



[www.chameleoncloud.org](http://www.chameleoncloud.org)

# CHAMELEON: AN INNOVATION PLATFORM FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

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CS CASE, University of Chicago

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**March 24th, 2022**

**Scientific Computing at Large**



# CHAMELEON IN A NUTSHELL

- ▶ Chameleons like to change: a testbed that adapts itself to your experimental needs
  - ▶ **Bare metal reconfigurability/isolation** + (alternative) KVM cloud (different cost/isolation trade-off)
  - ▶ Capabilities: power on/off, reboot, custom kernel, serial console access, etc.
- ▶ Balance: diversity and scale – from large to small
  - ▶ **Large to small:** from **supercomputing datacenters** (UC, TACC) with 100G network to **edge devices**
  - ▶ **Diverse:** FPGAs, GPUs, NVMe, NVDIMMs, Corsix switches, edge devices via CHI@Edge, etc.
  - ▶ **Distributed:** CHI-in-a-Box sites at **NCAR, Northwestern, and UIC**
- ▶ Cloud++: CHameleon Infrastructure (CHI) via mainstream cloud tech
  - ▶ Powered by **OpenStack** with bare metal reconfiguration (Ironic) + “special sauce” (50/50 split)
  - ▶ Blazar contribution recognized as official OpenStack component
- ▶ Reproducibility, repeatability, and sharing
  - ▶ **Jupyter integration** for imperative and non-transactional experiment packaging, **Chameleon daypass** for easy access, **Trove** for sharing and finding experiments, integration with **Zenodo** for publishing



## OPEN TESTBED – BY THE NUMBERS

450+

Papers  
published

45

Countries

800+

Unique  
projects

6,000+

Users

160+

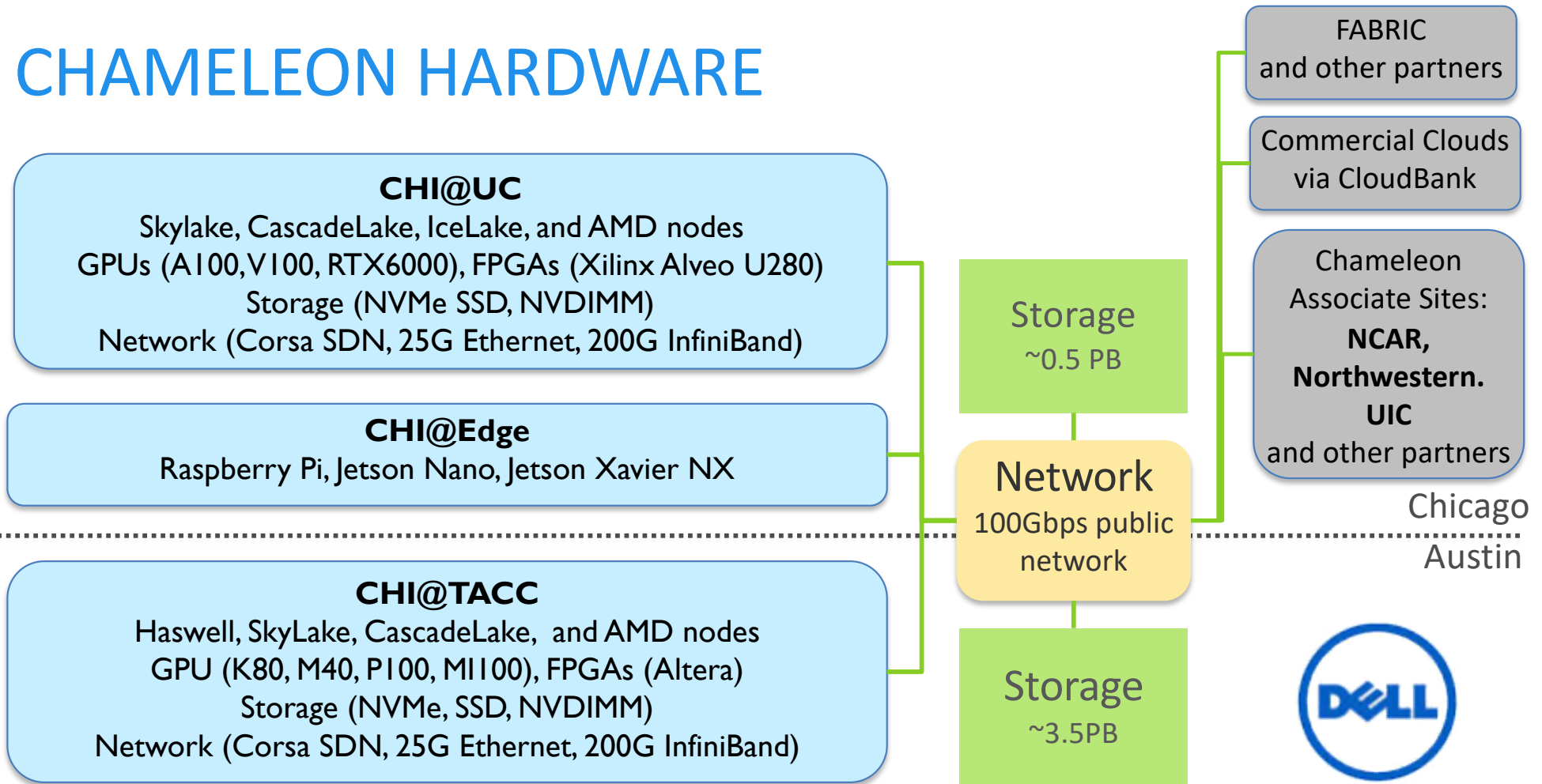
Institutions

6+

Years Old

~3 more years  
to grow!

