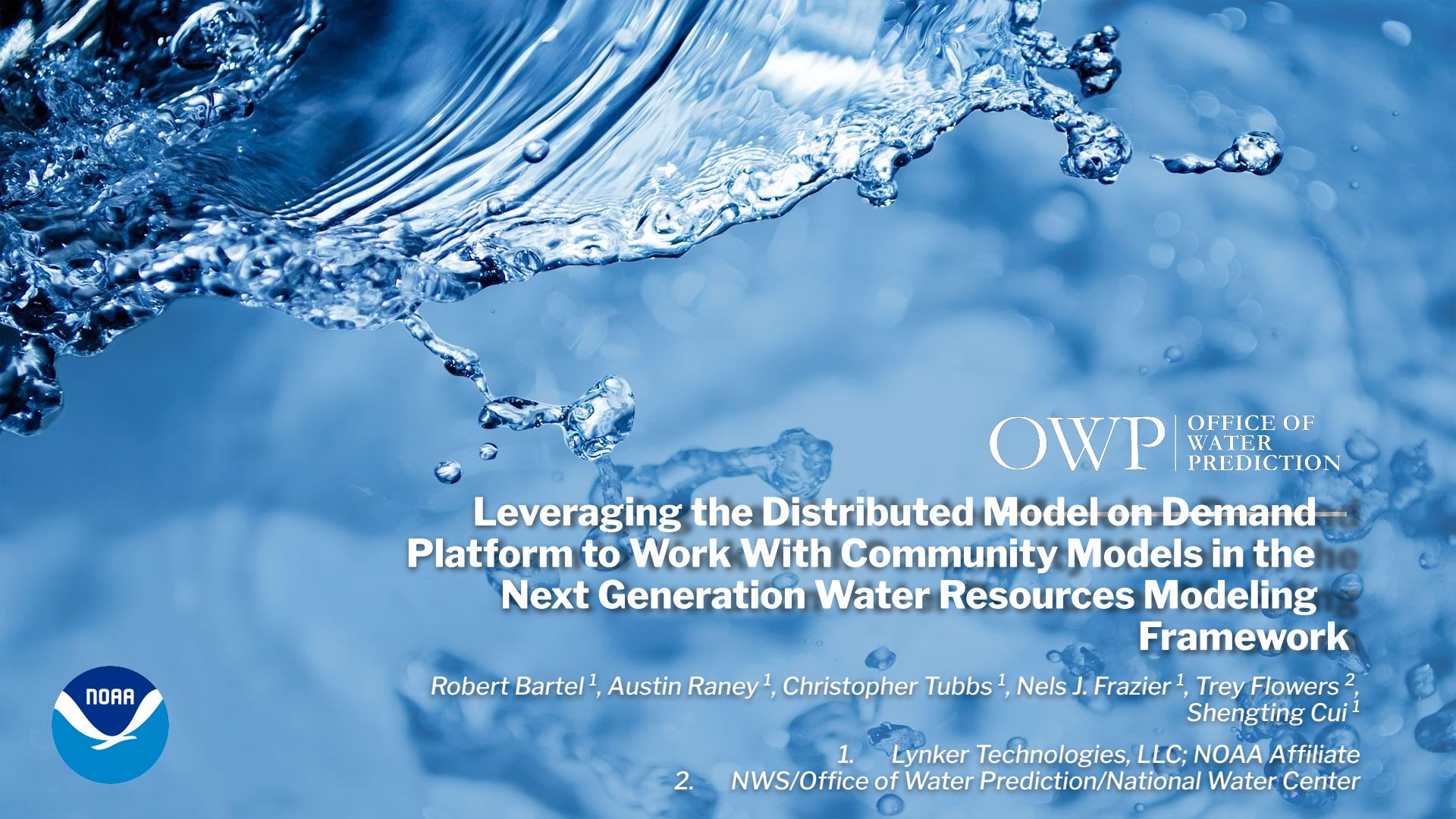

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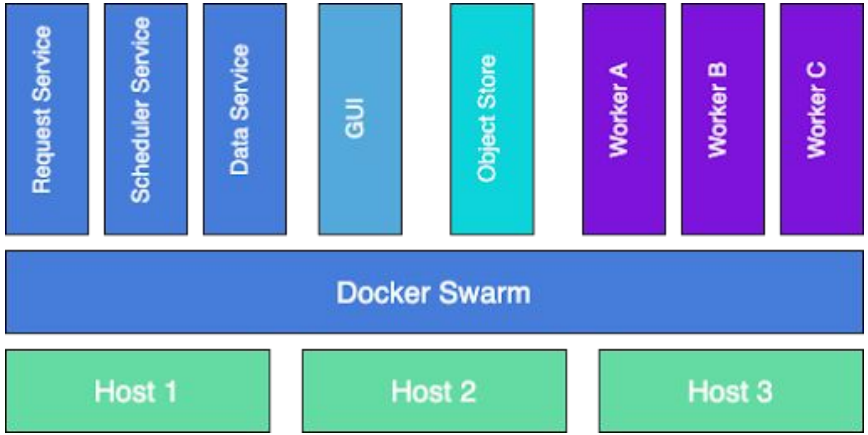
Leveraging the Distributed Model on Demand Platform to Work With Community Models in the Next Generation Water Resources Modeling Framework

Robert Bartel [1], Austin Raney [1], Christopher Tubbs [1], Nels J. Frazier [1], Trey Flowers [2], Shengting Cui [1]

1. *Lynker Technologies, LLC; NOAA Affiliate*
2. *NWS/Office of Water Prediction/National Water Center*

Background: What is DMOD?



- Prototype platform for facilitating running ngen
- **Key Feature: abstract and manage compute infrastructure and environments**

Full details can be found at:
https://github.com/NOAA-OWP/DMOD

What is in an ngen Compute Environment?

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Language Support

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Language Support

Dependencies

What is in an ngen Compute Environment?

Language Support

Software Tools and Builds

Dependencies

