

Minutes from ScotRSE Ideas Meeting (10/05/2023)

Join the mailing list: <https://jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/wa-jisc.exe?SUBED1=SCOTRSE&A=1>

Website: <https://scotrse.github.io/>

Link to this doc:  Notes from ScotRSE Ideas Meeting (10/05/2023)

Proposal: Build a network of RSEs across Scotland (ScotRSE). The network will hold bimonthly online meetings, hosted by different institutions following a voluntary rota system. An annual in-person meeting may also be considered (dependent on funding and appetite). This network will be in addition to existing local groups and aims to facilitate collaboration and knowledge exchange across Scotland.

Aims

The ScotRSE Network has the following objectives:

- Develop networks between people that do research software engineering in Scotland
- Share knowledge and experiences (e.g. resources, training resources, advice on training / recruitment).
- Encourage and provide guidance on establishing local RSE communities to form, and share information on local groups
- Provide logistical support and advice to local RSE communities
- Build a national network that can advocate for RSEs in Scotland

Attendees

- Kirsty Pringle, SSI/EPCC, University of Edinburgh
- Kenny Gillen, (Infrastructure and) Research Computing Lead (Central IT), University of Dundee, k.h.gillen@dundee.ac.uk
- Mario Antonioletti, SSI/EPCC, University of Edinburgh
- Iain Barrass, University of Glasgow
- Oliver Henrich, Department of Physics, University of Strathclyde
- Iain Milne, The James Hutton Institute (Dundee)
- Vashti Galpin, School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh
- Olexandr Konovalov, School of Computer Science, University of St Andrews
- Simon Clifford, University of Cambridge
- Becky Smith, The James Hutton Institute (Dundee)
- Steve Gontarek, SAMS
- Chris Wood, EPCC, University of Edinburgh

Discussion topics - get feedback on the proposal:

- Meeting frequency? Rota?
 - Mario - Runs CERSE meetings monthly. Having ScotRSE meetings too monthly might be too much. Try to have an annual meeting.
 - Mario - suggests having a subgroup committee to organise the ScotRSE network.
 - IainB - Monthly meetings as otherwise it's a long time if you miss one. RSE Leaders meeting - talked about RSE exchanges, which would be really good.
 - Oliver - Skillset overview - who is the expert in what? Guide to see how to do what. Could do a very short bio. Ask people to fill out a very short form.
 - Olexandr - RSE exchange is essentially a secondment to a different institution. Likely to be challenging in terms of HR.
 - Could try monthly but break over the summer and break for Christmas.
 - Consensus on at least an Annual in-person
- What kind of meetings? Lightning talks, informal chat, conference style presentations, leave it open?
 - Oliver - did previously aim to have monthly seminars, but found it hard to get speakers. Need to have a mix including a lower-effort meetings. Or could do a hacky hour?
 - Becky - Try for a balance of a quick introduction, and allow people to have a chat. And also aim for a yearly in person meeting.
 - Mario - aim for one face-to-face meeting a year.
 - IainB - with RSLondon did try to get a 6 weekly seminar style meetings. RSLondon Southeast meeting.
 - Kirsty - could try and set a ratio of formal talks
 - Vashti - could try and do an ice breaker so people can have an opportunity to say something, but also accept that
 - Kirsty - could copy the CW approach and set people a challenge.
 - Kirsty - at the first kickoff meeting, each institution could do a 2-3m lightning talk with a single slide summarising the RSE landscape. One person to person to prep. Call for a slide per institute (not per institution) so Edinburgh can have more than one.
 - Olexandr
- Who should be included? How to reach out?
 - Becky - is it just for people that are full time RSE? No, open to all.
 - Olexandr - good to be open (e.g. UK Carpentries monthly community calls are very open)
 - Research Institutes: Beaton (UoG?), Roslin (UoE), CEH, BGS, Marine Scotland, Forestry Research have stats folk + modellers (do these count as

- RSEs? They count as research)
 - The SEFARI umbrella <https://sefari.scot/> - JHI, SRUC, RBGE, Rowett (Aberdeen Uni), BioSS, Moredun (Edinburgh Uni?)
 - Vashti - Scotland wide research groups:
<https://www.sfc.ac.uk/research/research-collaboration/research-pooling.aspx>
- RSE Soc has some funding for regional networks, we could do an in-person event if we wanted? Do we? When?
 - Other funding opportunities:
 - <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/epsrc-strategic-technical-platform/>
 - Scotland-wide groups such as SICSA, SULSA, SUPA, etc (research pools)
<https://www.sfc.ac.uk/research/research-collaboration/research-pooling.aspx>