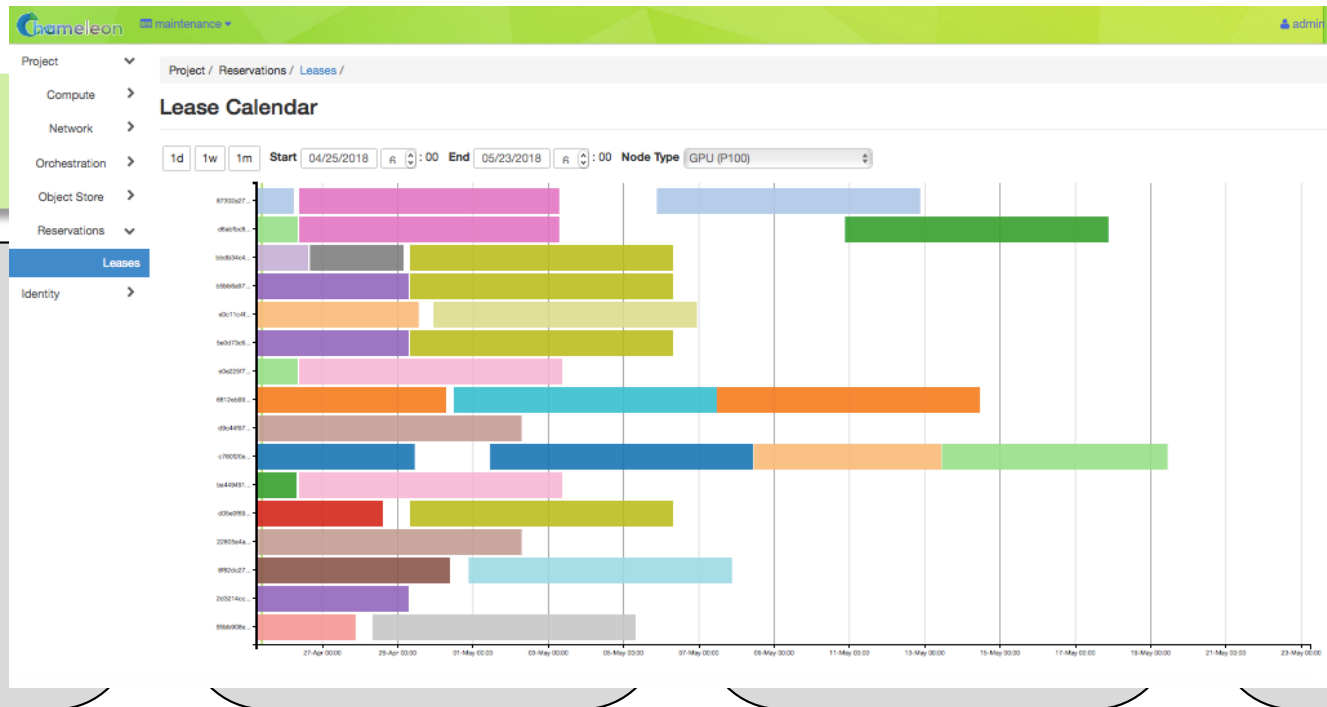
# CHAMELEON HARDWARE



# CHI EXPERIMENTAL WORKFLOW

discover  
resources

- Fine-grained
- Complete
- Up-to-date
- Versioned
- Verifiable



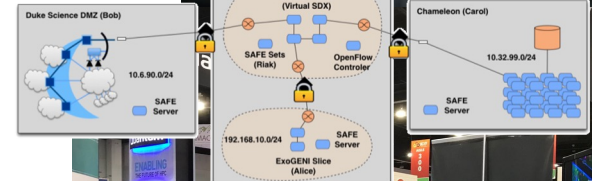
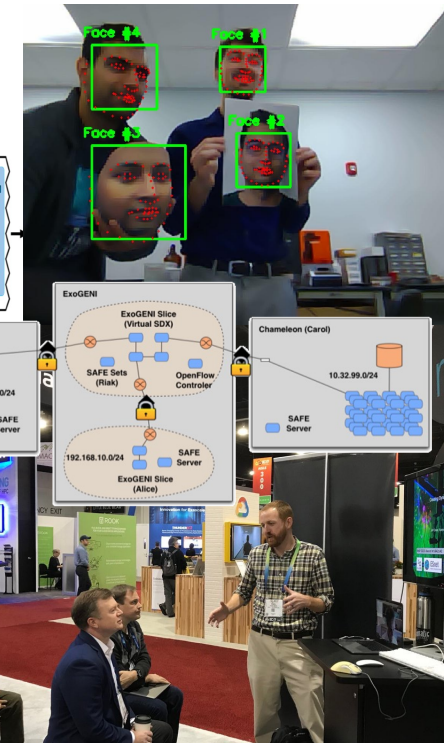
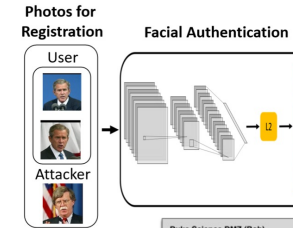
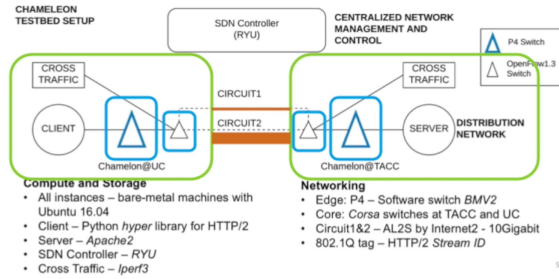
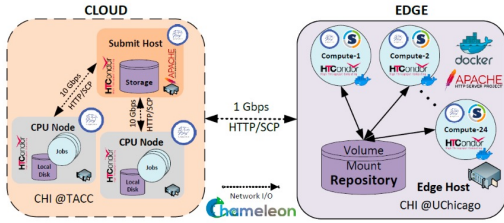
monitor