What is in an ngen Compute Environment?

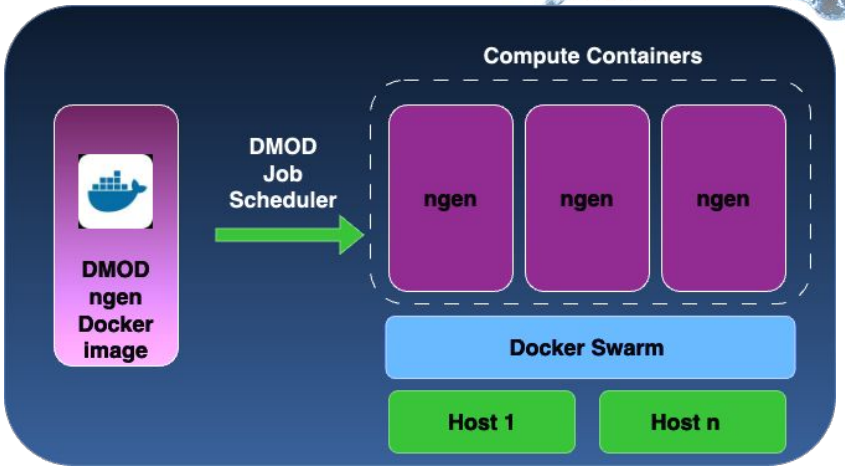
Language Support

DMOD was designed to handle some of this burden for users.

Software Tools and Builds

Dependencies

Package Environments in Docker Containers



- Compute infrastructure as source code
- Tools to *locally* build images and run ngen in containers
- No figuring out how to compile ngen from scratch
- Consistent, reproducible environments

What About BMI Modules?

- Similar dependency and install needs as ngen
- Image source code bundled with some OWP-developed BMI modules
- Works well for many use cases
- Eventually more will be needed

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- Similar dependency and install needs as ngen
- Image source code bundled with some OWP-developed BMI modules
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- Eventually more modules will be needed
- ngen designed to work with community-developed modules
- DMOD needs to provide the same flexibility

What About BMI Modules?

