b3f026a096048d7ec4794d2a7dfbe2b8a6')
    version('1.2.2', sha256='eaf9ddf562416974157b34d00c3a1c880fc5296fce2aa2efa039a86e0976f3a3')
    version('1.1', sha256='232d74072fc7b848fa2adc8a1bc839ae8fb5f96d50224186601f55554a25f64a')

    variant('mpi', default=True, description='Build with MPI.')
    variant('openmp', default=True, description='Build with OpenMP enabled.')

    depends_on('mpi', when='+mpi')
    depends_on('cmake@3.0:', type='build')

    def cmake_args(self):
        return [
            '--ENABLE_OPENMP=%s' % ('+openmp' in self.spec),
            '--ENABLE_MPI=%s' % ('+mpi' in self.spec),
        ]

    def install(self, spec, prefix):
        mkdirp(prefix.bin)
        install('../spack-build/kripke', prefix.bin)
```



**One package.py file per software project!**

# Hands-on Time: Creating Packages

Follow script at [spack-tutorial.readthedocs.io](https://spack-tutorial.readthedocs.io)



# Hands-on Time: Scripting

Follow script at [spack-tutorial.readthedocs.io](https://spack-tutorial.readthedocs.io)



# We'll resume at: 10:00 PT

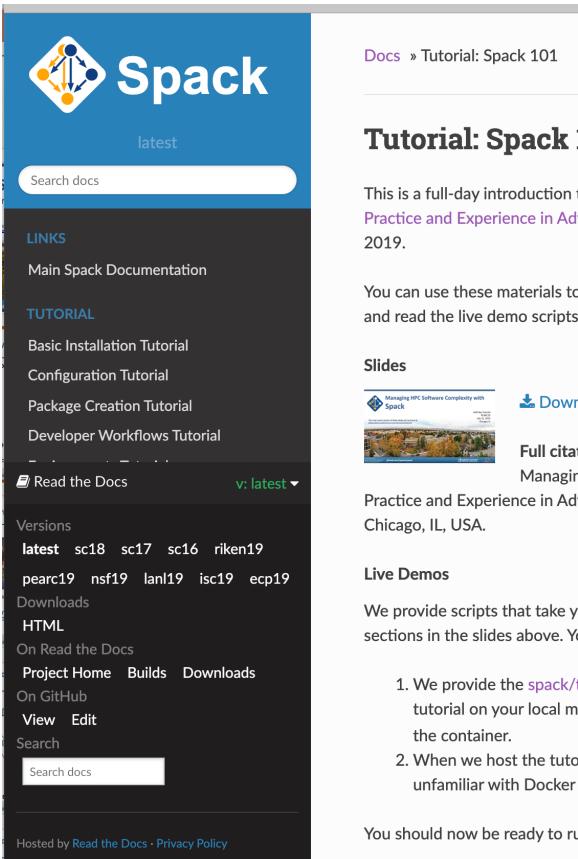
Find the slides and associated scripts here:

[spack-tutorial.rtfd.io](http://spack-tutorial.rtfd.io)

Remember to join Spack slack so you can get help later!

[slack.spack.io](https://slack.spack.io)  
Join the #tutorial channel!

Get a VM here →



The screenshot shows the Spack documentation website. At the top right, there's a link to "Docs" and "Tutorial: Spack 101". Below that, the title "Tutorial: Spack 101" is displayed. The main content area has a blue header with the Spack logo and the word "Spack". It includes a search bar labeled "Search docs" and a "latest" dropdown. On the left, there's a sidebar with sections for "LINKS" (Main Spack Documentation), "TUTORIAL" (Basic Installation Tutorial, Configuration Tutorial, Package Creation Tutorial, Developer Workflows Tutorial), and "Read the Docs" (with a "v: latest" dropdown). The main content area contains text about a full-day introduction to Spack, practice and experience in 2019, and a call to action to use the materials and read live demo scripts. It also features a "Slides" section with a thumbnail of a presentation slide titled "Managing HPC Software Complexity with Spack" and a "Full citation" button. At the bottom, there's a "Practice and Experience in Ad..." section, a "Live Demos" section, and a note about providing scripts for sections in the slides above. The footer includes links to "Project Home", "Builds", "Downloads", "On GitHub", "View", "Edit", "Search", and "Hosted by Read the Docs - Privacy Policy".

---

# Hands-on Time: Developer Workflows

Follow script at [spack-tutorial.readthedocs.io](https://spack-tutorial.readthedocs.io)



---

# Hands-on Time: Binary Caches and Mirrors

Follow script at [spack-tutorial.readthedocs.io](https://spack-tutorial.readthedocs.io)



# More Features and the Road Ahead



**Environments have enabled us to add build many features to support developer workflows**

```

class Cmake(Package):
    executables = ['cmake']

    @classmethod
    def determine_spec_details(cls, prefix, exes_in_prefix):
        exe_to_path = dict(
            (os.path.basename(p), p) for p in exes_in_prefix
        )
        if 'cmake' not in exe_to_path:
            return None

        cmake = spack.util.executable.Executable(exe_to_path['cmake'])
        output = cmake('--version', output=str)
        if output:
            match = re.search(r'cmake-+version\s+(\$+)', output)
            if match:
                version_str = match.group(1)
                return Spec('cmake@{0}'.format(version_str))

```

```
spu
Autom
packages:
cmake:
externals:
- spec: cmake@3.15.1
prefix: /usr/local
```

## package.py

## spack.yaml configuration

## **spack external find**

Automatically find and configure external packages on the system

```
packages:
  cmake:
    externals:
      - spec: cmake@3.15.1
        prefix: /usr/local
```

## spack test

Packages know how to run their own test suites

## .gitlab-ci.yml CI pipeline

spack ci

Automatically generate parallel build pipelines  
(more on this later)

```

class LibsigsegvAutotoolsPackage(GNOMEirrorPackage):
    """Build libsigsegv as a library for handling page faults in user mode."""

