

myexperiment

A MySpace for the Self-serving Bioinformatician.

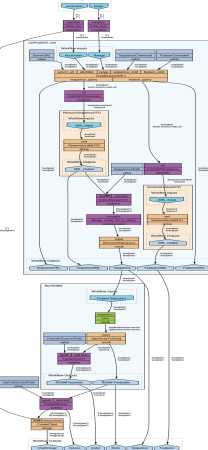
Carole Goble
 University of Manchester, UK
carole.goble@manchester.ac.uk

from the myGrid people who brought you Taverna

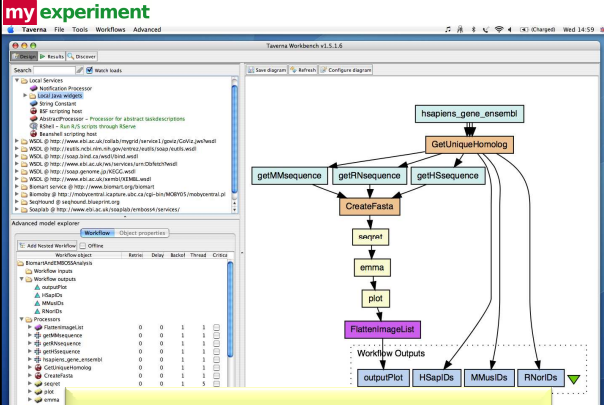
Talk Roadmap

- Workflows (and, in particular, Taverna workflows)
- Workflows are hard won assets and valuable commodities
- myExperiment
 - Social: networking and shopping.
 - Repository: from workflows to Research Objects.
 - Platform: federation, hosting and mashing.
- The Self Serving Selfish Scientist.
- Closing remarks

E. Science laboris



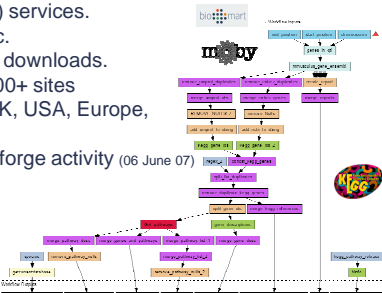
- Workflows are the new rock and roll.
- Machinery for **coordinating** the execution of (scientific) services and **linking** together (scientific) resources.
- The era of Service Oriented Applications
- Repetitive and mundane boring stuff made easier.
- The challenge for biology is complexity and heterogeneity, not so much compute.



Taverna Workflow Workbench

Taverna Workflow Workbench

- myGrid project <http://www.mygrid.org.uk>
- Open Middleware Infrastructure Institute-UK.
- Open Source.
- Dataflow over (web) services.
- Application agnostic.
- 37,754 sourceforge downloads.
- 1,500 per month, 200+ sites
- Users throughout UK, USA, Europe, and SE Asia
- Ranked 210 sourceforge activity (06 June 07)



e-Services and Service Providers in the CLOUD

- Independent third party world-wide service providers of applications, tools and data sets. In the Cloud.
- My local applications, tools and datasets. In the Enterprise. In the laboratory.
- Easily incorporate new service without coding. So even more services from the cloud and enterprise.
- Open Services
- 3500+ service operations



e-Scientists in the CLOUD



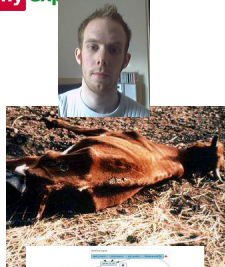
- Individual life scientists, in under-resourced labs, who use other people's applications, with little systems support.
- 200+ groups, ~1000 individuals.
- Exploratory workflows
- The developers are (often) the users. Consumers are providers too.

- A distributed, disconnected community of scientists.
- Decoupled suppliers and consumers of services and workflows.
- Scientists in an enterprise and in large projects
- Scientists out of the enterprise, in small projects or sole traders.



