VSCC 2020 Team Profile

Team 9: The University of Texas at Austin
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Mentor: Joe Garcia, Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC)

We are Cloud CloUT-- the VSCC team hailing from the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Arkansas. We were mentored by staff at the Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC) at the University of Texas, home to some of the most powerful supercomputers in the world. We selected our name because of the new cloud-based format of the competition, and because we hope this competition will earn us prestige in the world of cloud HPC.

We believe our team will have an edge for several reasons. First, the team is composed of a diverse set of individuals of different personal and academic backgrounds, which has enabled and will continue to enable us to contribute different perspectives. These consist of a variety of backgrounds (local, out of state, and international) as well as academic interests and concentrations (spanning engineering, computer science, business, and the arts). Furthermore, we see an advantage in the fact that the team has been meeting regularly for many months now, and we have been using resources at TACC to gain familiarity with the world of HPC. Our preparation consisted of frequent meetings and tutorials with our mentors, logging hours on TACC supercomputers building and testing our applications and benchmarks, and getting to know CycleCloud and Azure with the training budgets. The team is most looking forward to getting to show off our hard work throughout the past months, as well as getting to work together over 72 hours to get the best results possible. We will be competing from TACC in Austin, TX (Central Time Zone).

Our team members are involved in a variety of activities outside of school for fun. These activities include involvement in student organizations (from Greek Life to technology organizations), working with professors on research, exploring Austin, working on personal projects, and more. If the team had a song, we would select "Ain't No MountainHigh Enough" by Marvin Gaye because we believe we can climb any obstacle. One interesting fact about the team is that we have only met once in person due to the pandemic, but that we will be competing together in person at TACC!