    # ... spack package contents ...

    extra_install_tests = ['tests/.libs']

    def test(self):
        data_dir = self.test_suite.current_test_data_dir
        smoke_test_c = data_dir.join('smoke-test.c')
        self.run_test(
            'cc', [
                '-I%s' % self.prefix.include,
                '-L%s' % self.prefix.lib, '-lsigsegv',
                smoke_test_c,
                '-o', 'smoke-test'
            ],
            purpose='check linking')

        self.run_test(
            smoke_test, [], data_dir.join('smoke-test.out'),
            purpose='run built smoke-test')

        self.run_test(['sigsegv1': ['Test passed']], purpose='check sigsegv1 output')
        self.run_test(['sigsegv2': ['Test passed']], purpose='check sigsegv2 output')

```

package.py

```
spack:
  specs:
    - gromacs+mpi
    - mdtors

  container:
    # Select the format of the recipe e.g. docker, singularity or anything else that is currently supported
    format: docker

    # Select from a valid list of images
    image: "centos7"
    spack:
      develop

  # Whether or not to strip binaries
  strip:
    - false

  # Additional system packages that are needed at run time
  os_packages:
    - libopenblas

  # Extra instructions
  extra_instructions:
    - type: "script"
      file: "run.sh"

RUN echo "export PS1=\"\$([stty sane])\$([stty setaf 1)\""
# Labels for the image labels:
  app: "gromacs"
  mpi: "openmpi"
  env: "spack"
  env: "mdtors"

  # Build step with Spack installed and ready to be used
  run_spack:
    cmd: "spack config get build_system"
    output:
      - "the build system is currently set to: %s"
      - "what we want to install and how we want to install it is specified in a manifest file (%s)"
```

The code block shows a Dockerfile snippet for building a GROMACS container. It includes Spack configuration, environment variables, and a command to print build system details.

## spack containerize

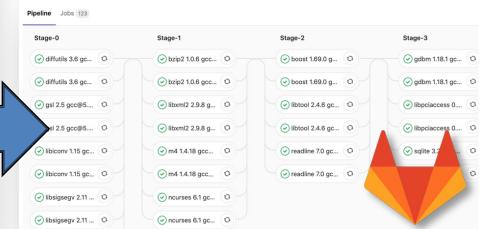
Turn environments into container build recipes

# Spack environments are the foundation of Spack CI

- `spack ci` enables any environment to be turned into a build pipeline
- Pipeline generates a `.gitlab-ci.yml` file from `spack.lock`
- Pipelines can be used just to build, or to generate relocatable binary packages
  - Binary packages can be used to keep the same build from running twice
- Same repository used for `spack.yaml` can generate pipelines for project

```
spack:  
  definitions:  
    - pkgs:  
      - readline@7.0  
    - compilers:  
      - 'gcc@5.5.0'  
    - oses:  
      - os=ubuntu18.04  
      - os=centos7  
  specs:  
    - matrix:  
      - [pkgs]  
      - [compilers]  
      - [oses]  
  mirrors:  
    cloud_gitlab: https://mirror.spack.io  
gitlab-ci:  
  mappings:  
    - spack-cloud-ubuntu:  
      match:  
        - os=ubuntu18.04  
    runner-attributes:  
      tags:  
        - spack-k8s  
      image: spack/spack_builder_ubuntu_18.0  
    - spack-cloud-centos:  
      match:  
        - os=centos7  
    runner-attributes:  
      tags:  
        - spack-k8s  
      image: spack/spack_builder_centos_7  
cdash:  
  build-group: Release Testing  
  url: https://cdash.spack.io  
  project: Spack  
  site: Spack AWS Gitlab Instance
```

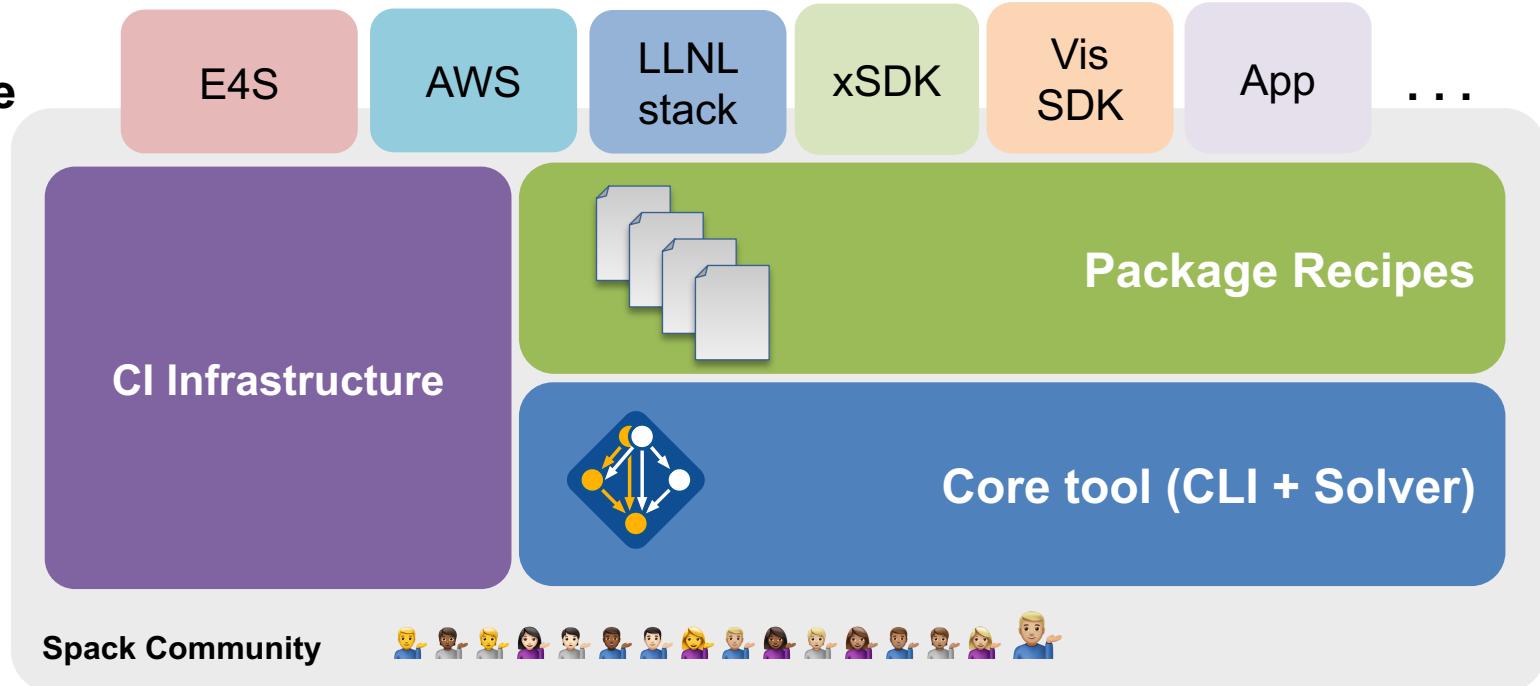
`spack.yaml`



Parallel GitLab build pipeline

# The Spack project enables communities to build their own software stacks

**Lots of Software Stacks!**



**Environments have enabled us to add build many features to support developer workflows**