hardware metrics  
fine-grained data  
aggregate  
archive

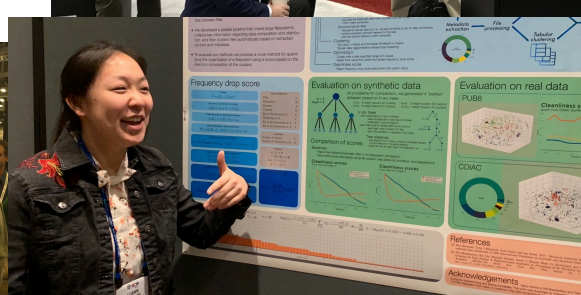
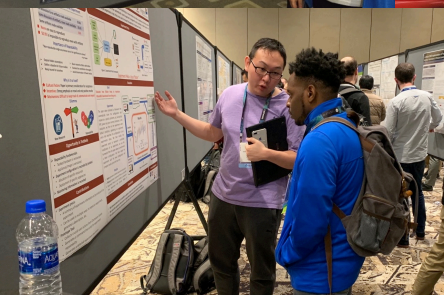
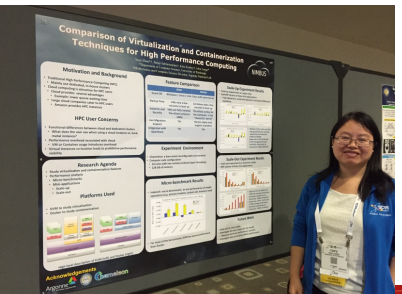
Authentication via federated identity, accessed via GUI, CLI and **python/Jupyter (python-chi)**

Paper: "Lessons Learned from the Chameleon Testbed", USENIX ATC 2020

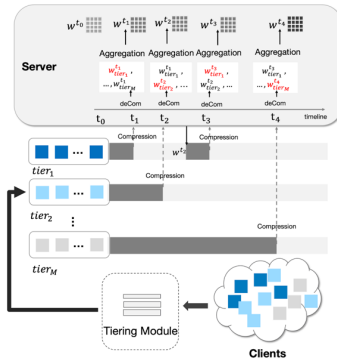
# LEAVING NO EXPERIMENT BEHIND



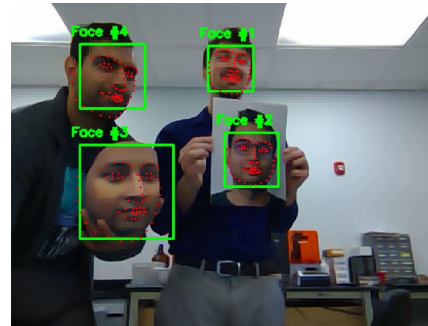
Supporting research projects in architecture, operating systems design, virtualization, power management, real-time analysis, security, storage systems, databases, networking, machine learning, neural networks, data science, and many others.



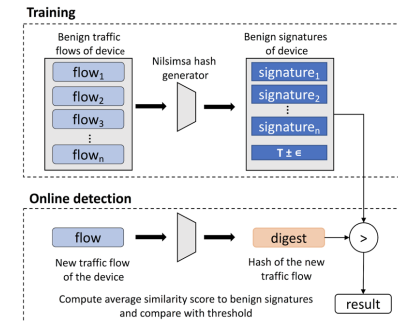
# FROM CLOUD TO EDGE WITH CHAMELEON



*federated learning*



*biometrics*



*network traffic fingerprinting for IoT devices*

- ▶ Increasingly more Chameleon project applications working on IoT/edge
- ▶ Simulation/emulation don't always provide the answer: What are the impacts of this approach on power management on edge device? How will the performance transfer to edge? Can we measure the impact of distribution/networking for edge/cloud applications?
- ▶ Goal: “realistic edge to cloud experiments from one Jupyter notebook”

# NEW IN P3: CHI@EDGE (PREVIEW)



A lot like a cloud!  
All the features we know  
and love – but for edge!

Not at all like a cloud!  
Location, location, location!  
IoT: cameras, actuators, SDRs!  
Not server-class!  
And many other challenges!



- ▶ CHI@Edge: all the features you know and love plus
  - ▶ Reconfiguration via container deployment
  - ▶ Support for peripherals based on an extensible plug-in model
  - ▶ **Mixed ownership** model via an SDK with devices, virtual site, and **restricted sharing**

*Paper: “Chameleon@Edge Community Workshop Report” at  
<https://www.chameleoncloud.org/about/papers-and-tech-reports/>*