- Image source code bundled with some OWP-developed BMI modules
- Works well for many use cases
- Eventually more will be needed
- Why?

The Solution: Guided Customization

- Not practical to bundle every possible module
- Instead give users ways to customize Docker image
- Lets users insert BMI modules **they** need
- Three different guided methods supported
- Utilizes a special directory in local DMOD file structure
  - `docker/main/ngen/customize`
  - A “bucket” for customization files
  - Ignored by Git
  - Includes a README.md file with documentation

Providing Guided Customization

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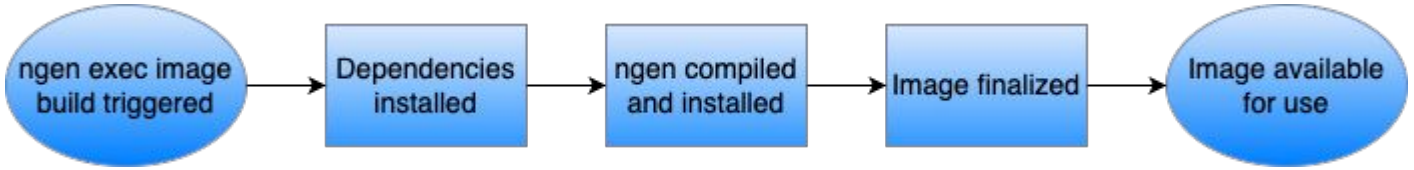
- Lets users insert BMI modules **they** need

Docker Image Build Process



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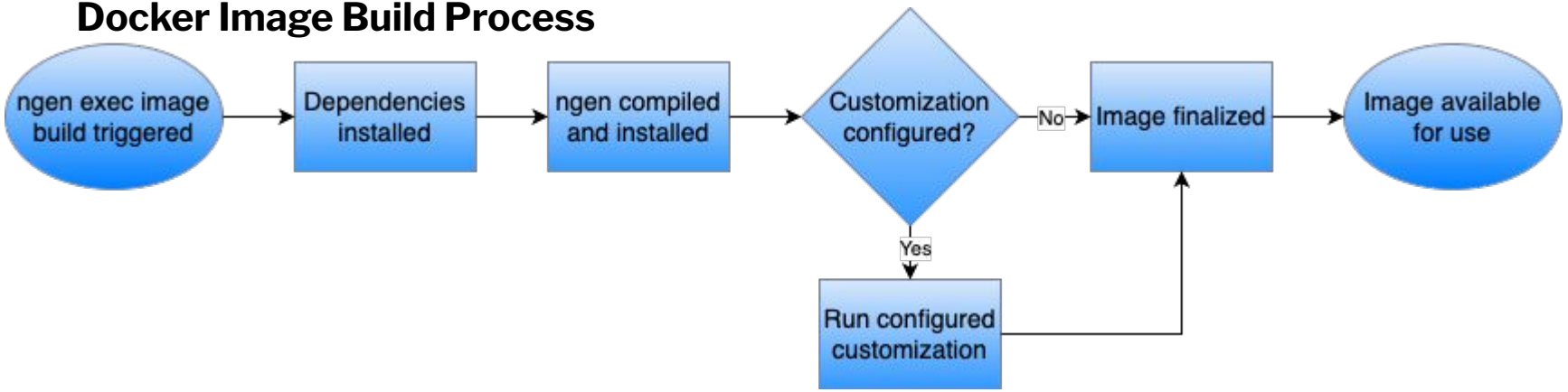
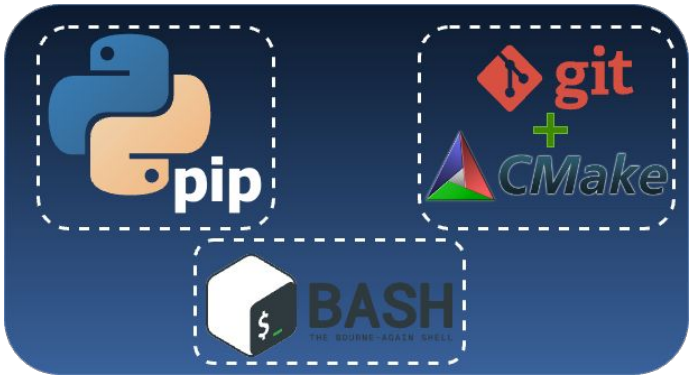