```

class Cmake(Package):
    executables = ['cmake']

    @classmethod
    def determine_spec_details(cls, prefix, exes_in_prefix):
        exe_to_path = dict(
            (os.path.basename(p), p) for p in exes_in_prefix
        )
        if 'cmake' not in exe_to_path:
            return None

        cmake = spack.util.executable.Executable(exe_to_path['cmake'])
        output = cmake('--version', output=str)
        if output:
            match = re.search(r'cmake-+version\s+(\$+)', output)
            if match:
                version_str = match.group(1)
                return Spec('cmake@{0}'.format(version_str))

```

## package.py

## spack.yaml configuration

## spack external find

Automatically find and configure external packages on the system

## spack test

Packages know how to run their own test suites

```

class Libsigssegv(AutoToolsPackage, GNUNetMirrorPackage):
    def __init__(self, *args, **kwargs):
        super(Libsigssegv, self). __init__(args, kwargs)
        self.patch_level = 1
        self.patch_file = 'lib/libsigsegv-1.1.0-1.patch'

    # ... spack package contents ...

    extra_install_tests = [
        def test(self):
            data_dir = self.test_suite.current_test_data_dir
            smoke_test_C = data_dir.join('smoke-test.C')
            self.run_test(
                [
                    self.prefix.include,
                    self.prefix.lib
                ],
                purpose='smoke test',
                extra_cflags=['-fno-strict-aliasing'],
                extra_ldflags=['-L' + self.prefix.lib]
            )
            self.assert_smoke_test(data_dir, smoke_test_C)
            self.assert_smoke_test(data_dir, smoke_test_C)

        purpose='smoke test'
        self.run_test(
            [
                self.prefix.lib + '/libsmoke.so'
            ],
            purpose='smoke test'
        )
        self.run_test(
            [
                self.prefix.lib + '/libsmoke.so'
            ],
            purpose='smoke test'
        )
    ]

```

## package.py

spack.yaml

## .gitlab-ci.yml CI pipeline

**spack ci**

Automatically generate parallel build pipelines  
(more on this later)