Minutes

Are you willing to host a meeting? (please add your name to the table below)

Name	Email	Institution	Meeting theme (if known)
Kirsty Pringle	k.pringle@epcc.ed.ac.uk	University of Edinburgh	ScotRSE kickoff meeting (June 2023 ish)
Kenny Gillen	k.h.gillen@dundee.ac.uk	University of Dundee	July
Olexandr Konovalov	obk1@st-andrews.ac.uk	University of St Andrews	September
Oliver Henrich	oliver.henrich@strath.ac.uk	University of Strathclyde	October
Iain Milne	iain.milne@hutton.ac.uk	James Hutton (Dundee or Aberdeen)	November
Iain Barrass	iain.barrass@glasgow.ac.uk	University of Glasgow	January

Meeting Zoom Chat

12:03:01 From Kirsty Pringle to Everyone:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1X_CxDSsbcr6505mMyAwWhPEITQPTvo5zoURKbMTLEzM/edit

12:03:21 From Kirsty Pringle to Everyone:

Notes documents - please feel free to comment.

12:04:21 From Kirsty Pringle to Everyone:

Could you add your name to the list of attendees? Thanks

12:08:13 From Mario Antonioletti to Everyone:

Community of Edinburgh RSEs <https://cerse.github.io/>

12:08:31 From Mario Antonioletti to Everyone:

what we currently have for the the Scottish RSE group <https://scotrse.github.io/>

12:09:28 From Mario Antonioletti to Everyone:

The GitHub virtual org <https://github.com/ScotRSE>

12:09:54 From Kenneth Gillen to Everyone:

Reacted to "what we currently ha..." with ❤️

12:11:06 From Mario Antonioletti to Everyone:

Vashti shall try to get you and speak at one of the CERSE events

12:13:37 From Vashti Galpin to Everyone:

Reacted to "Vashti shall try to ..." with 👍

12:20:17 From Kirsty Pringle to Everyone:

The link to the notes document:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1X_CxDSsbcr6505mMyAwWhPEITQPTvo5zoURKbMTLEzM/edit

12:24:51 From Mario Antonioletti to Everyone:

I would advocate for virtual meetings and maybe try to have an annual meetup

12:25:14 From Becky Smith to Everyone:

That sounds like a good plan Mario

12:31:18 From Ruairidh [EPCC] to Everyone:

back in a minute!

12:35:56 From Olexandr Konovalov to Everyone:

And monthly UK Carpentries for some of us

12:36:24 From Becky Smith to Everyone:

You don't have to go to all meetings though, and there's plenty of us that wouldn't be included in RSE Edinburgh stuff

12:37:50 From Mario Antonioletti to Everyone:

yes - but I was thinking of the local vs national/regional meetings

12:38:05 From Kenneth Gillen to Everyone:

Personally I'd just like to be able to sit in a café / virtual or real / and chat.

12:38:19 From Iain Milne to Everyone:

yeah, I think something in person to get the ball rolling would be really good

12:38:21 From Mario Antonioletti to Everyone:

I would not have seminars - we have a series of talks

12:38:56 From Simon Clifford to Everyone:

Alternating formal / informal meetings? Then the formal onerousness still comes bimonthly.

12:38:58 From Mario Antonioletti to Everyone:

snippets so if the subject matter is not of interest you don't have to sit through an hour

12:39:05 From Becky Smith to Everyone:

We don't have anything more local though, I'm not sure if there are other RSE local groups up north, so it's less likely to be an issue for us

12:39:11 From Vashti Galpin to Everyone:

Reacted to "snippets so if the s..." with 👍

12:39:23 From Vashti Galpin to Everyone:

Removed a 👍 reaction from "snippets so if the s..."

12:39:30 From Vashti Galpin to Everyone:

Reacted to "Alternating formal /..." with 👍

12:39:31 From Mario Antonioletti to Everyone:

informal - as in a chat like this?

12:40:05 From Mario Antonioletti to Everyone:

Reacted to "Alternating formal /..." with 👍

12:41:12 From Kirsty Pringle to Everyone:

Reacted to "Alternating formal /..." with 👍

12:41:29 From Olexandr Konovalov to Everyone:

In person meeting is good that you can invite your local people you're trying to convince about something- from time to time having them would be useful

12:41:48 From Becky Smith to Everyone:

Dundee/Perth is technically most central! I am not offering to host in person though!