Configuring Customization

Available Methods

- A pip requirements file of Python packages to install
- A list of Git repos to auto-build with CMake
- A Bash script for fine-grained control



Configuring Customization

Customize Directory

- Files placed in special directory in local DMOD file structure
  - `docker/main/ngen/customize`
- Ignored by Git
  - Only exists if locally added by user

How it Works

- User adds customization file(s) to directory in local copy of DMOD
- When present, contents used automatically by DMOD image build tools
  - No other specialized action needed
  - Presence triggers execution of customization steps at specific build stage

Configuring Customization

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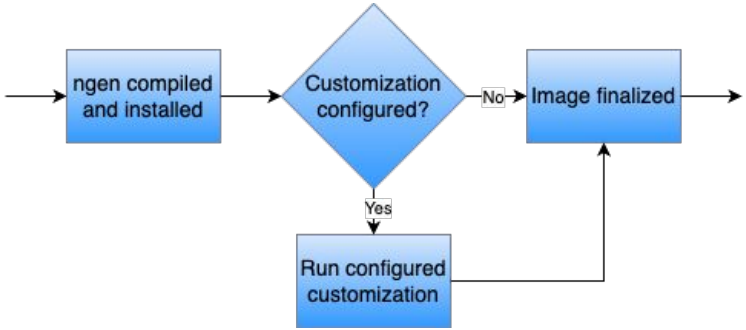

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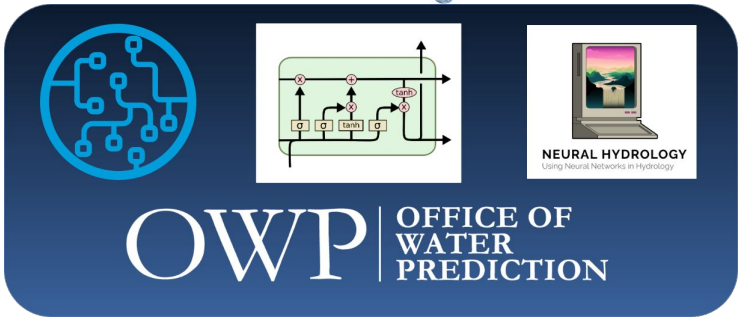
An Example: A Fork of LSTM

- As an example, consider an LSTM BMI module
- Source code available here:
  - https://github.com/robertbartel/owp_lstm
- Analogous to arbitrary community BMI module
  - Not directly from OWP public repo
  - Not pre-integrated into image
- Because some special handling of dependencies is needed, we will use the Bash script