```

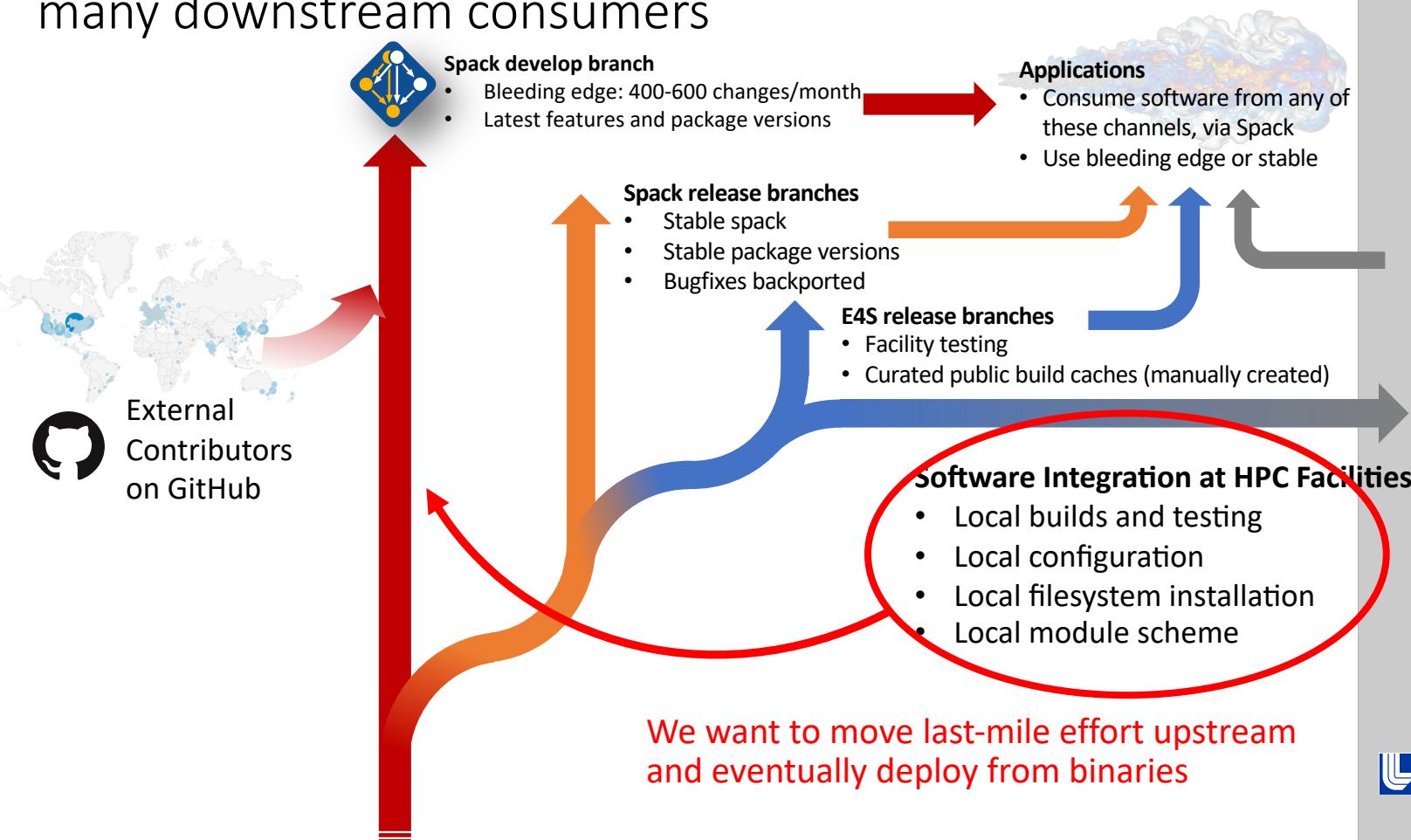
spark:
  specs:
    - "spark-3.1.2-spark1"
    - "mpich"
  containerizer:
    # Select the Format of the recipe e.g. docker,
    # singularity or anything else that is currently
    # running docker
    # Select from a valid list of images
    base:
      image: "centos7"
      spec: "centos7"
      develop: true
    # whether or not to strip binaries
    strip: true
  # Additional system packages that are needed at
  # os_packages:
    - libgomp
  # Extra instructions
  extra_instructions:
    final: []
RUN echo $export PS1=$'\n[\$tput bold]$ \[$tput setaf
# Labels for the image
labels:
  app: "gronoxas"
  npi: "mpich"

```

## spack containerize

Turn environments into container build recipes

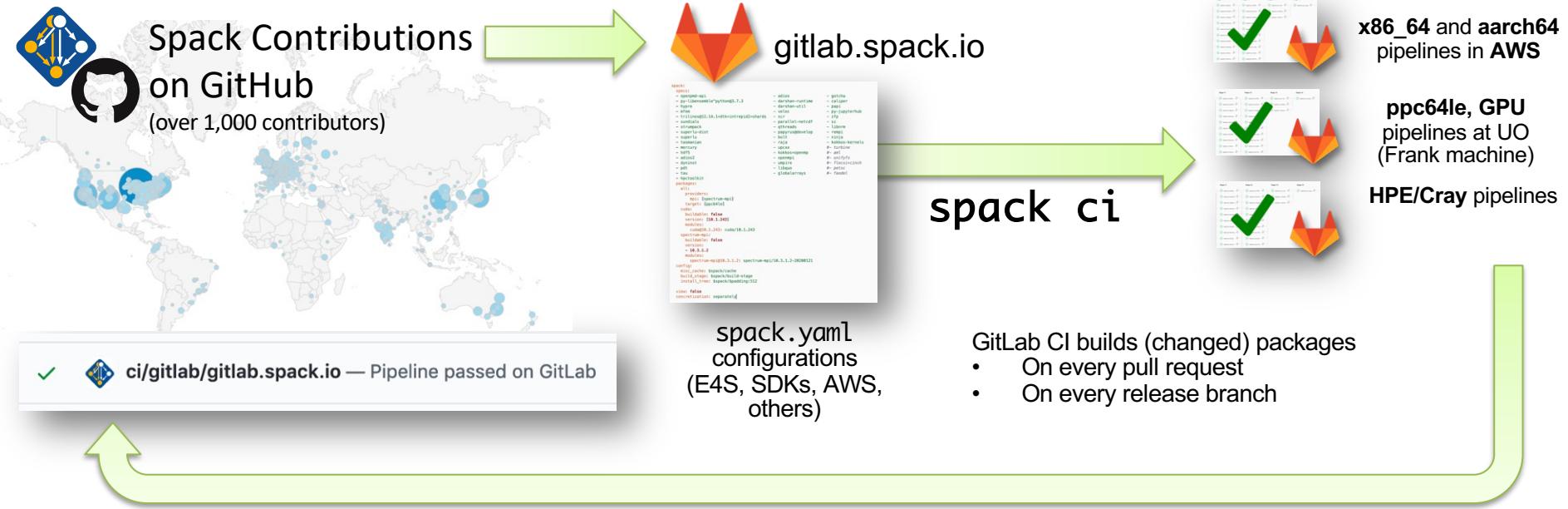
# Large-scale collaboration enables us to support many downstream consumers



## Facilities



# Spack relies on cloud CI to ensure that builds continue working



# Sustaining this ecosystem requires a scalable pipeline to support continuous builds

1. **Sustainable:** Don't change maintainer workflow!
  - Limited number of maintainers working mostly in GitHub PRs
  - Most *not* actively monitoring the develop branch
  - Most don't want to babysit builds
  - Don't want extra work to cut a binary release
2. **Rolling:** Releases for common branches:
  - `develop` (most users): continuously built cache
  - `releases/*`: basically just the develop stack frozen at release time
3. **Scalable:**
  - eventually support all 7,200+ packages
4. **Source-buildable:** Ensure that source builds *still* work in many environments
