

There and Back Again

Reflections on an RTP Management Journey

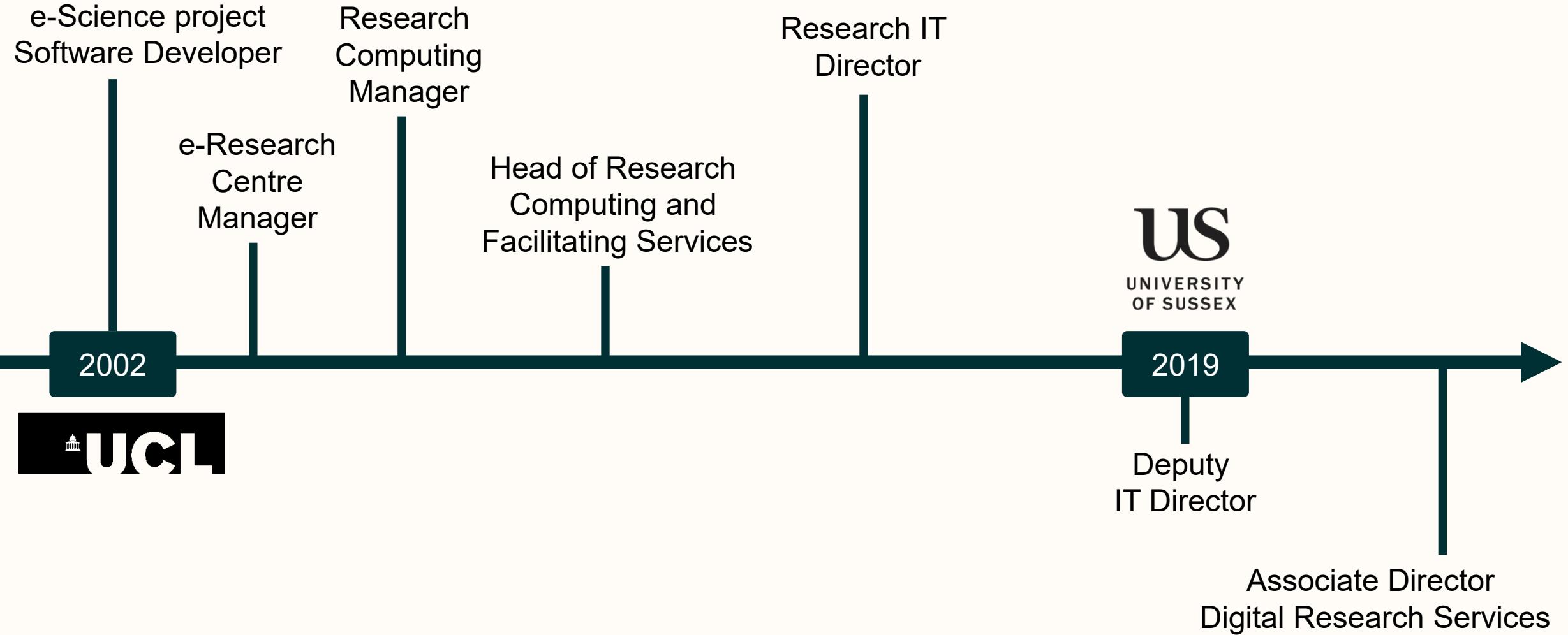
Clare Gryce



ACIT Hub Event
Bristol 8th July 2025