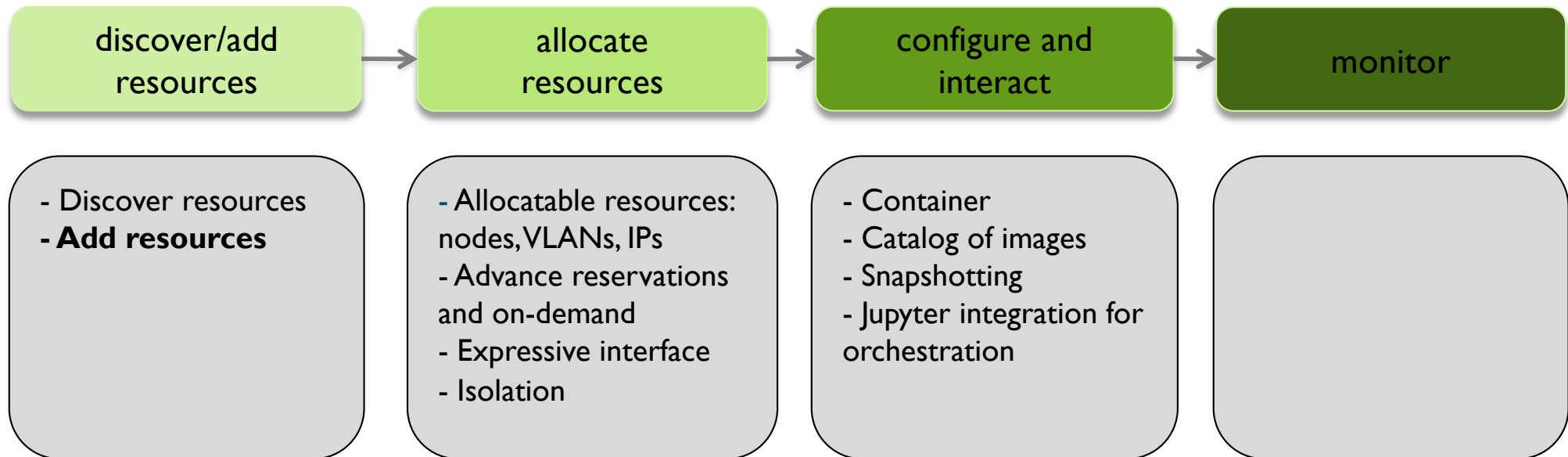




# FROM CLOUD TO EDGE



# CHI@EDGE EXPERIMENTAL WORKFLOW (PREVIEW)



*Authentication via federated identity, accessed via GUI, CLI and python/Jupyter (python-chi)*

# SHARING DEVICES THROUGH CHI@EDGE

- ▶ CHI@Edge SDK: fully automate the process of enrolling a device into CHI@Edge
- ▶ Support for **restricted leases**
  - ▶ You operate your device for your community and leverage our expertise on sharing
  - ▶ Your users get seamless access to the devices you operate for them + Chameleon + partnerships
- ▶ Access reasonable hardware properties e.g., GPUs
- ▶ Peripheral devices
  - ▶ Standard camera modules, GPIO, SDR
  - ▶ Extensible framework for integrating new devices
- ▶ In the process of migrating to CHI@Edge 2.0 now

# AUTONOMOUS CARS WITH CHI@EDGE



Rick Anderson  
Virtual Worlds, Director  
Rutgers University

- ▶ Goal:
  - ▶ Teach machine learning and systems concepts using remote autonomous cars
- ▶ Challenges:
  - ▶ Control the cars remotely: manual workflows require lots of teacher effort
  - ▶ Iterate on code while learning and exploring
  - ▶ Collect, store, and process large datasets
- ▶ CHI@Edge:
  - ▶ Car reservations
  - ▶ Access through JupyterHub
  - ▶ Provides consistent network connection
  - ▶ Deploy code and collect results with repeatable workflows



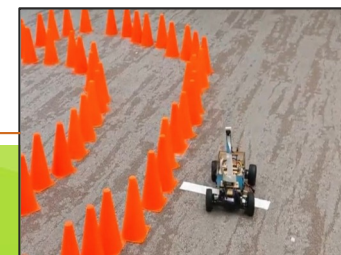
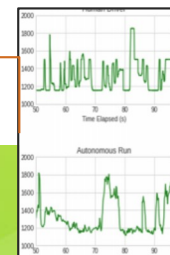
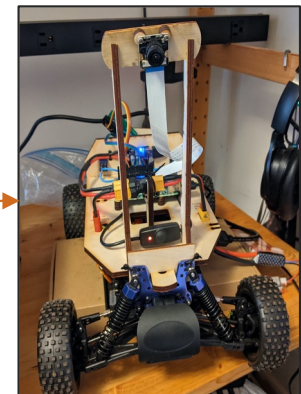
```
#!/usr/bin/env python
chi.use_site("CHI@Edge")
chi.set("project_name", "CHI-?????")

#Reserve a container lease
lease.add_device_reservation(reservations=[], count = 2, device_model = "4")
container_lease = lease.create_lease("lease", reservations)
lease.wait_for_active(container_lease["id"])
print("Lease: {container_lease['name']} is available.")

#provision containers and append them to a hashmap
PORT = "7777"
DIR = "/var/www/html"
letter_list = [chr(ord('a')+i) for i in range(container_lease["reservations"][0]["max"])]
device_list = [container.create_container(name = f"container-{letter}",
                                         image = "id",
                                         image_driver = "glance",
                                         workdir = DIR,
                                         exposed_ports = [PORT],
                                         command = ["python3", "-m", "http.server", PORT],
                                         reservation_id = container_lease["reservations"][0]["id"])
               for letter in letter_list]

edge_device = dict(zip(letter_list, device_list))

container.execute("container-a", "python3 -c 'import this'")
```



