Crystal Ball

John A. Turner

Group Leader

Computational Engineering and Energy Sciences

Chief Computational Scientist

Consortium for Advanced Simulation of Light-Water Reactors (CASL)

SOS18 20 March 2014, St. Moritz, Switzerland





OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY MANAGED BY UT-BATTELLE FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Brief impressions...

- Python is ubiquitous good
 - at least in some user communities, still considered bleeding edge
- DSLs also no longer considered so exotic
 - as others have observed, in some sense a generalization / formalization of libraries, with greater opportunity for optimization
 - concern about proliferation ("looks nice, but doesn't quite fit my needs")
- proxy apps / mini-apps
 - have to serve as basis for interaction between computational scientists and computer scientists, not as a way to just keep those computer scientists occupied
- evolution vs. re-factor vs. total re-write
 - codes live longer than platforms / systems, and architectures are changing faster than applications can adapt - performance portability is extremely challenging
 - increased willingness to consider total re-write, or at least significant re-factor
- really like the analogy of supercomputers as scientific instruments
 - software itself remains under-valued by funding agencies (don't want to hear about or fund effort to adapt to new architecture/system, much less a re-write)
 - analogy can serve as basis for conversation about value of the software

Panel questions...

- unexpected / surprising
 - similarity of challenges in HBP, interest in TriBITS (developed for CASL)
- learned / found interesting
 - low power / high density efforts
 - DSLs
- want to hear more about
 - Optix
 - computational engineering / design continuum / system scale



Questions? e-mail: turnerja@ornl.gov

The research and activities described in this presentation were performed using the resources at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, which is supported by the Office of Science of the U.S. Department of Energy under Contract No. DE-AC0500OR22725.

4 Managed by UT-Battelle for the Department of Energy