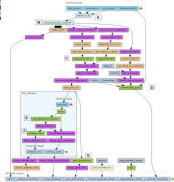
- Systems biology
- Proteomics
- Gene/protein annotation
- Microarray data analysis
- Medical image analysis
- Heart simulations
- High throughput screening
- Phenotypical studies
- Phylogeny
- Text mining
- Plants, Mouse, Human
- Astronomy

Trypanosomiasis in Cattle



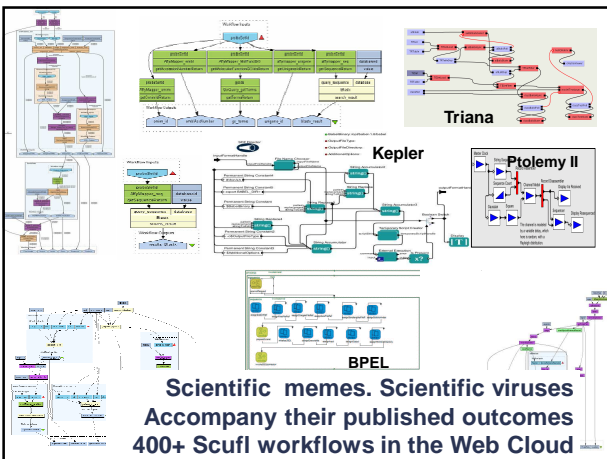
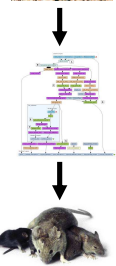
- QTL, microarray analysis, text mining, annotation mining.
- By a PhD student. Paul.
- Identified a pathway for which its correlating gene (Daxx) is believed to play a role in trypanosomiasis resistance.
- Manual analysis on the microarray and QTL analysis failed to identify this gene as a candidate.
- Repetitive, unbiased analysis.

NAR paper



Recycling, Reuse, Repurposing

- Paul meets Jo.
- Trypanosomiasis cattle workflow reused without change.
- Identified the biological pathways involved in sex dependence in the mouse model, previously believed to be involved in the ability of mice to expel the parasite.
- Previously a manual two year study, by Jo, of candidate genes had failed to do this.



Workflow baggage

- Design**
 - Workflow design history
 - Experiment purpose
 - Scientist
- Log Book**
 - Workflow run log
 - Data lineage tracking
 - Results interpretation view
- Data**
 - Input data, configuration
 - Outcomes
- Publications**
 - Notes and hints
 - Powerpoint decks
 - Articles
- Components**
 - Services
 - Applications



Why stop at workflows?

What about SBML models?
Wet lab protocols?

Publication transparency

The end to Black Box Science, by publishing workflows alongside publications and data.

Publishing Principles: The CombeChem experience

- Focus on making it easy to publish information
- Discovering and sharing experimental artefacts
- Publishing results to standard community repositories
- Publishing scholarly output.
- Publication at source.

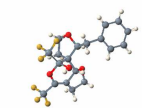
2-Benzyl-4',6'-bis(trifluoromethyl)-6'-hydroxy-2',3',7',7a'-tetrahydro-6'H-spiro-(furan-3,7'-(furo(3,2-c)pyran))

S. J. Coles, J. M. Mellor, A. H. El-Sagheer, E. E. -D. M. Salem and R. N. Medvedy.

University of Southampton

C₁₉H₁₈F₈O₄

CCDC Code: W00SSUS
ICM Code: C19H18F8O4.20-17(21.22)13-12.8H2-8H2-28-15H(12)16(18)28H-29-13)19(23,24)25)7H2-8H2-27-14H(16)10H2-11-4H-2H-1H-3H-5H-11 (Google for icm)
Compound Class: Organic
Keywords: additions; Grignard reagents; trifluoromethylketones
Creation Date: 13 September 1999
Deposited By: Suzanne L. Huth
Deposited On: 30 July 2004



Available Files

Data collection parameters
Chemical formula C19 H18 F8 O4

Final Result	Size
99so0229_data99so0229.cif	14k
99so0229_data99so0229.cml	7k

Workflows are more than just plumbing....

- Workflows are protocols and records.
 - Explicit and precise descriptions of a scientific protocol.
 - Scientific transparency. Easier to explain, share, relocate, reuse and repurpose and remember.
 - Provenance of results for credibility.
- Workflows are know-how.
 - Specialists create applications; experts design and set parameters; inexperienced punch above their weight with sophisticated protocols.
- Workflows are collaborations.
 - Multi-disciplinary workflows promote even broader collaborations.

Workflows are hard work...

- Often complex.
 - Need intelligent steering and analysis.
 - Need explanations to ensure used properly and safely.
- Challenging and expensive to develop.
 - Development assistance. Don't start from scratch.
 - Take a long time to build good ones & a lot of know-how.
- You can still build bad workflows.
 - Enable scientists to be scientists, not programmers.
 - Enable scientists to be creative yet sound.