The Steps

Step 1

Create `docker/main/ngen/customize/customize.sh`

Step 2

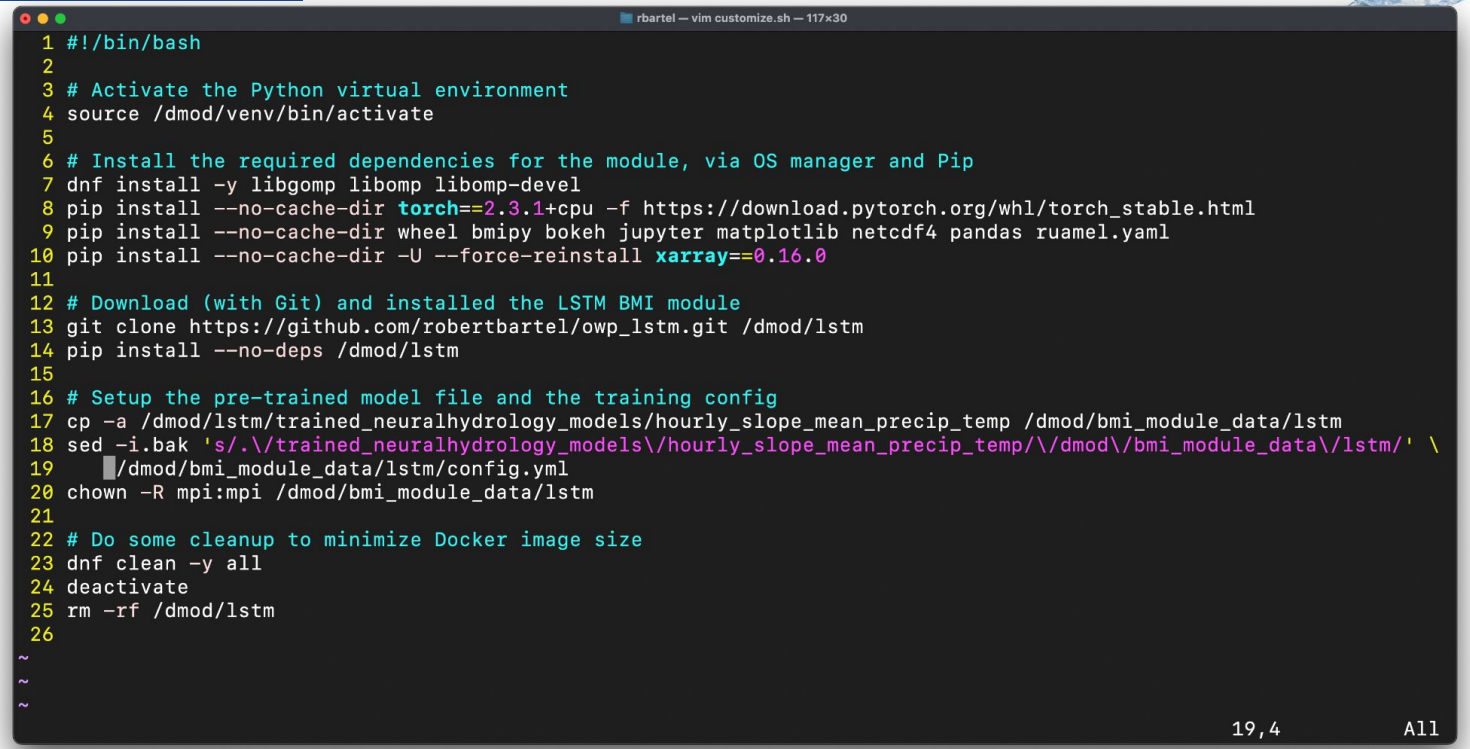
(Re)build the Docker image using DMOD's *control_stack.sh* helper script:

```
./scripts/control_stack.sh --build-args "ngen" main build push
```

Step 3

Run a DMOD ngen job as normal, using the module in formulations

An Example customize.sh File



The Steps (continued)

Step 2

(Re)build the Docker image using DMOD's *control_stack.sh* helper script:

```
./scripts/control_stack.sh --build-args "ngen" main build push
```

Step 3

Run a DMOD ngen job as normal, using LSTM in formulations.

High Level Results

- Ran a simple ngen job through DMOD using LSTM
- Trained model params:
  - Slope, Elevation, Precipitation, Temperature
- 1 month
  - January 2016
- Hydrofabric VPU-01
  - ~18,000 catchments
- 16 CPU cores
  - Intel 13th Gen i7
- Available memory: ~90 GB memory
  - Max used was ~80 GB
- Job time: ~16 minutes

