HPC-BP Webinar Q&A

The HPSF: Building the Future of High-Performance Software, Together

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(The slides are available via the link in the page's sidebar.)

Q: Associate membership of HPSF costs $0? All other forms of membership costs a lot of money? Do I need to be a member of Linux Foundation before I join HPSF? What are the benefits of associate membership?

A: Organizational memberships have influence on the governance on the paid levels. The associate level is a level that signals support of the goals of HPSF.

If you can get an HPSF associate membership, you can get an LF associate membership which is also free. Many orgs have an LF associate membership and HPSF general/other. For industry many orgs will already have an LF membership — so it's not a new expense.

Generally, a project (software project, see below) can join HPSF *without* its parent organization(s) being/member(s).

See https://hpsf.io/join/ for info for members (organizations who want to sponsor / promote HPSF)

Q: Can a project join at any level or does it have to start from the emerging one?

A: One can join at any level, evaluated by the TAC according to our lifecycle documents:
https://github.com/hpsfoundation/tac/blob/main/lifecycle_policy.md
We evaluate this via a GitHub issue + 30min presentations w/ Q&A.

Q: Would a scientific simulation code written mainly in Fortran be eligible to join HPSF as an Emerging project?

A: YES! No constraints on programming language.

Q: Is the governance model allowed to evolve as a project matures?

A: Yes! How to evolve your governance model needs to be openly documented as part of your governance model. For instance, you could write “Changes to this governance model need to be approved with a 2/3rd majority vote of the technical committee.” or similar.

Q: Would a project be able to get some of the same kind of help outside the conference, like you were able to at the conference? What kind of communication is there outside of the conference?

A: We have the following ways to advance on a regular basis:

- Continuously: Slack, Email, GH issues
- Working groups: usually weekly or bi-weekly, depending on scope and need
    - Async: meetings on setting up GPU CI, etc. with projects
- TAC: bi-weekly, half on project evolution & half on technical topics for project maintainers
- Governance Board: monthly, steers the foundation & spending

Q: I’ve seen the videos for the past HPSFCon, What else happens? I know governance meetings probably happen before or after but what else happens? Based on the past videos, I assumed that was really just a gathering to discuss the work over the past year. (sorry for the long question).

A: I tried to answer this question together with the previous question.
The plenary talks that we have from HPSFCon on youtube are indeed usually 1-2 keynotes and project yearly updates (1-2 days of the 5 days), but a lot is happening in parallel sessions that follow that are deeply technical or cross-cutting, and the project meetings each with their own schedule (usually 0.5-1 day each). For some of those sessions we might not always have an AV team for recordings. The easiest way to check the breath of HPSFCon is to look through the program:

https://hpsf2026.sched.com and we are also open to evolve this program with new ideas 🙂

Q: Does the foundation have access to HPC testing suites? I would hope joining would allow me access to tools to build superior HPC software. I would not be interested in being a maintainer on my dime.

A: We have members that work on HPC acceptance testing, e.g., the HPSF benchmarking working group. We do not currently have a paid license for the SPEC benchmarks, if you refer to that, but could be discussed.

Q: Is the Lua-based version of Modules already part of HPSF? How would both versions being members work? PS, for context, I wasn't aware that the TCL version had been revived.

A: No, lmod (the Lua-based implementation by TACC) is not yet in HPSF and is a separate project.

More generally, HPSF explicitly encourages competing projects to join. To ensure this works well, we meet primarily in public sessions and under a general Antitrust Policy (e.g., important for competing vendors!). If two projects that compete directly join, they get as all projects evaluated by their HPSF sustainability goals and are supported based on this.

Apptainer and charliecloud are both in HPSF and discussions have been good. Spack is in HPSF and EasyBuild is also joining as of a couple weeks ago. We've always talked to each other about common issues — HPSF just makes it a bit more formal.

Q: Are there limits on the project types (cybersecurity, simulations, or materials) we can build?

A: Our unifying scope is HPC and making high-performance software more widely usable and sustainable. In that sense, all the above are reasonable.

Q: Will there be HPSF talks at Fosdem 2027? (https://fosdem.org/2027/)
See last years talk by Xavier:
https://archive.fosdem.org/2026/schedule/event/SJAEHF-hpsf/

A: Xavier will attend. No “official HPSF” talks that we’re aware of

Q: What percentage of the projects are based outside of the USA?

A: The projects in HPSF are usually driven by an international community that wants to grow further, and some want to establish an international governance structure, starting from all kinds of origins. A lot of the inaugural HPSF projects were USA-*originated*, but already internationally developed. We now have a growing number of projects that joined and are being evaluated/onboarded that originated outside the USA, e.g., Wi4MPI, EasyBuild, ReFrame, and more.

Q: Can you join HPSF and the Linux Foundation year round?

A: Yes, both as a member or project, you can join at any time. The organizational membership is paid yearly. See https://hpsf.io/join/ for info for members (organizations who want to sponsor / promote HPSF)