Workflows are commodities...

- Valuable first class assets in their own right.
 - To be pooled and shared and traded and reused.
 - Within communities and across communities.
 - Of pieces, of wholes, of when and how to.
 - Pattern books. Validated community workflow packs.
 - Publish workflows
 - Peer review workflows.
 - Components of published and repeatable experiment objects to accompany their published outcomes, like papers.
- But... Reusability often confined to the project it was conceived.
- Social and technical challenges for sharing and reuse.

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Aerospace Engine Design Analogy

90% design Is variant design
70% of information taken from previous designs

Source: Silvia Wong, Uni Southampton

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Questions

- Which workflow do other people I respect recommend for microarray normalisation?
- How do I use this service effectively?
- What does this workflow do?
- Is there a workflow that does close to what I want? Or need?
- Can I interpret the provenance of this data item properly?
- How do I run and steer this workflow?
- Can I substitute my service/database ok?
- Can I run this alien workflow?
- Did someone else run this and have a problem? Or get some different result?
- What other workflows were used with this workflow?
- Is this workflow reliable? Does it still work? How can I make it work when one of the services doesn't run anymore?

?

my experiment

e-Science is empowering-Scientists

- Enabling scientists to be (more) creative.
- Enabling scientists to be scientists. And not programmers.
- Enabling mediocre scientists to become better and thus have better science.
- Enabling smart scientists to be smarter and propagate their smartness.
- Accelerate dissemination, pooling, insight.
- Encouraging sanctioned plagiarism.

■ For a community that are IN THE CLOUD and not in an ENTERPRISE.

myGrid

Local Libraries and Warehouses of Workflows trapped in their enterprises or platforms

Paul Fisher - TrypsProject - Twiki - Mozilla Firefox

http://www.genomics.su.ac.uk/twiki/view/TrypProject/PaulFisher

Tryps Twiki World

Current Research

At present am in my first year of a PhD looking into the possibility of using generalised workflows to aid with Genotype-Phenotype correlations. This is being conducted through the **myGrid** project utilising the workbench Taverna as the interface to these workflows.

A preliminary use case for this project has been to replicate the processes, post normalisation, of gene annotation and probe-set analysis specifically looking at information held within QTLs. This annotation has also included interactions between genes in the QTL, metabolic pathways and microarray data held in various maxQ databases. It is hoped that with all possible information gathered into a central resource or data cache, that these relationships can be investigated more thoroughly. Such information would allow gene expressions to be linked to annotation data, protein interactions, metabolic pathways, gene ontologies etc.

* kegg_gene_id_to_pathway.png

SRS links: SwissProt to EMBL ID on Flickr - Photo Sharing! - Mozilla

Tagging In the Web Cloud

flickr

Home Learn More Sign Up! Explore

Search everyone's photos

SRS links: SwissProt to EMBL ID

database	fieldname	SWISSPROT_ID	val_database
value	value	value	value

A **Graphviz** visualisation of a very simple workflow (just one "Web service") that can be executed with the **Taverna** workbench.

SRS links is a service can be used to map between different identifiers used to identify biological sequences (e.g. DNA, Protein) in different databases. This particular workflow maps from SWISSPROT ID [accessions](#) to EMBL ID [accessions](#) (and others). The database parameter specifies the database to search, e.g. uniprot, the fieldname parameter specifies which fields to search e.g. AllText searches all fields and finally the val_database parameter specifies the target database to map to e.g. embl. As well as outputting an EMBL_ID the service produces a report on the operation. See e.g. www.ebi.ac.uk/seq-expr/seq-expr.html or Taverna for more details.

SWISS2EMBL is just one mapping the service can perform, there are many others, because molecular.biology.is.dreaming.in.databases.