# ARA: WIRELESS LIVING LAB FOR SMART & CONNECTED RURAL COMMUNITIES

## ▶ ARA objectives

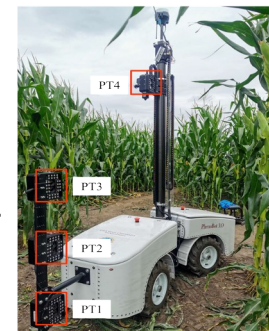
- ▶ Enable research to achieve a factor of 10+ reduction in broadband cost and make rural broadband as affordable as urban broadband!
- ▶ Support broadband use cases for rural communities

## ▶ ARA wireless living lab

- ▶ Deploy advanced wireless platforms in Central Iowa (>600 square miles); capture systems and application and community contexts of rural broadband
- ▶ Mainstream open-source platforms for living lab management and experimentation: OpenStack, CHI-in-a-Box & CHI@Edge, ONF (SD-RAN, SD-CORE, ONOS), srsRAN, OpenAirInterface etc
- ▶ CHI@Edge: collaborating on spectrum reservations for management of wireless networks and CHI@Edge in a Box



Hongwei Zhang, ARA PI  
Iowa State University

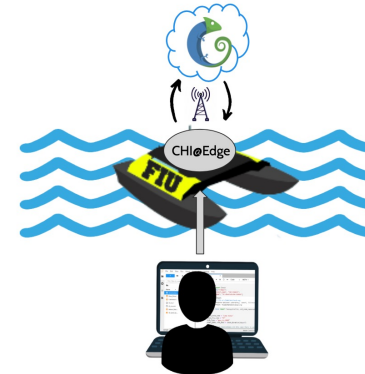
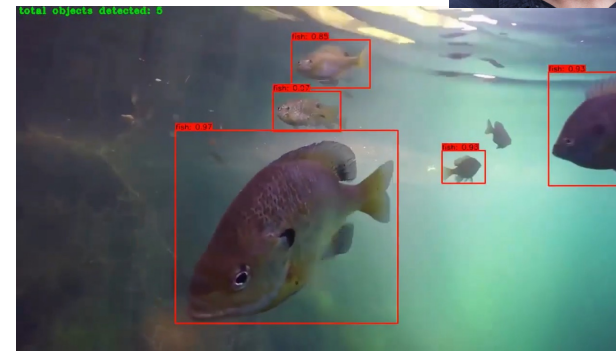
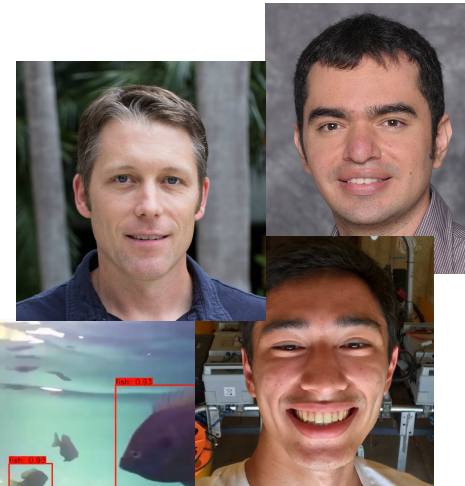


Location and Interior view of  
ISU Beef Nutrition Research Farm

# EDGE FOR MARINE BIOLOGY

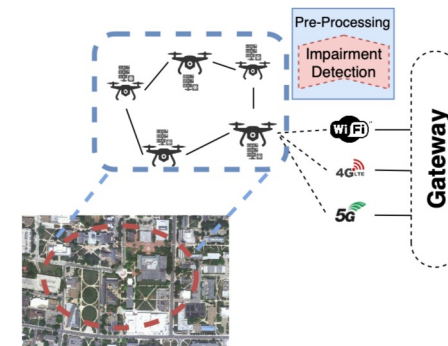
- ▶ Goal: map existing fish populations and thereby understand better how pollution impacts their habitat and the general Biscayne Bay ecosystem
- ▶ Challenges: What is the best cloud/edge strategy for collecting and analyzing data from the autonomous vehicle (AV)? How does the resolution of video data and quality of network connection influence them?
- ▶ CHI@Edge: using CHI@Edge for developing edge to cloud data processing workflows via Jupyter notebooks

Kevin Boswell, Leonardo Bobadilla,  
and Jonathan Tsen  
Florida International University

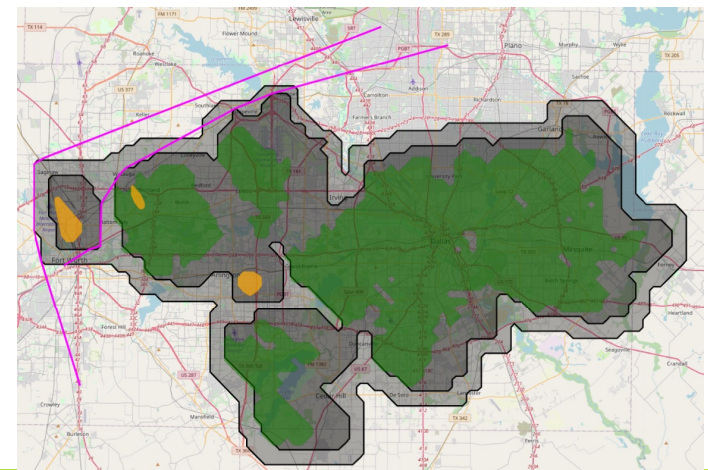


# FLYNET: AN 'ON-THE-FLY' PROGRAMMABLE END-TO-END NETWORK-CENTRIC PLATFORM

- ▶ Architecture and tools that support edge computing devices in scientific workflows
- ▶ Critical for low latency and ultra-low latency applications: e.g., drone video analytics and route planning for drones
- ▶ Challenges: integration of compute and networking infrastructure, in-network processing, end-to-end monitoring, workflow management (Pegasus)
- ▶ CHI@Edge
  - ▶ Use for edge computing experiments
  - ▶ Provide experiments that can be reproduced by other researchers
  - ▶ FlyNet to provide tools to allow researcher to include CHI@Edge in their workflows