  - Users still build from source frequently
  - Don't assume everyone will be using binaries
5. **Secure:**
  - Ensure that binaries are just as trustworthy as sources

# We have greatly simplified the process of creating a stack

- Lists of packages aimed at communities
  - E4S HPC distribution
    - Power, macOS, OneAPI versions
  - Various ML stacks
    - CPU
    - CUDA
    - ROCm
  - LLNL-specific stacks
  - AWS user stacks
- Easy to build same stack many different ways using versatile recipes
- No more boilerplate!

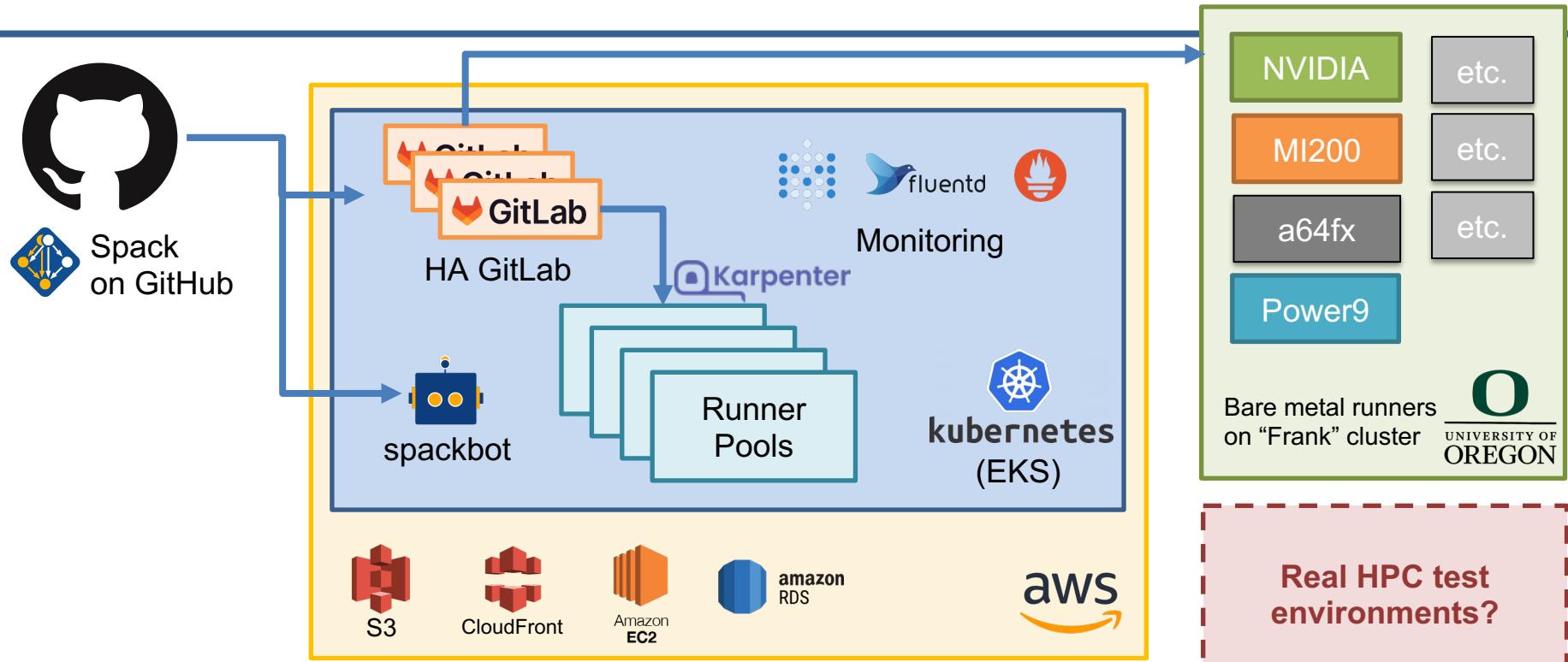
```
17 packages:  
18   all:  
19     target: [x86_64_v3]  
20     variants: ~rocm+cuda cuda_arch=80  
21   llvm:  
22     # https://github.com/spack/spack/issues/27999  
23     require: ~cuda  
24  
25 definitions:  
26   - packages:  
27     # Horovod  
28     - py-horovod  
29  
30     # Hugging Face  
31     - py-transformers  
32  
33     # JAX  
34     - py-jax  
35     - py-jaxlib  
36  
37     # Keras  
38     - py-keras  
39     - py-keras-applications  
40     - py-keras-preprocessing  
41     - py-keras2onnx  
42  
43     # PyTorch  
44     - py-botorch  
45     - py-efficientnet-pytorch  
46     - py-gpytorch  
47     - py-kornia  
48     - py-pytorch-gradual-warmup-lr  
49     - py-pytorch-lightning  
50     - py-segmentation-models-pytorch
```

Config parameters

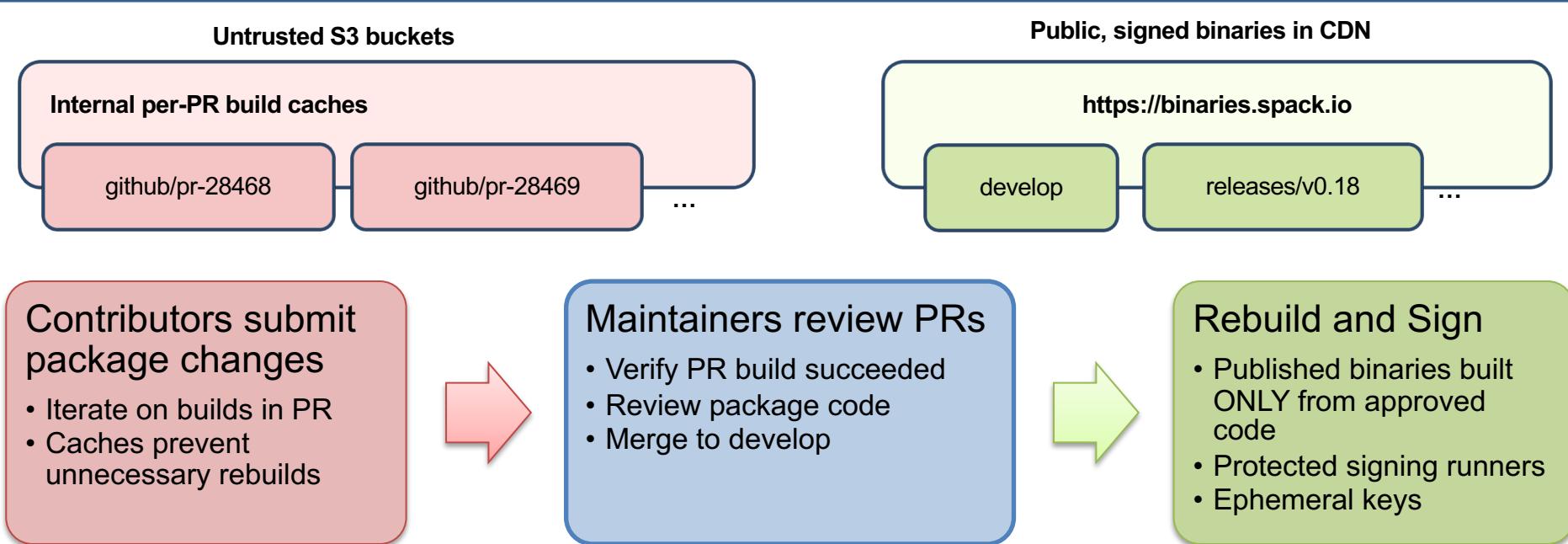
List of packages

[github.com/spack/spack](https://github.com/spack/spack)

# Spack CI Architecture



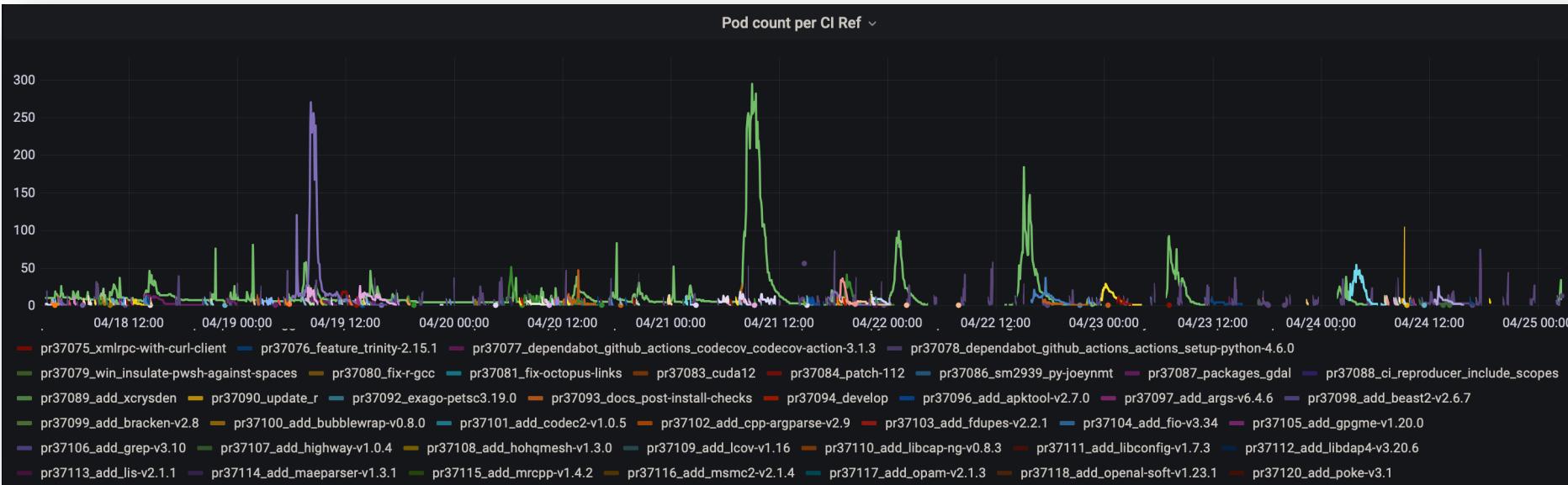