MySpace or FaceBook for Workflow e-Scientists

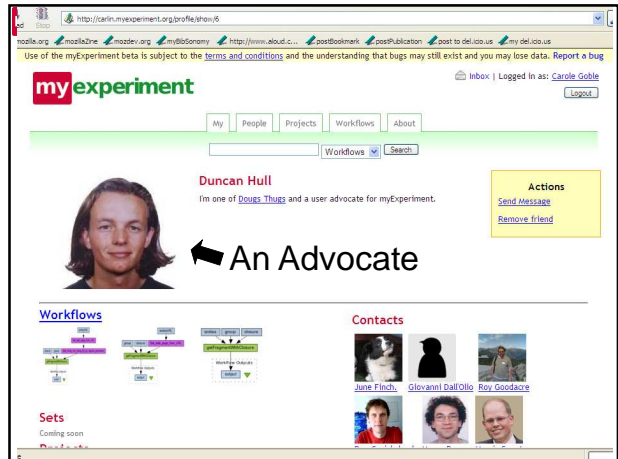


myExperiment makes it really easy for the next generation of scientists to contribute to a pool of scientific workflows, build communities and form relationships. myExperiment enables scientists to share, re-use and repurpose workflows and reduce time-to-experiment, share expertise and avoid reinvention.

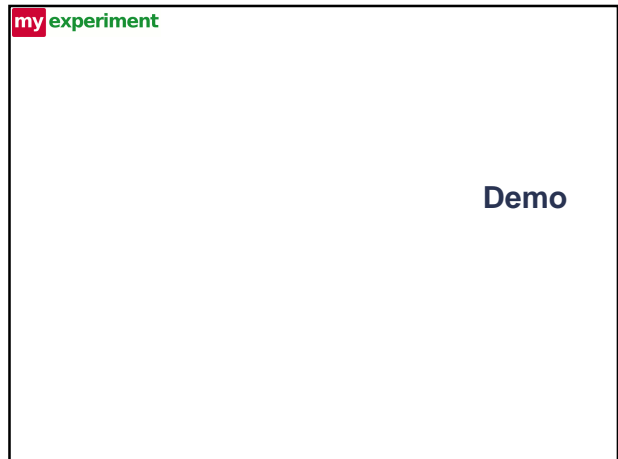
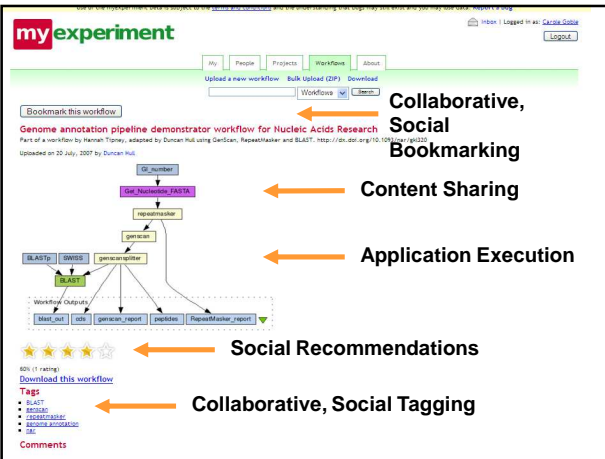
"Their kids may have got there first but scientists will soon have their very own version of MySpace, where they will be able to share preliminary results, ideas and research tools."
— [New Scientist Tech](#), October 2006.

myExperiment introduces the concept of a workflow bazaar, a collaborative environment where scientists can safely publish their creations, share them with a wider group and find the workflows of others. Workflows can now be swapped, sorted and searched like photos and videos on the web.

[myexperiment.org](#)




← An Advocate



Demo

Key evaluator and inspiration

- Cat De Roure
- Her idea.
- 15 years old.
- This is one of her MySpace pictures.
- Immediately understood it.
- Immediately could use it.
- "It's like MySpace for science homework."



myExperiment.org is...

- A market place.
- A community social network.
- A gateway to other publishing environments.
- A federated repository
- A platform for launching workflows.
- Publishing self-describing encapsulated myExperiment Objects.
- Mindful publication.
- Started February 2007.

myExperiment.org principles...

- Make it easy to publish, easy to participate, easy to add value to though mash-ups
- Use familiar techniques
 - Shopping, Social networking, gaming
- Use off the shelf, open source web tooling, not restrictive portals. Keep it funky, keep it flexible, keep it extensible. Assume other people will add functionality.
 - Ruby on Rails, Facebook platform
- Aim it at young people. Make it fun and attractive. Say no to 1970s library interfaces!

Front End.

A market place.
A community social network.

User Participation.

A Market Place: Shoe Shop?