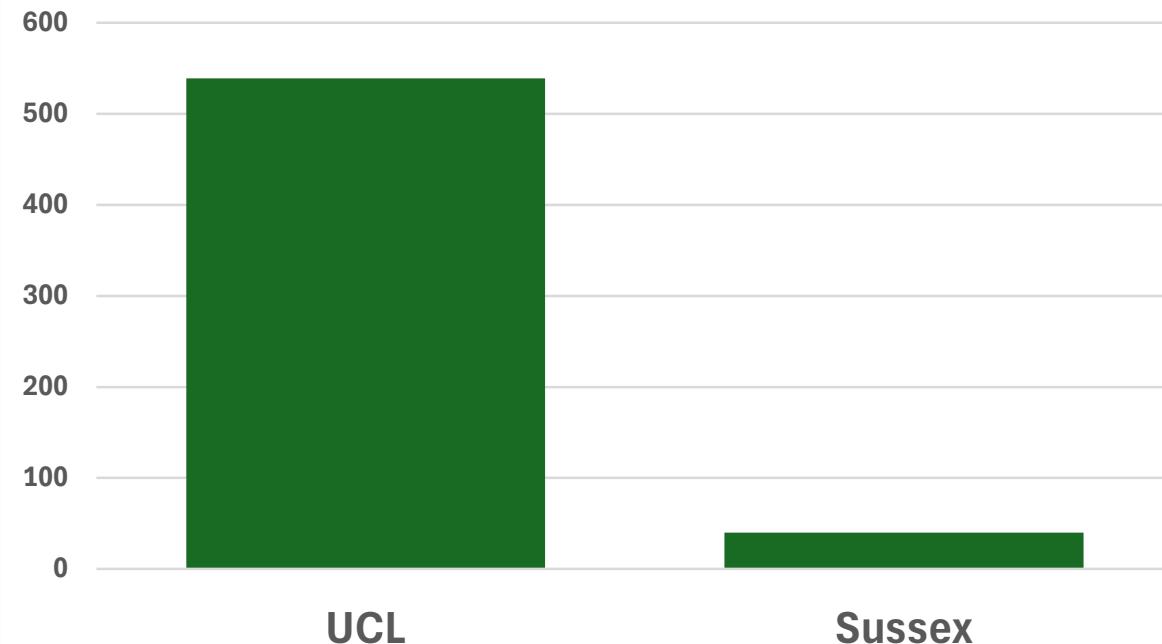
US
UNIVERSITY
OF SUSSEX

A Career History

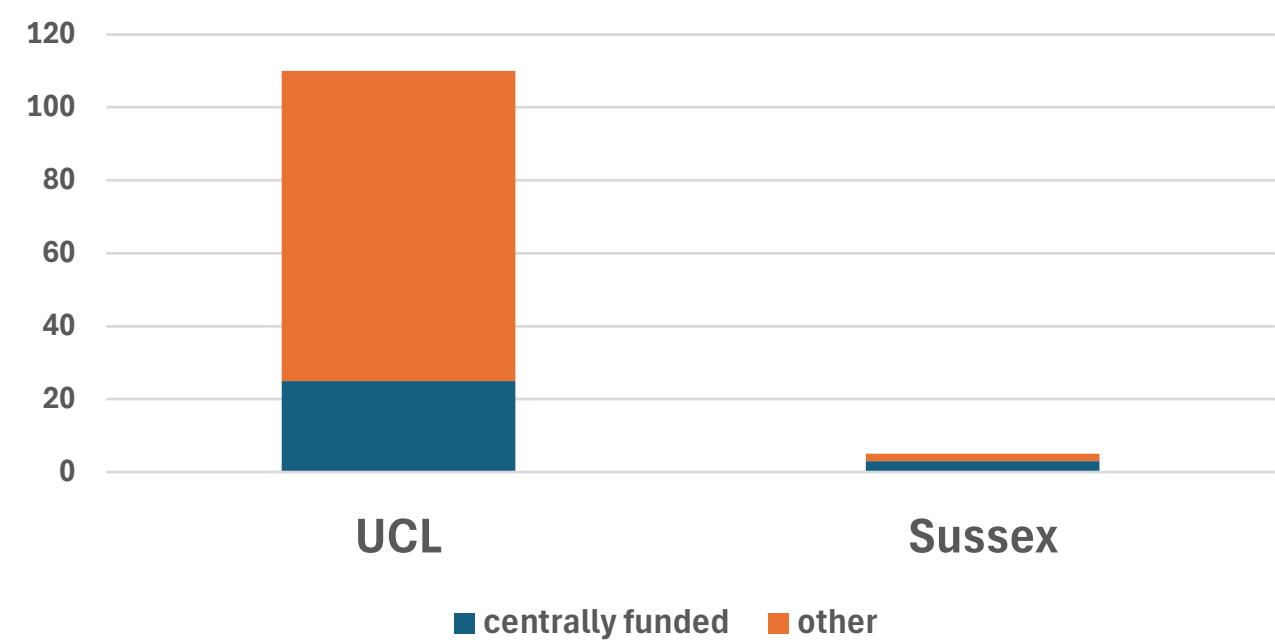


Two Universities ... Two Worlds

23/24 Research Income (m)