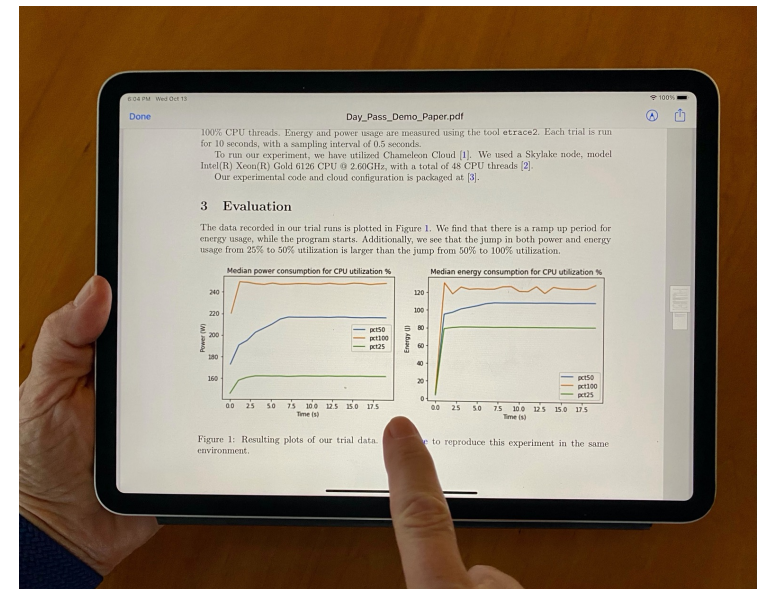


Mike Zink FlyNet PI  
U of Mass, Amherst



# PRACTICAL REPRODUCIBILITY

- ▶ Can experiments be as sharable as papers are today?
- ▶ Could it be as easy to provide conditions for reviewers to repeat experiments or data analysis in a paper as it is to organize a PC meeting?
- ▶ Can I simply integrate somebody's model into my research instead of reinventing the wheel?
- ▶ Can I have so much fun playing with somebody's experiment that discover a new result?
- ▶ Can I develop exercises for my class based on most recent research results?



*The existence of powerful open testbeds is a fundamental requirement for practical reproducibility*



# TESTBED AS SHARING PLATFORM

- ▶ **Instruments held in common** are a reproducibility imperative
  - ▶ Hardware and hardware versions: >105 versions over 5 years
  - ▶ Expressive allocation
- ▶ **Sharing via **cloud pattern****
  - ▶ Disk images, orchestration templates, and other artifacts
  - ▶ Chameleon >130,000 images, >35,000 orchestration templates and counting
- ▶ Testbed as “player” for environments



*Paper: “The Silver Lining”, IEEE Internet Computing 2020*

# WHAT IS MISSING?

- ▶ Packaging: complete, imperative, non-transactional, integrated (literate programming)

- ▶ Get access for reproducibility

- ▶ Discover/find experiments through various channels



- ▶ Package experiment in a way that is user-friendly but also cost-effective

- ▶ Give access for reproducibility

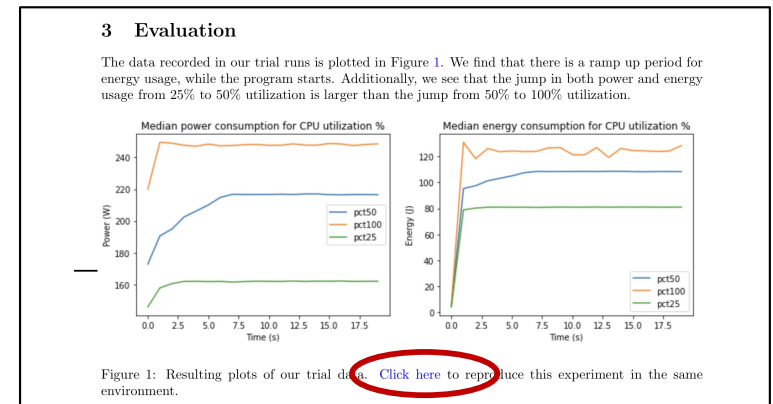
- ▶ Share work in progress; publish and advertise completed work





# TESTBED ACCESS WITH CHAMELEON DAYPASS

- ▶ Authors create a subproject with multiple short-term leases that are long enough to reproduce the experiment
- ▶ Readers click through data of a published experiment, request a daypass, and reproduce either the experiment or data analysis



Chameleon About Learn Experiment Blog Log in

Artifacts / Getting Started with Chameleon: Power management experiment

## Getting Started with Chameleon: Power management experiment

This notebook is a short example of how to use Chameleon notebooks to run a simple experiment, and analyze the data, using the python-chi interface.