12:41:49 From Simon Clifford to Everyone:

Yes, unplanned or very loosely planned. We do this in my group -- one issue can be that people skip the informal ones quite frequently.

12:42:03 From Kenneth Gillen to Everyone:

I absolutely can offer to host in person in Dundee.

12:42:11 From Vashti Galpin to Everyone:

Reacted to "I absolutely can off..." with 👍

12:42:15 From Becky Smith to Everyone:

Reacted to "I absolutely can off..." with 👍

12:42:16 From Vashti Galpin to Everyone:

Reacted to "Dundee/Perth is tech..." with 👍

12:42:21 From Olexandr Konovalov to Everyone:

St Andrews also happy

12:42:23 From Mario Antonioletti to Everyone:

Becky: You'll have had your tea then

12:42:30 From Olexandr Konovalov to Everyone:

Reacted to "I absolutely can off..." with 👍

12:42:31 From Kenneth Gillen to Everyone:

Reacted to "Becky: You'll have h..." with 😄

12:42:32 From Olexandr Konovalov to Everyone:

Reacted to "Dundee/Perth is tech..." with 👍

12:42:53 From Becky Smith to Everyone:

Maybe when we stop working in a building site we can host!

12:43:09 From Vashti Galpin to Everyone:

Reacted to "St Andrews also happ..." with 👍

12:43:11 From Mario Antonioletti to Everyone:

Reacted to "Maybe when we stop w..." with 👍

12:47:09 From Simon Clifford to Everyone:

"Hi, we have N RSE's and WE'RE HIRING..."

12:47:33 From Mario Antonioletti to Everyone:

ok, I can't save the chat :-(

12:47:42 From Iain Milne to Everyone:

"Hi, we have what feels like N-2 RSEs and we can't afford to pay enough to hire"

12:48:04 From Becky Smith to Everyone:

The politics is the same all over! Let's have a rule of taking everything with a pinch of salt!

12:48:31 From Becky Smith to Everyone:

"We're hiring if someone's looking for some volunteer work"? @Iain?

12:48:41 From Becky Smith to Everyone:

Reacted to ""Hi, we have what fe..." with 😄

12:49:44 From Simon Clifford to Everyone:

add 😄

12:50:57 From Mario Antonioletti to Everyone:

I think we are about 120 at EPCC now more or less

12:51:51 From Vashti Galpin to Everyone:

Replying to "ok, I can't save the..."

I've taken some screenshots.

12:52:05 From Mario Antonioletti to Everyone:

Reacted to "I've taken some scre..." with 👍

12:52:44 From Kirsty Pringle to Everyone:

Reacted to "I've taken some scre..." with 👍

12:52:53 From Kenneth Gillen to Everyone:

.. and Dundee has no official RSE group at all - just embedded RSE sitting on research funding in the research groups. (and I have a pencil on the org chart...)

12:53:41 From Mario Antonioletti to Everyone:

Stirling, Aberdeen, H-W

12:53:45 From Simon Clifford to Everyone:

I know an RSE in Medical Imaging at Dundee (although I think he lives in Iowa). I'll ping him.

12:53:59 From Becky Smith to Everyone:
Replying to "I know an RSE in Med..."

He can host in person!

12:54:11 From Simon Clifford to Everyone:
add 👍

12:54:19 From Kenneth Gillen to Everyone:
Replying to "I know an RSE in Med..."

James, right?

12:54:24 From Simon Clifford to Everyone:
Yep.

12:54:31 From Kenneth Gillen to Everyone:
Reacted to "Yep." with 👍

12:54:39 From Becky Smith to Everyone:

I did my degree at UHI and worked there for a bit before I went to Hutton

12:54:44 From Ruairidh [EPCC] to Everyone:

Reacted to "I know an RSE in Med..." with 👍

12:55:09 From Kenneth Gillen to Everyone:
Replying to "I know an RSE in Med..."

Simon Li works with James and he'll be part of this community too - is in the RSE Scotland slack channel. And will no doubt be advertising this to James and all of their colleagues.

12:55:38 From Ruairidh [EPCC] to Everyone:
Replying to "I know an RSE in Med..."

I also work with James on the image data project 😊

12:56:01 From Simon Clifford to Everyone:
add 😊

12:57:04 From Becky Smith to Everyone:
Replying to "I did my degree at U..."

The staff I worked with were lecturers rather than RSEs though, not sure if it'd be a good link for them but happy to mention it if it's likely to help. UHI Perth was my base

12:57:10 From Olexandr Konovalov to Everyone:
+1 for SICSA