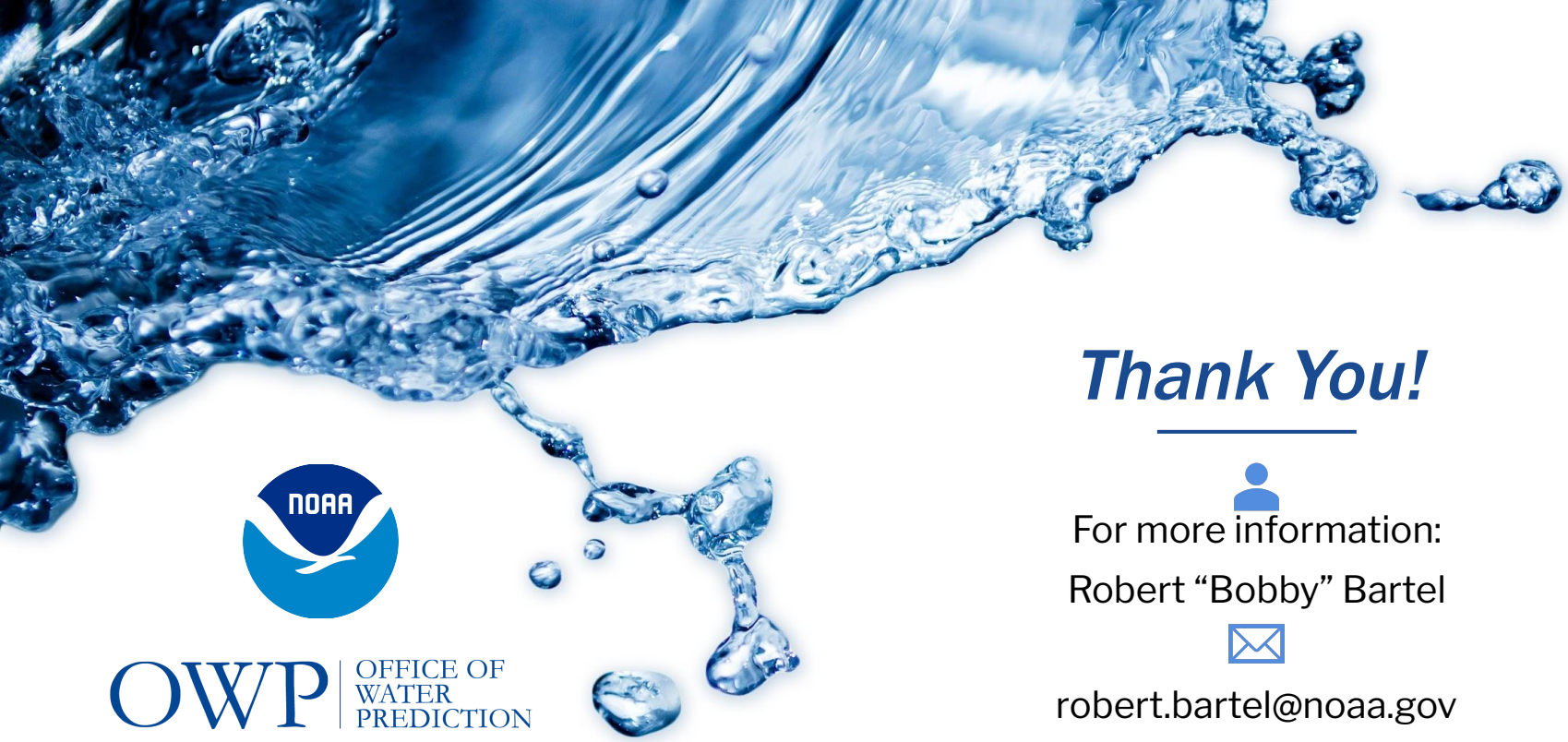
Summary and Future

What DMOD Does

- Automates steps to create consistent compute environments via Docker images and containers
- Enables guided local customization to integrate external BMI modules into images without modifying distributed source code

Future Ideas

- More tools and standards/conventions to “package” models
- Separate image building from DMOD and unify with other work



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Thank You!

For more information:

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https://water.noaa.gov