



Johns Hopkins University Research Software Support Network

Needs Analysis: Research Software Engineer Survey Questions

Introduction

The [Open Source Programs Office](#) at JHU is working to create a research software support network connecting research software engineers and researchers who develop software with essential support services across the University.

To ensure the network meets the needs of our community, we're conducting a needs analysis and inviting Research Software Engineers (RSEs) to participate in a brief survey. For this survey, we're looking to gather feedback from full-time software engineers writing code to solve research problems. Future iterations of this survey will target researchers who develop software.

If you have colleagues who are full-time software engineers supporting research - regardless of title - we would greatly appreciate you forwarding this survey to them.

Questions

- What school/center/division are you affiliated with?
 - Set List of Schools and high-level Administrative units, e.g. School of Engineering, University Libraries, University Student Services, along with an "other" option
- What specific department, lab, or group are you affiliated with?
 - Short answer / free text
- What are your roles and/or titles?
 - Short answer / free text

- How many research software engineers (including yourself) work in your immediate team or group (i.e. those who report to the same supervisor as you)?
 - Options: 1 (just me); 2-3; 4-5; 6-10; More than 10

- Time Allocation: What are the top three activities you spend the most time on?
 - Writing/developing new software
 - IT infrastructure support (e.g. CI/CD, server admin, cloud config)
 - Maintaining existing software
 - Consulting with researchers
 - Teaching/mentoring
 - Admin tasks (e.g. timecards, grant reporting, etc)
 - Other

- Which research domains do you primarily support?
 - Short answer / free text

- Which campus units do you currently collaborate with on software development work? Select from the list or feel free to write a longer answer in the free-text box.
 - Research IT
 - Other Central IT Units
 - Libraries
 - DS-AI
 - JHTV
 - Specific departments, institutes
 - None
 - Other

- Which resources would most enhance your effectiveness? Select from the list or feel free to write a longer answer in the free-text box. (Select up to three)
 - Shared development tools/infrastructure
 - Professional development opportunities
 - Community of practice with other RSEs

- Additional RSE collaborators on your project(s)
 - Institutional recognition
 - IT resources (e.g. HPC access, big data transfer/storage)
 - AI support
 - Other
- Which support services are most needed but currently unavailable? (Select up to five)
 - Specialized software training (e.g. CI/CD, security, cloud infra)
 - Testing/QA/QC services
 - User experience design and testing support
 - Requirements gathering, analysis, and/or prioritization support
 - Research data management integration
 - Software preservation/archiving
 - AI support / training
 - Project management
 - Infrastructure support
 - Other
- How valuable would you find the following RSE community activities? (Likert scale)
 - Regular technical meetups - in person
 - Regular technical meetups - virtual
 - Code review support
 - Shared documentation practices
 - Cross-departmental project collaborations
 - RSE mentorship
 - Open source community building and best practices guidance
- Please feel free to share any additional thoughts about research software support at Hopkins.
 - Short answer / free text
- Are you familiar with the Open Source Programs Office at Hopkins?

- Yes/No

- Do you create open source software as part of your work?
 - Yes/No

- Are you currently contributing to any open source projects?
 - Yes/No

- Would you be willing to participate in a 30-minute focus group about the research software support network?