# We ensure rapid turnaround *and* protect against malicious binaries by bifurcating our pipeline



- Moves bulk of binary maintenance upstream, onto PRs
  - Production binaries never reuse binaries from untrusted environment

# Our CI system enables us to build entire software stacks within a single pull request

- Users can write a simple file and fire up 300+ builders to build thousands of packages
- We're currently handling 50,000 – 100,000 package builds *per week*



# We announced our public binary cache last June. We're maintaining ~4,600 builds in CI!



All checks have passed  
7 successful and 4 skipped checks

<input type="checkbox"/> ci / bootstrap (pull_request)	Skipped	<a href="#">Details</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> ci / unit-tests (pull_request)	Skipped	<a href="#">Details</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> ci / windows (pull_request)	Skipped	<a href="#">Details</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> ci / all (pull_request)	Skipped	<a href="#">Required</a> <a href="#">Details</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ci/gitlab-ci	Pipeline succeeded	<a href="#">Required</a> <a href="#">Details</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> docs/readthedocs.org:spack	Read the Docs build succeeded!	<a href="#">Required</a> <a href="#">Details</a>

Easy (mostly) for contributors!

Easy for users!

⚠ Still need HPC CI,  
but working on it

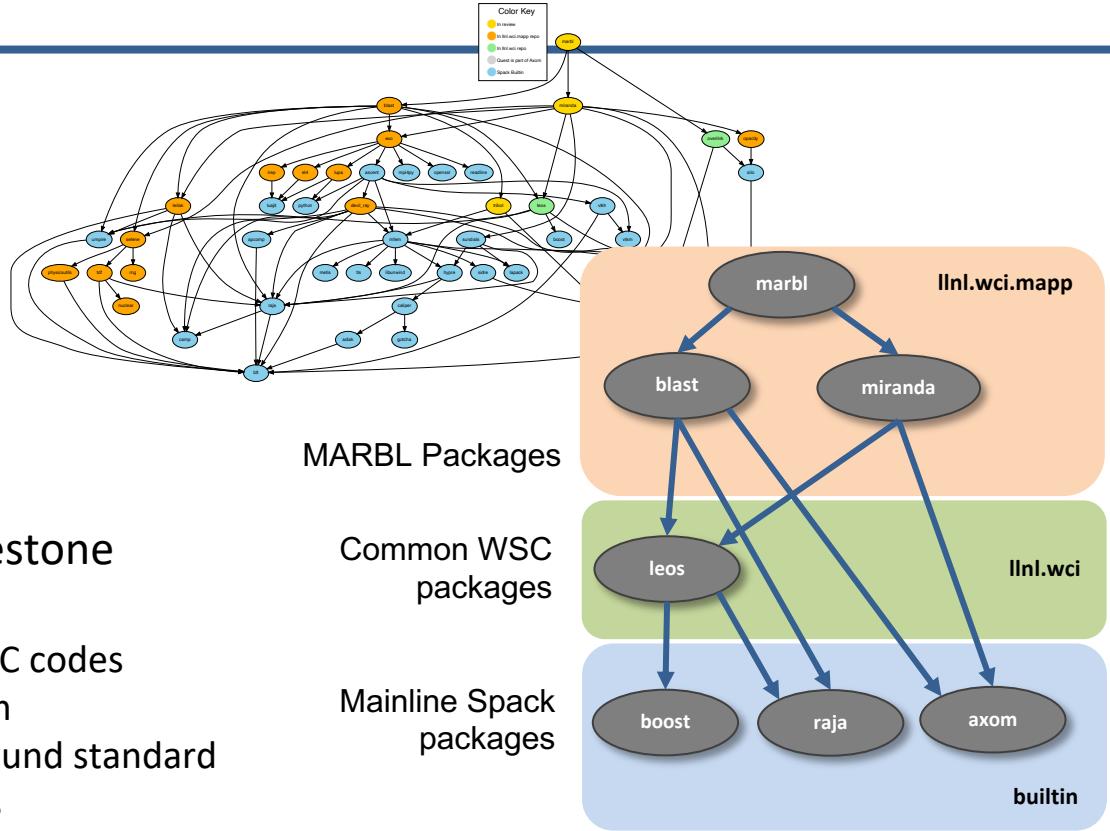
```
# latest v0.18.x release binaries
spack mirror add v018 https://binaries.spack.io/releases/v0.18
```