- Shopping for Workflows and Services and Data should be as easy as shopping for shoes.
- Don't need to train people.
- Fuel for diagnostics. Find a similar workflow.
- Organic growth good and bad.
- We need good, organised metadata for automated use.
- Impedance mismatch
- Identity and Ontology Authority



A Social Network and Collective Intelligence

- Source of large amount of metadata.
- Open tagging, folksonomies, blogging, profiles, recommendations.
- Social network analysis and e-tracking are valuable intelligence.
- How do we avoid being deafened by the shouting?
- What are the incentive models for scientists?

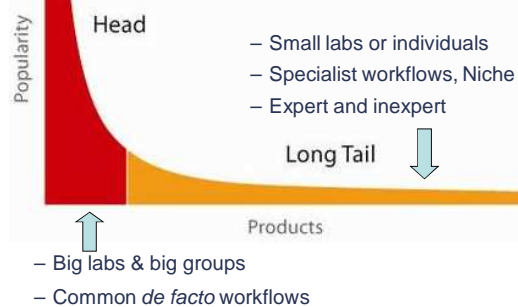


Semantic Sweatshop

- Service vocabularies and curation in the wild
 - Keywords and tagging only goes some of the way.
 - Curation
- Workflow metadata
 - Find a workflow that is similar to what I want or need; similar to this one. Or hers. Hmmm.
- Recommendations, people profiles
- Fuel for discovery and diagnostics
- Pipeline from tag cloud to shop



Leveraging and Serving The Long Tail of Users in the Cloud



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Back End.

**Federated repositories.
A gateway to other publishing environments.
A platform for launching workflows.**

User Participation.

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Warehouse or Federation

- Community web site, federated repository.
- Multiple and My.
- Publish what I want when I want within the group I want.
- Mixed identity regimes: an identity authority
- Open Archives Initiative. <http://www.openarchives.org/>
- The CombeChem project. <http://www.combechem.org/>

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A gateway to other publishing services

- Tryps team already has a wiki
- Mash up with Facebook and workflow hosting apps.
- Bring functionality to the user. Cooperate! Don't Control.

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We Need You! Cooperate, Don't Control

- A network of cooperating data services with simple interfaces which make it easy to work with content.
- Provides services
- Reuses the service of others.
- Support lightweight programming models so that it can easily be part of loosely coupled systems.
- You add a mashup!
- Workflows as content

my experiment

A platform – popular request!

- See a workflow? Launch it! Coming soon....
 - The ability to execute workflows from myExperiment + integration of tools such as Taverna achieves increased value through usage – network effects.
 - And lets do that with Kepler, Triana etc
 - The WHIPs project for a workflow hosting portal environment. Funded by OMII-UK. Run by Triana!
 - Handling of results? Wiki pages?
- Workflows available through a variety of interfaces supporting workflow execution.

Workflow Inputs: pubmed_database, terms

Workflow Outputs: num_of_fetch, xml_output

100% (1 rating) Execute this workflow

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Logged in as: Don Cruickshank

My People Projects Workflows About

List Jobs

Workflow Inputs

submed_database terms

parameters XML

run_etlch

Workflow Outputs

xml_output

Input data

terms: nucleic translation

Submit job

Create job for workflow "Perform a text based search through PubMed"

This workflow takes in a number of search terms in which to perform a search over the PubMed literature database. These search terms may be input as if entered in the web based version of PubMed. The output from this workflow is a list of PubMed Identifiers in xml format

Uploaded on 07 September, 2007 by Don Cruickshank

myexperiment

Logged in as: Don Cruickshank

My People Projects Workflows About

List Jobs

Job list

27	BiomartAndEMBOSSanalysis	Running	Fri Jul 27 11:55:52 +0100 2007
28	NucleotideFasta	Running	Fri Jul 27 11:58:21 +0100 2007
29	A workflow version of the EMBOSS tutorial	Running	Fri Sep 07 17:50:41 +0100 2007
31	Perform a text based search through PubMed	Running	Fri Sep 07 17:59:27 +0100 2007

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Logged in as: Don Cruickshank

My People Projects Workflows About

List Jobs

Job #31 - Perform a text based search through PubMed

Status: Running

Inputs: terms: nucleic translation

Outputs: There are no results.

Cancel job

What to do with the outputs?