Estimated duration: 1 hour  
Support contact: [help@chameleoncloud.org](mailto:help@chameleoncloud.org)

2 Sept. 29, 2021, 12:44 p.m. example experiment

Authors  
Jason Anderson (University of Chicago)  
Mark Powers (University of Chicago)

Request day pass

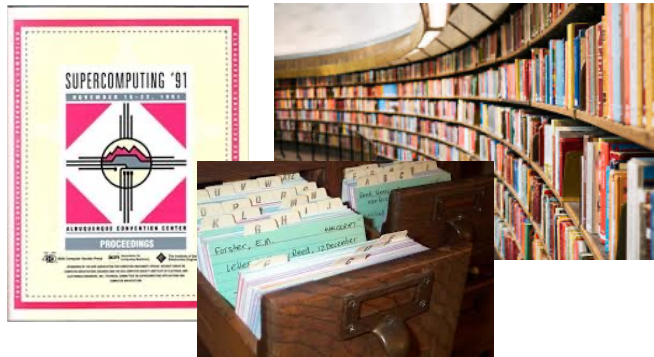
If you do not have an active Chameleon allocation, or would prefer to not use your allocation, you can request a temporary one from the PI of the project this artifact belongs to.

Versions

Version 2	Sept. 29, 2021, 12:43 p.m.
Version 1	Sept. 29, 2021, 12:37 p.m.

# SHARING AND FINDING EXPERIMENTS

*Familiar research sharing ecosystem*



*Digital research sharing ecosystem*



- ▶ Trove: sharing executable experiments
  - ▶ BINs to collect all the artifacts for an experiments -- fine-grained sharing, versioning
  - ▶ Portal to browse, filter, and find interesting experiments
  - ▶ Storing: Swift, Zenodo, and github (in progress)
  - ▶ Testbeds: Chameleon/Jupyter, FABRIC coming soon
- ▶ Digital publishing with Zenodo: make your experiments citable via Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs)

zenodo

# NEW FRONTIER: COMPOSABLE SYSTEMS

- ▶ Challenges: how can we make the most efficient use of all the heterogenous aspects of today's infrastructure? How can we map workloads inside a datacenter most efficiently onto available hardware? What are the availability bottlenecks and how can we scale efficiently across multiple dimensions to avoid them?
- ▶ How can Chameleon users leverage and/or experiment with composable systems?
- ▶ Can Chameleon itself be a composable system?
  - ▶ Can we dynamically present external resources as Chameleon resources?
  - ▶ Can we make Chameleon resources dynamically available through other systems?

# COMPOSABLE SYSTEMS FOR OUR USERS

- ▶ Composable hardware: Liquid
  - ▶ Disaggregated pools of components that can be flexibly combined
    - ▶ 10x NVIDIA A100 GPUs
    - ▶ (2->8)x 2-socket AMD EPYC 7763 64-Core/256G RAM
    - ▶ 2x 3.5TB NVMe SSD
  - ▶ Fungible versus non-fungible presentation
- ▶ Alternative: nodes with GPUs, NVDIMMs, large variety of SSDs, etc. connected by RDMA

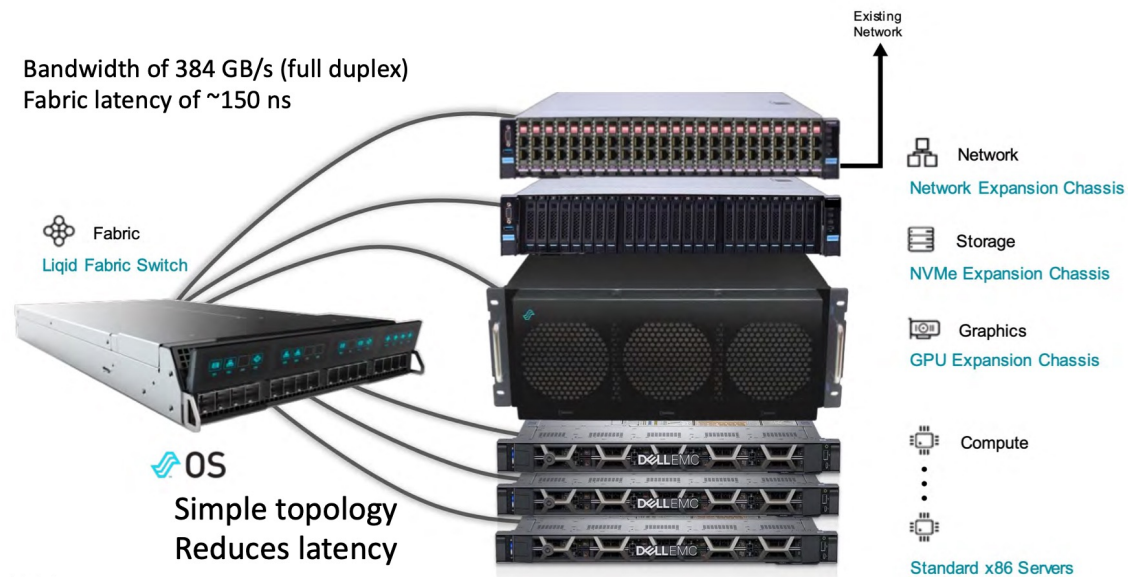


Image courtesy of Lance Long, Electronic Visualization Laboratory, University of Illinois Chicago, NSF Award #CNS-1828265

# CHI-IN-A-BOX: CHAMELEON NEAR YOU!

- ▶ CHI-in-a-box: packaging of CHameleon Infrastructure (CHI)
  - ▶ Packaging of a commodity-based testbed
  - ▶ Packages the system as well as the operations model
- ▶ Dynamic inventory management with Doni
  - ▶ Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) model: allows administrators to dynamically enroll/de-enroll resources, define availability windows, and streamline operational tasks
  - ▶ Requires fixed POC (controller node) configuration on the site
- ▶ Packaging and operations strategies
  - ▶ Hub and spoke management, version-controlled site configuration management as code, containerization, streamlined configuration, monitoring, detection, and remediation tools
  - ▶ End-user services