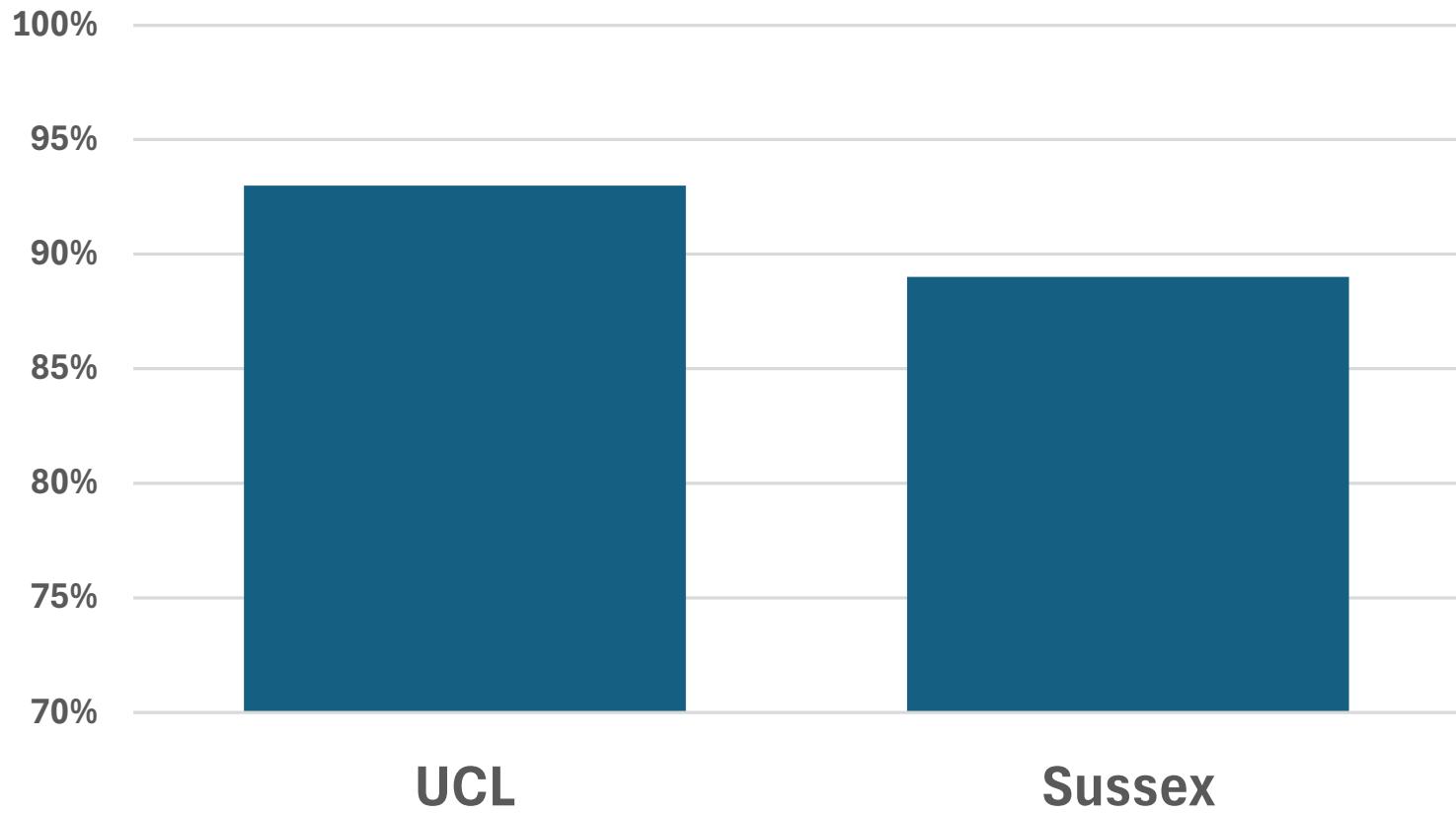


Research IT Headcount

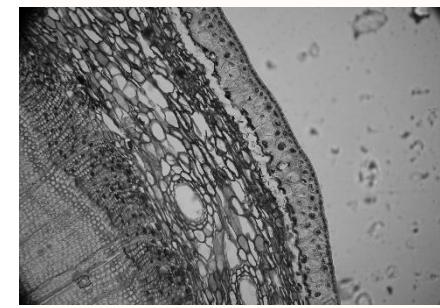
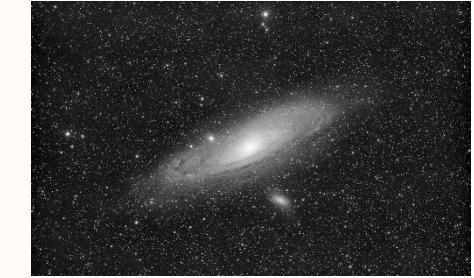