```
# rolling release: bleeding edge binaries
spack mirror add develop https://binaries.spack.io/develop
```

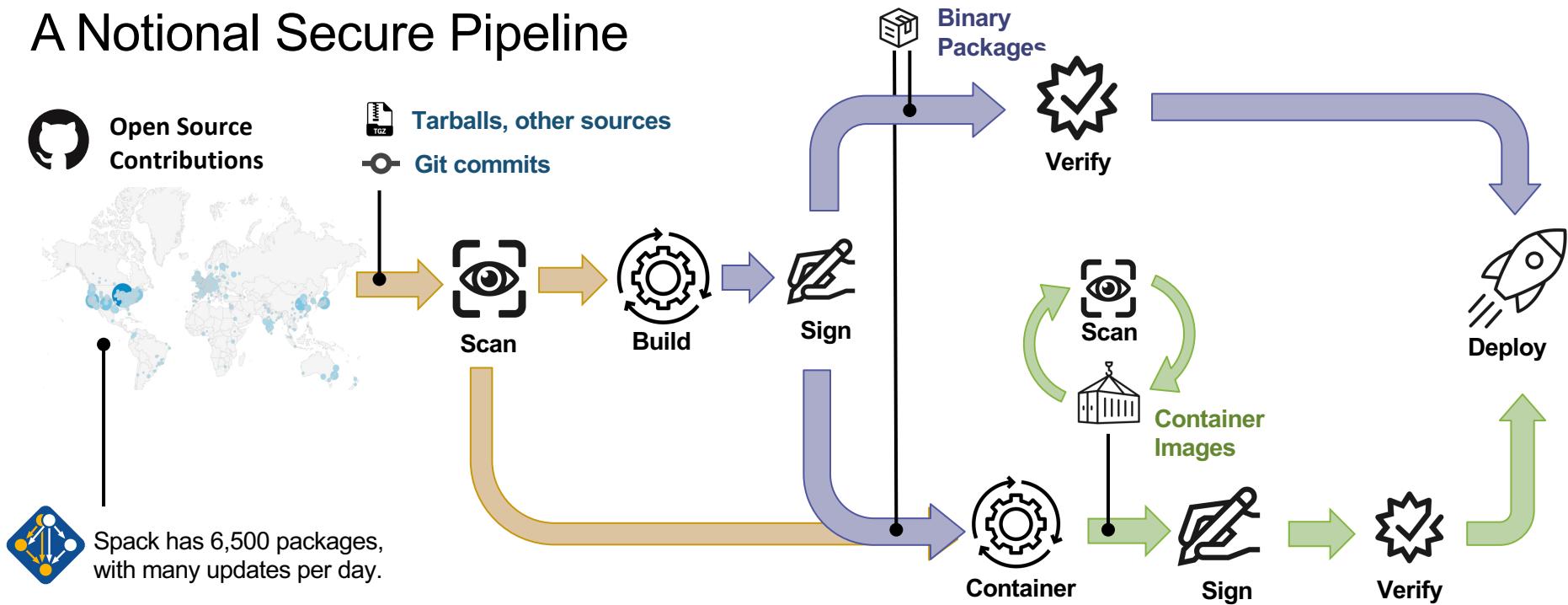
## So, what else could go wrong?

# We are working with code teams to develop standard workflows for layered build farms

- We are working with the MARBL team to move their development environment to Spack
- We have established a build and deployment working group among WSC codes
- We aim to put together an L2 milestone for next year to:
  - Make a common build farm for WSC codes
  - Layer with Spack's public build farm
  - Gradually bring teams together around standard build configurations and workflows



# A Notional Secure Pipeline



- We need a standard set of guidelines that we accept for supply chain integrity
  - Labs are trending towards GitLab, Spack for HPC
  - Standard container formats can help with scanning
  - Standard SBOM format could help sites cross-validate codes
- “Thorn Thymus” LDRD Strategic Initiative is working on new ways to recognize malware
  - Could integrate this into our pipeline when it’s ready

# Spack retains more software provenance than most SBOMs

- Spec for zlib is at left
  - Contains much of the metadata SBOM asks for
  - Plus performance/build info of interest to HPC folks
- Patch, archive, and package recipe hashes allow you to verify the build
  - These are currently not exposed
  - We hash them and include the result
  - Can easily replace the hash with specific archive/patch hashes
- SBOM generation from this data is in progress
  - All Spack installs will have SBOMs to leverage industry tooling

