



# RSEs at Academic Conferences

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## RSE?

- A Research Software Engineer (RSE) combines **expertise in programming with an intricate understanding of research**
- Valuable combination of skills, but **role not well represented in academic system**: contributions are badly recognised, career opportunities low
- Term coined in UK - largest RSE community today
- Professionals of all career stages and job titles self-identify as RSEs and have diverse career paths
- **National chapters** exist in more and more countries. Find yours via <https://researchsoftware.org/>  
**GB DENL NOSEFIDKIS AUNZ US**
- Chapters and local groups welcome all those who contribute to software development in science

**Academic conferences must better acknowledge the role of software and the people behind it.**

## HOW?

- **Specific tracks** focussed on software, so that the tools behind the research are put in plain sight
- Software as a first-class citizen in science
- Allow an **additional abstract** focussing on software or data, enabling collaboration and re-use
- **Label** sessions, courses and workshops as relevant for RSEs (similar to ECS)
- **Encourage** software sessions, both within the divisions and interdisciplinary - they can spark powerful new collaborations
- **Collaborate with journals** to promote open source and reproducibility with common guidelines
- Support **opportunities** to meet and get to know other RSEs:

**RSE Townhall Meeting (TM9)**  
**Thu, 11 Apr, 19:00–20:00**  
**Room -2.85**

# How can the role of software and RSEs be better supported by the academic community\*?

\* **universities, scholarly societies, conferences**

## Software in Geosciences

### Can you conduct your research without computers?

Computers and the software we run on them play an unquestionably important role in research today. The relevance of code and computational analysis is likely to increase in the coming years across all sciences. This is naturally also the case in geosciences with their vast variety of connected science domains and the diversity of workflows and related data, ranging from microscopic analysis of specimen in the lab to crunching huge amounts of data collected with remote sensing.

We want to take a look at the people behind the software and how scholarly communications, scientific conferences, and learned societies maybe more welcoming to their contributions to science and their needs. While scientific software was long developed by students, Post-Docs or professors "on the side" and carried along using a series of short term research grants, the need for more expertise, quality, and long-term perspectives in developing and maintaining the software leads to an increasing number of people self-identifying as Research Software Engineers (RSEs). The same needs must now be translated to the programme and structure of academic events and the changing landscape of performance evaluation in academia.

Clear career paths for RSEs allow skilled developers and scientists creating digital tools to remain active in research and letting data and software continue to be drivers for open and high quality research, and not side-projects or obstacles.

### RSE @ EGU Survey

Take a survey to improve the information **about** people working as **RSEs** (in the broadest sense!) **in the EGU community.**

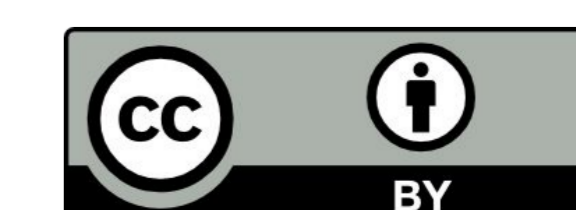


To enable change we must organise and coordinate. A few have a hard time making a difference, while many are facing challenges around acknowledgement of software-related contributions to science. **What would help you?**



### RSEs @ EGU

- **2004-2017** Many researchers use software for their work, attend EGU, and present their results and tools
- **2018** The first **RSE Townhall Meeting** organised by RSEs from Germany and UK. ~40 attendees discuss RSE role and get to know four national chapters: <https://www.de-rse.org/blog/2018/07/30/rses-at-egu-ga.html>
- **2019** **Dedicated poster session** and 2nd TM
- **2020** ... see ideas to the left!



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