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The Selfish Scientist

The Self Serving Bioinformatician

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User Participation for Content and Functionality

- Adoption depends on lots of shared services and workflows
- and enabling Scientists to add value through applications and collaborative tagging
- The Selfish Scientist – e-Science is me-Science
- Incentive models for Scientists to share?



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The Selfish Scientist

"A biologist would rather share their toothbrush than their gene names"



Mike Ashburner
Professor Genetics
University of Cambridge, UK

And others

What motivates Scientists?

- Ego! Competitive advantage.
- To be the first with the Nature paper.
- To get my service / tool / foo / bar used.
- To get added value to my service / tool for low or no cost.
- Protect my turf
- Credit, credibility, fame, acclaim, recognition, respect.
- And more funding.
- And not to be misinterpreted or misrepresented.
- Or look stupid.

“We are Naughty” – Helen Hulme

- Low cost of adoption. Surmountable obstacles.
- Fit into my world and what I do.
- Don't give me pre-defined recipes or tie me down.
- Freedom and me in control
- Jam today and more and better jam tomorrow
- Just enough, just in time when I think its worth it.
- Gimme content that I need and want.
- Its my idea.



Hell is other people's workflows

- **Some Rights Reserved.**
- Privacy, IP, Authorship attribution and guarantees.
- **Copyright** has to be sorted. Scientists need protection as well as sharing.
- Curation and Policing. Quality, Reliability, Validation, Safety, Persistence, Longevity, Palpability?
- **Pollution and viral infections.**
- Licences for services. Can I run this workflow?
- **Provenance.**
- Can we mix up personal results safely with public resources?

Workflow Publishing and Mashing

- **Workflow Publishing**
 - What does it mean to publish a workflow? Expose vs export vs publish?
 - Encapsulate a workflow with its provenance
 - Design for hackability and remixability. Is that possible?
- **Workflow Design Mashing**
 - "hackable" and "remixable"...so....
 - When does your workflow stop being your workflow? If your workflow is combined with another are you still responsible if it is now crap?
 - Provenance mashing?
 - Mashing tracking?



The Perpetual Beta

- Continually evolve in response to its users and by its users
- Design for user participation mash ups
- Developers embedded in the user community.
- Pilot with local friends and family.
- Advocates for supported of communities

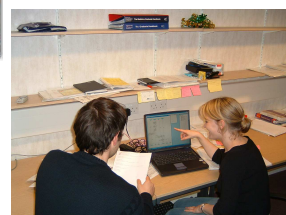


Freeplay >120 users
 First pilot July 07
 Series of User Trials

Our Laboratory Guinea Pigs



- Chemists at the University of Southampton, UK
- Blogging data, publishing lab books



- Bioinformaticians at the University of Manchester, UK
- Publishing workflows and models

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Embedding Outcomes in Doug Kell's Lab...

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The Perpetual Beta

- A collection of online services
- Continually evolve in response to its users and by its users
- Design for user participation mash ups
- Developers embedded in the user community.
- Hackfests. Do, don't think!
- New code base in 4 weeks over summer
- Microsoft version

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From me-Science to we-Science

- Tribal bonding and sharing
- Crossing Tribal Boundaries
- Across communities and disciplines (MIT)
- "Intellectual Fusion" & "Swarming"; breaking down silos
- Understanding outside my expertise. E.g. sources of error
- Metadata challenges.
- Social challenges.

my experiment

Closing myExperiment.org

- A Web 2.0 Environment for Scientists to share experiments.
- The collective benefits of participation arise not only from the users but also from the developers – ease of use and ease of development.
- Innovation is rarely technology driven. The challenge is the social.

my experiment

Acknowledgements

- David De Roure
- Matt Lee, Don Cruickshank, David Withers, Mark Borkum, Jiten Bhagat (Developers)
- Duncan Hull, Paul Fisher, Katy Wolstencroft, Marco Roos (Pioneering Life Science Users)
- Jeremy Frey, Simon Coles (Chemistry pilot)
- Alex Voss, Rob Proctor (National e-Social Science Centre)
- Nosh Contractor (Social networks)
- The myGrid, CombeChem and Taverna teams
- EPSRC, OMII-UK, JISC
- <http://www.mygrid.org.uk>
- <http://taverna.sourceforge.net>
- <http://myexperiment.org>

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Want to play?

<http://myexperiment.org>
special word: dolphin

For beta release

my experiment

Extras