... but with similar ambitions

REF 21 percentage 4* and 3* outputs



| | | | | | |
|--------|-------|---------|-------|-------|---------|
| 95 | 5,970 | 35,933 | 1.710 | 1.720 | 3,117 |
| 1,542 | 1,720 | 539,137 | 0.314 | 0.316 | 233,167 |
| 1,900 | 0.314 | 48,100 | 1.180 | 1.190 | 778,186 |
| 1,781 | 1,190 | 833,789 | 0.332 | 0.338 | 68,000 |
| 44,500 | 0.332 | 10,000 | 0.460 | 0.479 | 158,294 |
| | 155 | 10,000 | 7,430 | 7,500 | 350,000 |



T⁵ I² M³ E¹

F² O³ R⁸

C⁴ H⁶ A² N² G⁴ E¹

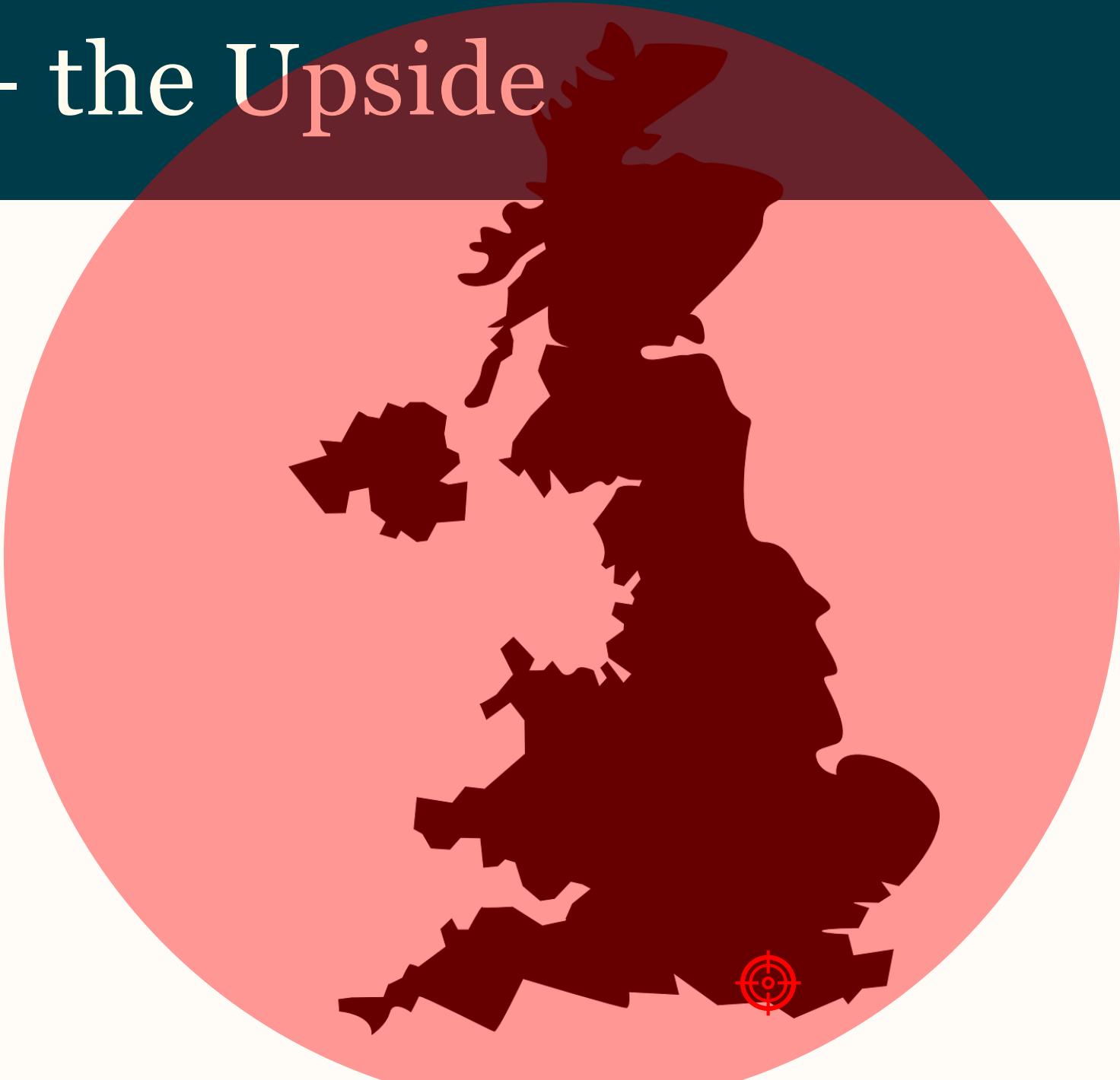
Big Pond



Small Pond



Post pandemic – the Upside



Evolving Job Descriptions

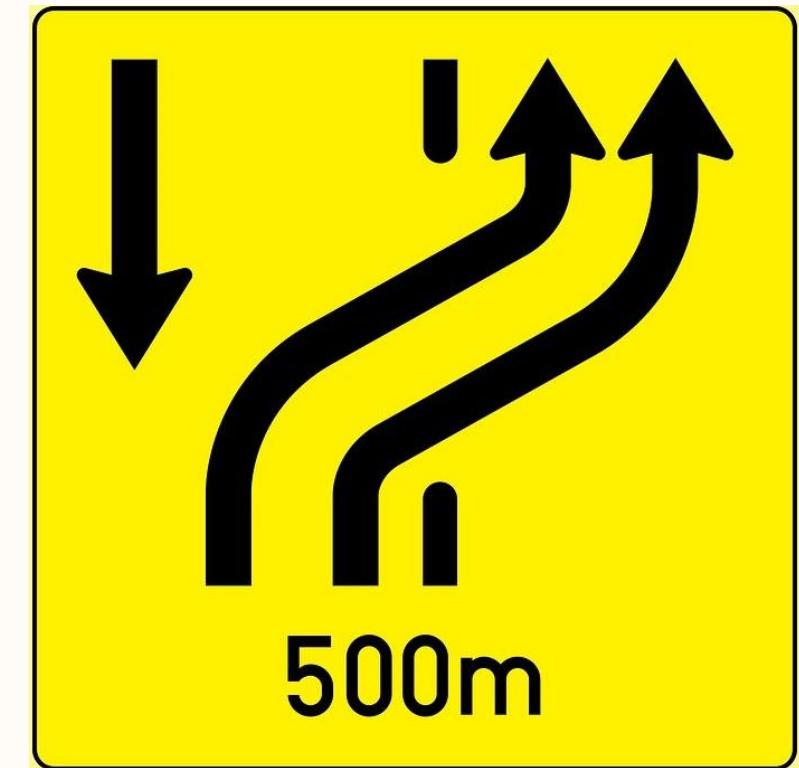
- Proven experience supporting or working with High Performance Computing (HPC) systems
- Familiarity with HPC schedulers
- TCP/IP and high-performance networks (Infiniband)
- Familiarity with MPI libraries and programming
- Solid experience with Linux system administration in a research environment

- Experience installing and administering Linux Operating Systems
- Familiarity with HPC schedulers
- Hands-on experience of Cloud computing technologies
- General knowledge of High Performance Computing and related technologies (parallel computing, parallel file systems)
- Experience working in a service-oriented environment

...but you're hiring a *person*

| Personal Attributes | Essential | Desirable |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Strong interest in University research activities | Y | |
| Highly service-focused | Y | |
| Reliable, dependable, trustworthy | Y | |
| Proactive and self-motivated learner; able to assimilate knowledge and acquire new skills whilst working | Y | |
| Willingness to share skills and knowledge with the team | Y | |
| Problem solving and analytical skills | Y | |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Knowledge of agile development methodologies | | Y |
| Knowledge of agile planning tools (e.g. JIRA, Confluence) | | Y |



‘Research Computing Modernisation’

Build a modern, scalable HPC infrastructure:

Replace legacy HPC cluster with cloud-native HPC system, combining performance with flexibility of software-defined infrastructure