# [Runbook] IronicNodeInErrorState

Jason Anderson edited this page yesterday · 2 revisions

Build of neutron (train) failed. [View build log](#)

Build of neutron (rocky) completed successfully. [View build log](#)

15:41 **chameleon-ci** APP

Deployment of neutron (ansible-uc-dev) starting. [View job](#)

 1 reply 20 hours ago

15:58 **GitHub** APP

 **diurnalist**

1 new commit pushed to `master`

`44aa3f09` - Ensure latest version of Kolla checked out

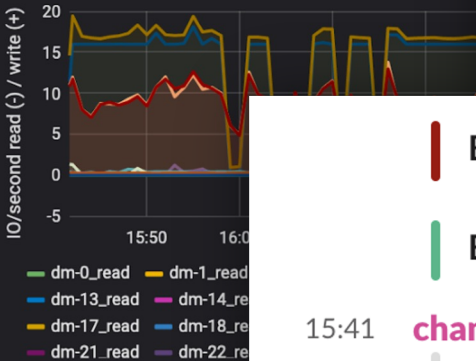
 ChameleonCloud/service-containers

.extra . A node that has been reset by the hammer will have a "hammer\_error\_resets" key with timestamps for each time a reset was performed.

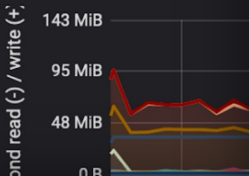
2. If there are more than `max_attempts` (3 at time of writing), then this node could have an issue with its IPMI interface and should be put into maintenance.

Host | Overview ▾

Disk IOs per Device



Disk



16:22 **Alert**

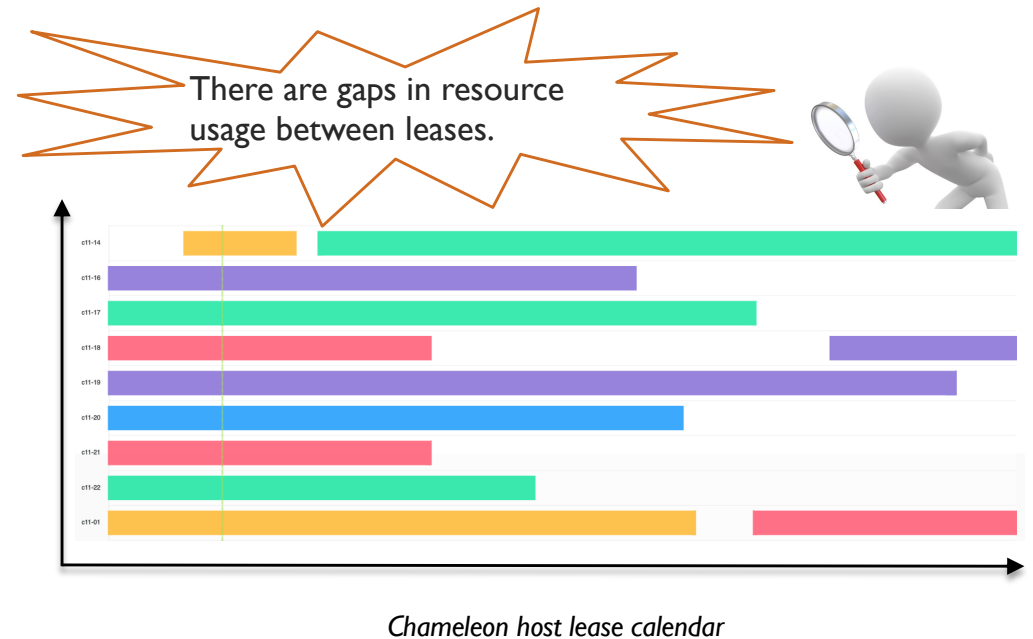


# CHI-IN-A-BOX SCENARIOS AND ADOPTION

- ▶ CHI-in-a-box scenarios
  - ▶ **Independent Testbed:** package assumes independent account/project management, portal, and user support
  - ▶ **Chameleon Associate Sites:** sites join the Chameleon testbed full time, leverage central services and user support provided by the project
  - ▶ **Part-time Chameleon Associate Site:** like Associate Site but inventory is committed on part-time basis (BYOD)
- ▶ Adoption
  - ▶ Chameleon Associate Site at Northwestern (full support since 01/21), NCAR (since 01/22), UIC (since 02/11), and others in progress
  - ▶ Independent Testbed through ARA (funded in 07/21, currently in construction)

# YIN AND YANG: COMPOSABLE SYSTEMS

- ▶ Can we fill gaps in resources usage with HTC workflows?
  - ▶ Characteristics of a workload that can consume our resources
  - ▶ Mechanisms whereby they can be exported
  - ▶ Mechanisms that allow them to be consumed
- ▶ Collaboration with OSG



*Paper: “Dynamically Negotiating Capacity Between On-demand and Batch Clusters”, SC18*  
*Paper: “Improving utilization of infrastructure clouds”, CCGrid 2011*

# PARTING THOUGHTS

- ▶ Constantly in motion: scientific instruments are laying down the pavement as science walks on it
- ▶ **The great exodus:** from cloud to edge: from expensive **provider-owned** hardware to inexpensive **user-owned** hardware using testbed **sharing and connecting** mechanisms
- ▶ **Creating a market for open science:** **open** access to **common resources** is the necessary condition – the sufficient conditions are in **programmability/packaging, sharing, and access management**
- ▶ **Composable systems:** adapting hardware to workloads with diverse characteristics – for our users and our system

*Think Big!*

*(with the help of a small reptile)*



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