```
{  
  "spec": {  
    "_meta": {  
      "version": 3  
    },  
    "nodes": [  
      {  
        "name": "zlib",  
        "version": "1.2.12",  
        "arch": {  
          "platform": "darwin",  
          "platform_os": "bigsur",  
          "target": {  
            "name": "skylake"  
          }  
        },  
        "compiler": {  
          "name": "apple-clang",  
          "version": "13.0.0"  
        },  
        "namespace": "builtin",  
        "parameters": {  
          "optimize": true,  
          "pic": true,  
          "shared": true,  
          "cflags": □,  
          "cppflags": □,  
          "cxxflags": □,  
          "fflags": □,  
          "ldflags": □,  
          "ldlibs": □  
        },  
        "hashes": {  
          "archive": "91844808532e5ce316b3c010929493c0244f3d37593af6de04f71821d5136d9",  
          "patches": [  
            "0d38234384870bfd34dfcb738a9083952656f0c766a0f5990b1893076b084b76"  
          ],  
          "package_hash": "6kkliqdv67ucuvfpfdwaacy5bz6s6en4"  
        },  
        "hash": "zbntgjjnd2wgvvkfi55y45ms3p7wg5ns"  
      }  
    ]  
  }  
}
```

Schema version

Package name

Version

Compiler, target architecture

Origin package repo

Variants, build options, flags

Hashes of archive, patches, build recipe

Hash of entire spec

# Future directions we would like to pursue

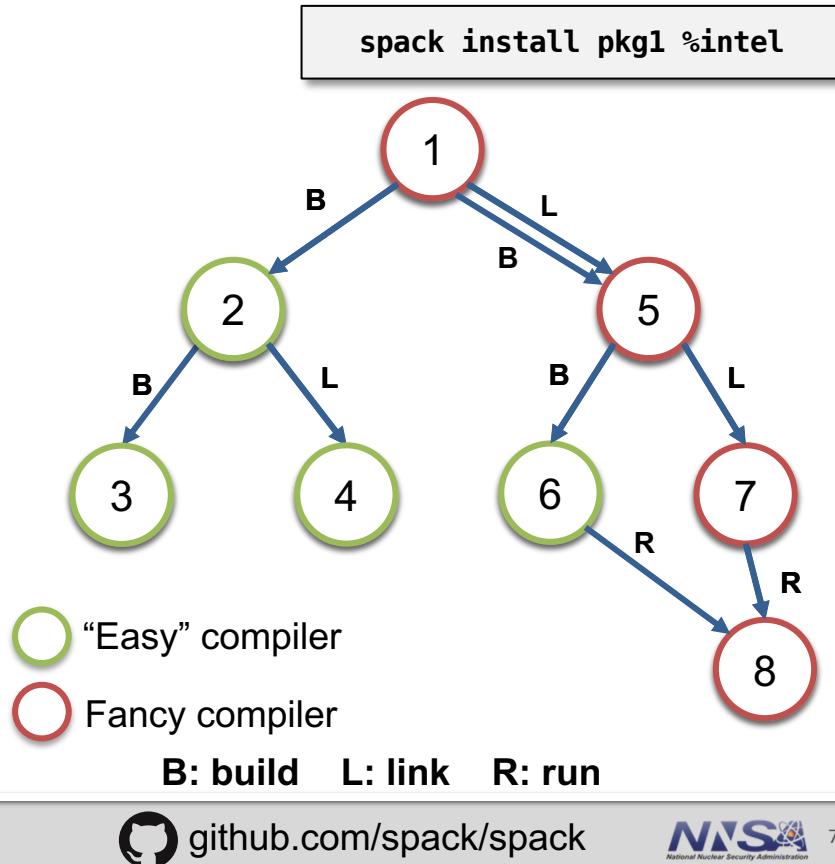
---

- Build pipeline hardening / scanning
  - Add scanning and assurance stages to our build pipeline
- Work with other projects to add assurance technologies
  - OpenSSF project has automated checks that can be integrated with CI pipelines
  - LLNL Thorn Thymus project has scanning
- Package curation
  - Identify and label projects within Spack that meet security standards
  - Curate a vetted sub-distribution of software
  - Work with projects like E4S
- Certified system images (for embedded devices, HPC, cloud, containers, etc.)
  - Configure and build a custom OS image with only selected components/options
  - Spack currently supports software *above* libc, but not libc
  - Contributors from the embedded community are working with us on this low-level support
    - May be used to replace tools like Yocto, OpenWRT, Gentoo

# Roadmap:

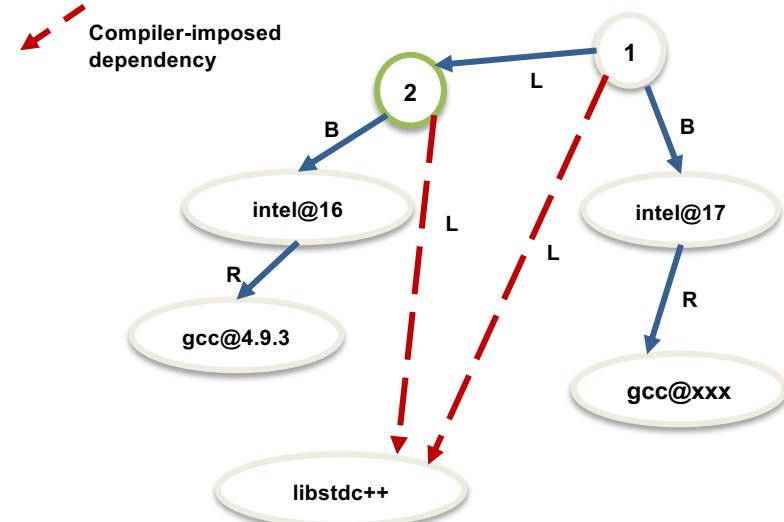
## Separate concretization of build dependencies

- We want to:
  - Build build dependencies with the "easy" compilers
  - Build rest of DAG (the link/run dependencies) with the fancy compiler
- 2 approaches to modify concretization:
  1. **Separate solves**
    - Solve run and link dependencies first
    - Solve for build dependencies separately
    - May restrict possible solutions (build  $\leftrightarrow$  run env constraints)
  2. **Separate models**
    - Allow a bigger space of packages in the solve
    - Solve *all* runtime environments together
    - May explode (even more) combinatorially



# Roadmap: Compilers as dependencies

- **Need separate concretization of build dependencies to make this work**
  - Model compiler as build dep (not unified)
  - Runtimes as link deps (unified)
  - Ensure compatibility between runtimes when using multiple compilers together
- **We need deeper modeling of compilers to handle compiler interoperability**
  - libstdc++, libc++ compatibility
  - Compilers that depend on compilers
  - Linking executables with multiple compilers
- **Packages that depend on languages**
  - Depend on `cxx@2011`, `cxx@2017`, `fortran@1995`, etc
  - Depend on `openmp@4.5`, other compiler features
  - Model languages, openmp, cuda, etc. as virtuals



Compilers and runtime libs fully modeled as dependencies

# When would we go to “Version 1.0”?

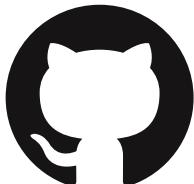
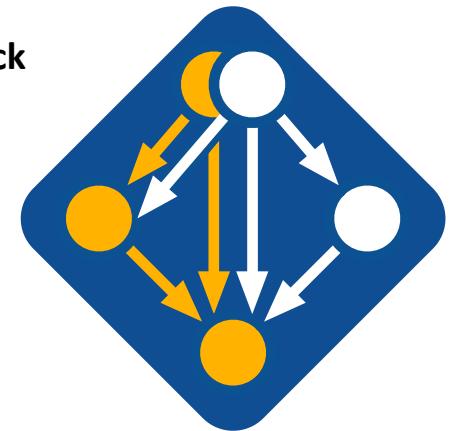
Big things we've wanted for 1.0 are:

- New concretizer
- production CI Done!
- production public build cache
- Compilers as dependencies
- Stable package API
  - Enables separate package repository

We are still working on the last 3 here, but getting much closer!

# Join the Spack community!

- There are lots of ways to get involved!
  - Contribute packages, documentation, or features at [github.com/spack/spack](https://github.com/spack/spack)
  - Contribute your configurations to [github.com/spack/spack-configs](https://github.com/spack/spack-configs)
- Talk to us!
  - You're already on our **Slack channel** ([spackpm.herokuapp.com](https://spackpm.herokuapp.com))
  - Join our **Google Group** (see GitHub repo for info)
  - Submit **GitHub issues** and **pull requests**!



★ Star us on GitHub!  
[github.com/spack/spack](https://github.com/spack/spack)



Follow us on Twitter!  
**@spackpm**

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