Benefits for users

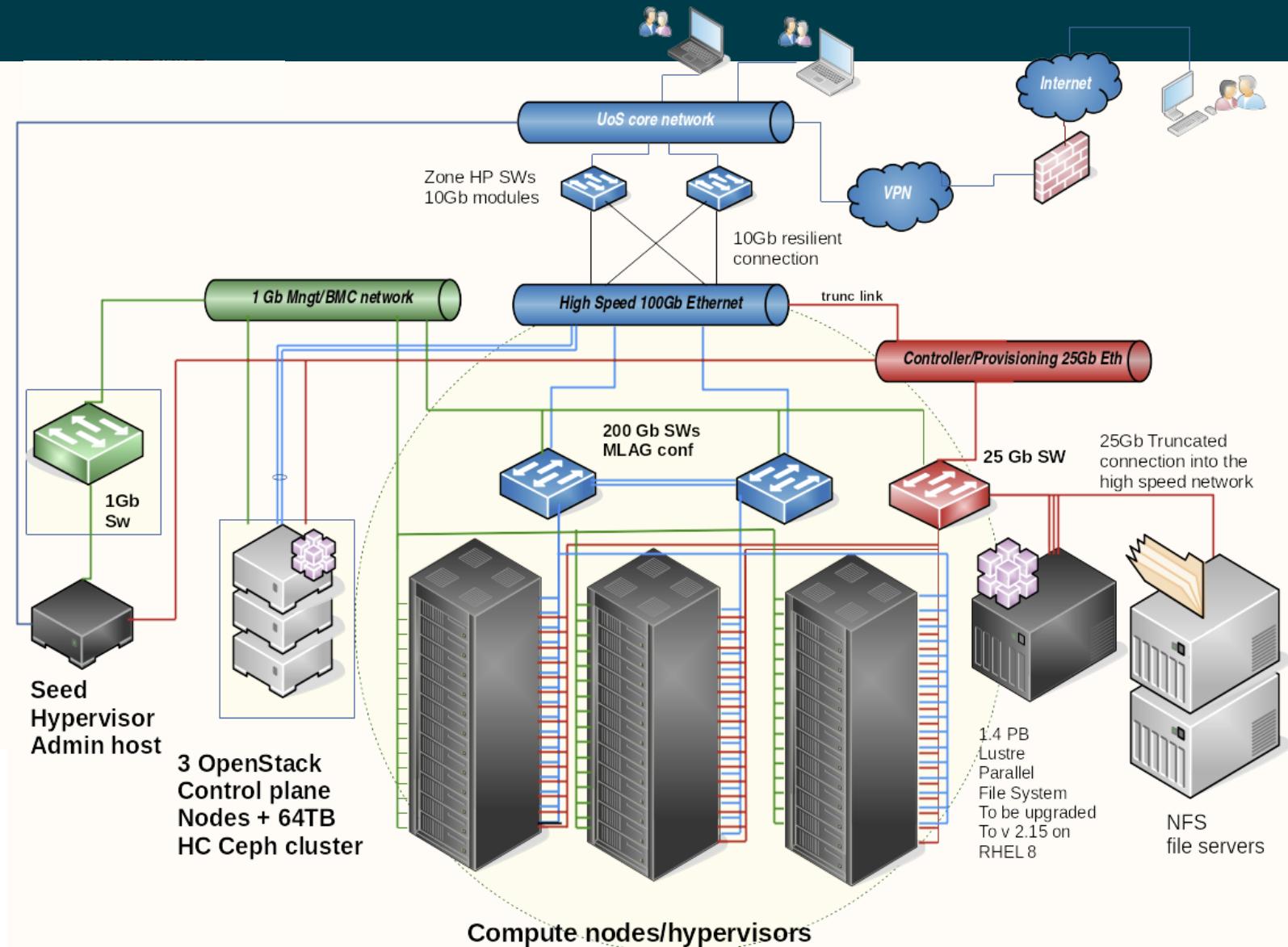
- ✓ Simplified HPC workload management
- ✓ User-friendly interfaces
- ✓ Self-service capabilities



Objectives for administrators

- Adopt DevOps & Continuous Integration practices
- Automation

Artemis OpenStack cluster



Moving Forwards ... Lessons to Learn



- PI co-investment
- Shadowing integrations & major SW updates
- Continuing OpenStack learning > application hosting
- Ceph storage

- Do not **over** prize technical skills
- Be open to different approaches
- Select technology partner carefully
- Don't neglect your non-tech skills
- Train others to hone your own skills
- Understand the organisational context

