Strategies for Working Remotely: How does remote work impact creativity and innovation?

A Panel Discussion

ECP EXASCALE COMPUTING PROJECT

Panelists:

Panel Series Lead and Panelist:
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Moderator:
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Francesca Samsel, TACC, UT Austin – Research Scientist
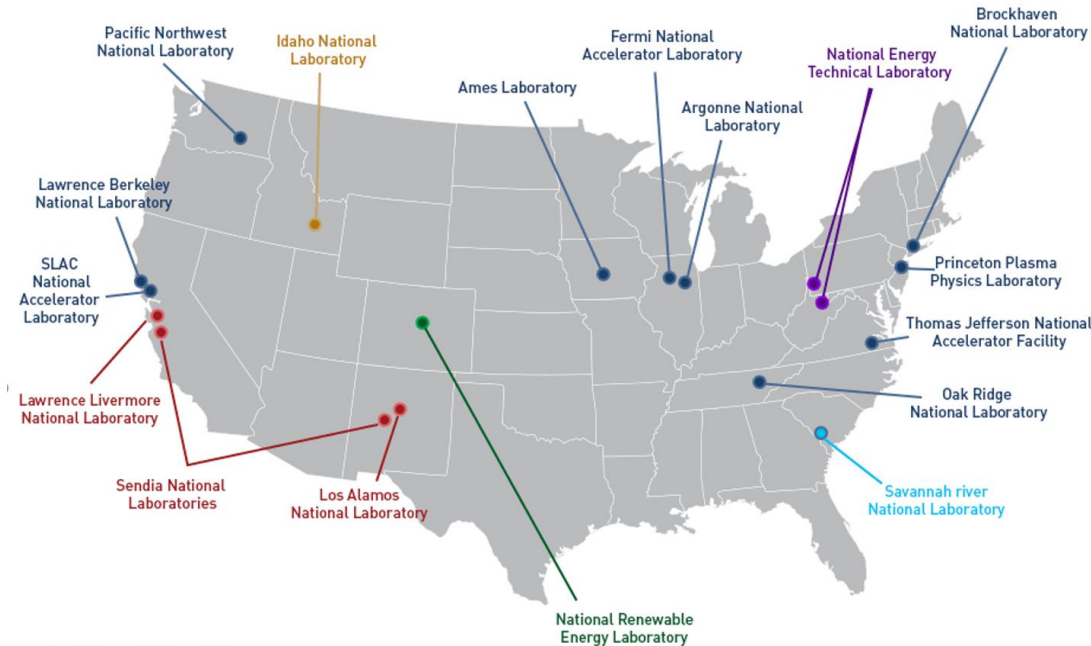
NNSA National Nuclear Security Administration

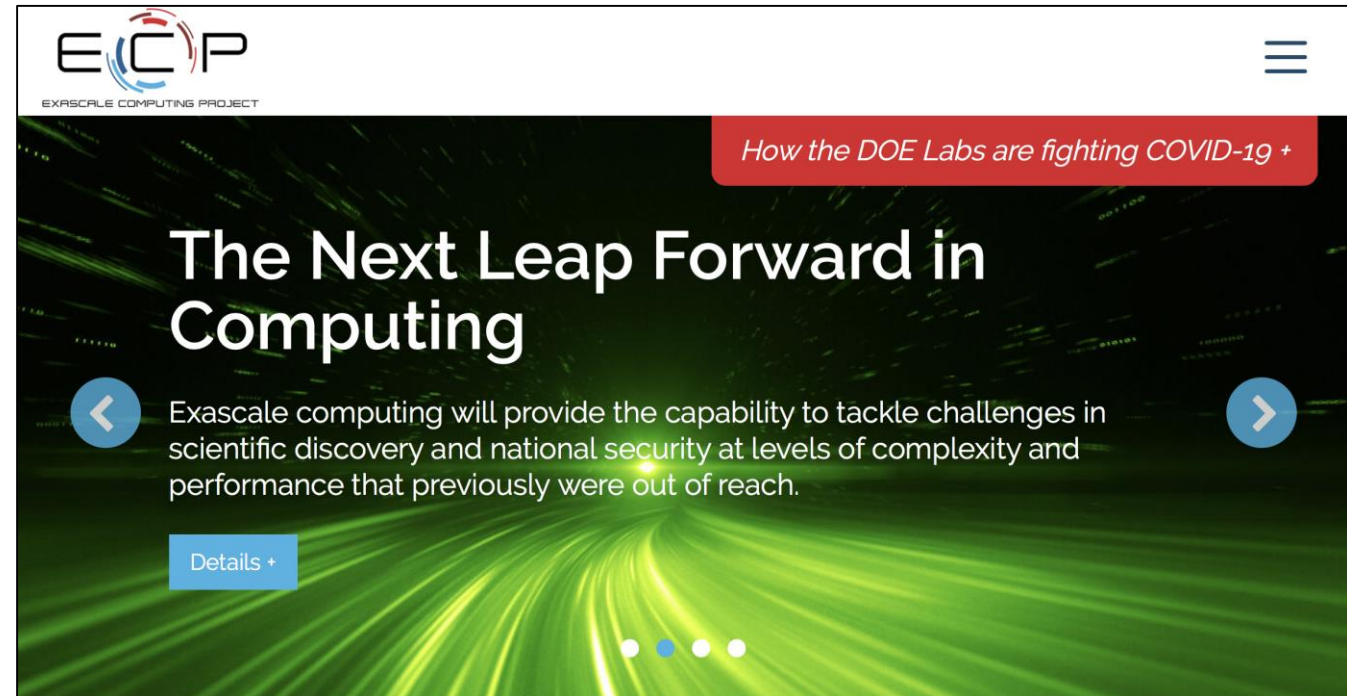U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Office of Science

