



Education & Outreach Moment

NSF PHASE I CENTER FOR ADAPTING FLAWS INTO FEATURES

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The Bus Factor

Who Knows What?

- The *bus factor* refers to the number of team members that can suddenly disappear from a project before it stalls due to the lack of knowledge.
- This includes people leaving the lab, quitting their Ph.D., or going on leave!
- There are a variety of ways to increase your lab's bus factor in case the unexpected happens.



RICE



The Bus Factor

Boosting Strategies

Documentation

- Software/instrumentation documentation;
- Digital lab notebooks that can be accessed by others;
- Description of computational/experimental protocols; &
- Explanatory comments in the software/data analysis scripts (using variable names that make sense).

Spreading the Experience

- Make sure that group members have an overlapping set of skills.

Data/Code Accessibility and Transparency

- Store data/code on shared drives (or at least on work computers); &
- Sample accessibility.