

Team Superscalar: Team Profile



Team Profile

We want to raise visibility of the VSCC at the SC conference. We would like to have a blog post about your team that includes information about your team and your preparation for the competition. Please include answers to some of the questions below. Feel free to add anything you would like to share publicly about your team. Please include a **team photo**.

- What is the name of your team and why did you choose it?

We wanted a team name that is a tech pun but is also understandable by a wider audience. Superscalar sounds like a team great at scaling applications (which we hope to be) but is also a type of processor architecture. This combination made it to the top in our team vote.

- Why do you think your team will have an edge in the event (what's your secret sauce)?

We were able to learn the basics of the system-admin tasks for the competition by practicing on our very own supercomputer, Comet. The availability of this system gave us immediate access to testing out key competition strategies, before we received our cloud allocations. For example, if we were having issues scaling up an application, we could quickly verify that our approach works on Comet, allowing us to learn without burning unnecessary money.

- What have you done to prepare that makes your team unique?

We started our application work really early on Comet -- a supercomputer associated with our university. This has given us a lot of time to prep the applications. We then switched to working in our own cloud before the azure budgets came out. Both of these gave us the opportunity to learn about the applications earlier than otherwise.

- What are you most looking forward to in the competition?

The fun of seeing how well you did. This is new to everyone so we are really excited to see if our solution is better than anyone else's. Since this is a cloud event we also get to compare against published work on the same architecture. This means we do not just compete against the other teams but can also see how well we did relative to organizations with much larger budgets. We can't wait to meet everyone.

- What time zone is your team competing from?

We're all in Pacific Standard Time.

- What do your team members do for fun?
 - Zihao: Playing the guitar, Play Dota, Watch Movie, Watch live music
 - Max: I like to build rockets in my free time.
 - Hongyi: Fishing, hikes
 - Hongyu: Play piano, cooking, hiking, work out
 - Arunav: Among us, City Skylines
 - Jacob: Big fan of classical music. Professional Pianist and League of Legends player.

- If your team had a theme song, what would it be?

We asked around and we all felt very differently about what songs could describe the team. However, we agreed that the *Mii Channel Music* accurately described the tranquility of waiting for clusters to start.

- Can you share an interesting fact about your team?

There is always a full bag of Cheez-Its in the club room.

All of our codenames are flamingo themed.