Who are we?

- Staff at U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) laboratories

DOE national laboratories: Leaders in science and innovation

- Involved in the DOE Exascale Computing Project (ECP)
  - https://www.exascaleproject.org

- Currently working remotely

Working definitions for our discussion

Creativity

- The ability to transcend traditional ideas, rules, patterns, relationships, or the like, and to create meaningful new ideas, forms, methods, interpretations, etc. (dictionary.com)

- Thinking is creative if it leads to original and adaptive ideas, solutions, or insights (Runko & Chand, 1995)

Innovation

- The introduction of new things or methods (dictionary.com)

- An idea, practice, or object that is perceived as new. (Rogers, 1995)

- Innovation results when novel ideas are implemented into products, processes, or policies to realize quantifiable gains (Ackerman, 2020)

Panel Discussion

We want to hear from you!

Please type your question in the Zoom chat window, and if possible, type your affiliation.

The moderators may ask if you'd like to unmute to ask your question or ask your question on your behalf.

Put your settings on gallery view to see all panelists

We value your feedback!
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W8VQW2K fill out anytime during or after panel

10 Strategies for increasing your innovation and creativity

Creativity

- Truly creative people have developed their ability to observe and to use all of their senses, which can get dull over time. Take time to "sharpen the blade" and take everything in.

- Let your ideas "incubate" by taking a break from them. Shift your brain into another place.

- Redefine the problem completely. "Your problem is not the problem; there is another problem. When you define the real problem, you can solve it and move on."

Innovation

- Innovation is based on knowledge. Therefore, you need to continually expand your knowledge base. Read things you don't normally read.

- Treat patterns as part of the problem. Recognizing a new pattern is very useful but be careful not to become part of it.

- Come up with ideas at the beginning of the innovation process ... and then stop. At some point you have to turn off the idea generation part of the process and really work on the innovation and execution part in order to bring a project to life.

Mindset

- Your perceptions may limit your reasoning. Be careful about how you're perceiving things. In other words, defer judgment.

- Practice guided imagery so you can "see" a concept come to life.

- Experience as much as you can. Exposure puts more ideas into your subconscious. Actively seek out new experiences to broaden your experience portfolio.

- Look where others aren't looking to see what others aren't seeing.

- **Today's video will be posed on the ECP website**
- **Working Remotely: The Exascale Computing Project (ECP) Panel Series**
  - E. Raybourn et al., 7/30/2020, blog post
- **Working Remotely: The Spack Team**
  - T. Gamblin, E. Raybourn, 5/16/2020, blog post
- **Remote Working in an Agile World**
  - R. Bartlett, 4/12/2020, intro to podcast by BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT
- **Resources for Maximizing Remote Working**
  - E. Raybourn, 3/18/2020, curated content on:
- **Clean Your Work Surfaces: One Way to Help Flatten the Curve**
  - M.C. Miller, 3/19/2020

https://bssw.io

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