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Sandia National Laboratories

History of CDE

ASC DevOps Core:

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Jonathan Grzybowski

Christopher Sullivan

Paul Wolfenbarger

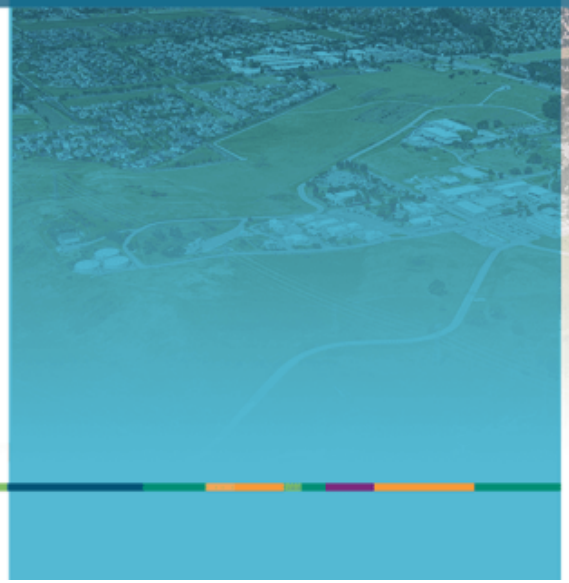
Scott Warnock

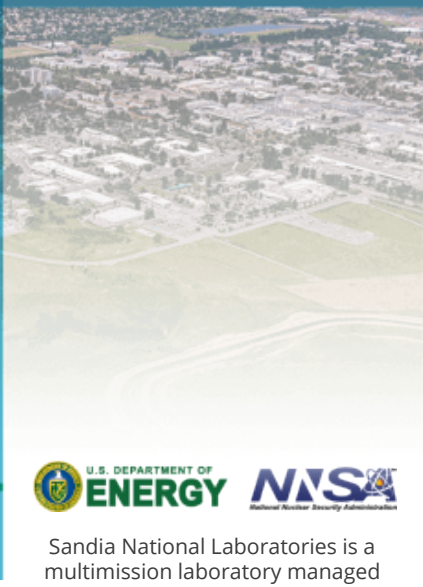
Etone Mbome

May 25th

2022 Tri-lab Advanced Simulation & Computing Sustainable Scientific Software Conference

Albuquerque, NM, USA





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Introduction – What is ASC DevOps Core @ Sandia?

Product Owner:

- Scott Warnock

Scrum Master:

- Etone Mbome

Development Team:

- Jon Grzybowski
- Gary Lawson
- Chris Sullivan
- Paul Wolfenbarger

What do we do?

Code Scan

Code Vulnerability Scanning Tool

Common Development Environment

Consistent Multi-platform Software Stack

Dockerized Services

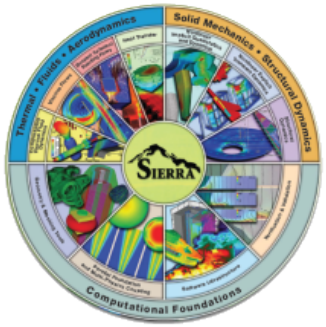
Jenkins
CDash

General Support

Hydra
VisIt

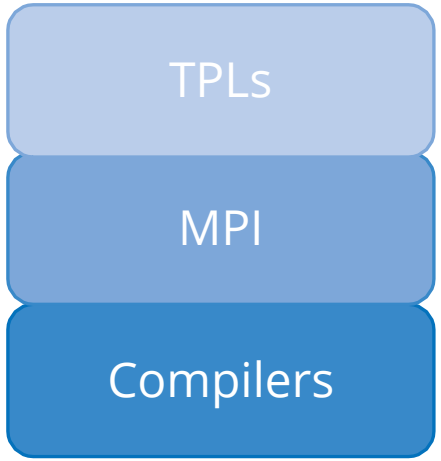
Introduction – Common Development Environment

- **Support ASC Code teams** on computing platforms critical to the ASC Mission



RAMSES
Radiation Analysis Modeling and Simulation of Electrical Systems

- Sandia's vision for **unified development environment** across computing platforms
  - HPC Clusters (x86_64, power9, aarch64, cuda)
  - CEE (Common Engineering Environment) Resources
  - Desktops & Workstations
  - Containers



- **Sustainability**
  - Will the same approach work in 10 years?
  - What is the measure of success?
  - How to minimize technical debt?

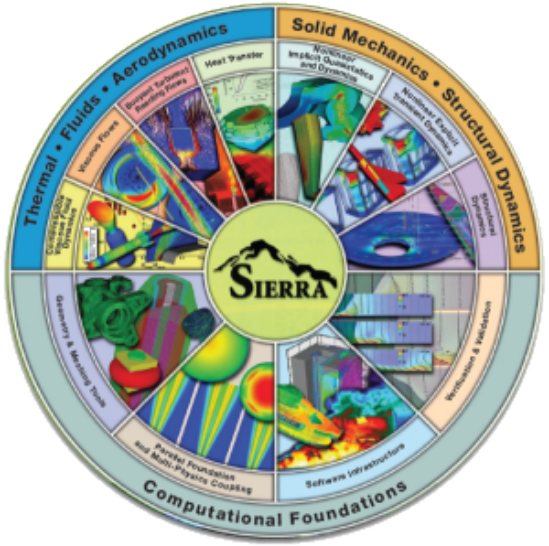
Early days of CDE

Interviewed an experienced DevOps team

- Met with SIERRA DevOps & NGS
- Asked questions on how to promote sustainability
  - Manage our technical debt
  - Explore new technologies early
  - Define interface boundaries

Smallest vertical slice

- Two platforms:
  - HPC (CTS1) - RHEL 7
  - CEE - RHEL 6 & 7
- Two software packages:
  - CMake
  - Anaconda



Answer fundamental questions:

- How do we measure success?
- How to build software?
- What technology to automate?
- What about containerization?
- What is the process?

How do we measure success?

ASCDO Definition of Done

Monitored

At a glance, did the process PASS/FAIL

Automated

Every process is automated

Tested

Every product is tested as thoroughly as is feasible

Reviewed

Every process is reviewed for value added

Technical Debt

Minimize:

- Manual processes
- Maintained code, scripts, modifications
- Unbounded influences and one-offs

Identify:

- Interface boundaries
- Sources of productivity degradation

How do we build software?

RPM Builds

Red Hat Package Manager
Commercially available

- Not designed for HPC ecosystems
  - MPI combinatorics
  - Exotic hardware
- Only works for Linux

Spack Builds

Alpha-stage multi-platform package manager

- Designed for HPC ecosystems
  - MPI combinatorics
  - Exotic hardware
- Linux, Windows, and MacOS supported

Spack provides the flexibility required to build for the target platforms

What technology do we use to automate?

Gitlab CI

- Commercially available
- System administrator or user -supported

- YAML interface
- Multiple execution types
  - SSH, Shell, Docker, etc
- Redundancy in scaling to multiple platforms
- Supports variables
- Spack supports designing Gitlab-CI pipelines*

Ansible

- Commercially available
- User-supported

- YAML interface
- Executes on the system
  - Can be integrated into container
- Requires Python on system
  - Supports templating
- Efficient scaling to multiple platforms
- State-driven resource model

Ansible chosen for state-driven resource model, efficient scaling, and templating capabilties

What about containerization?

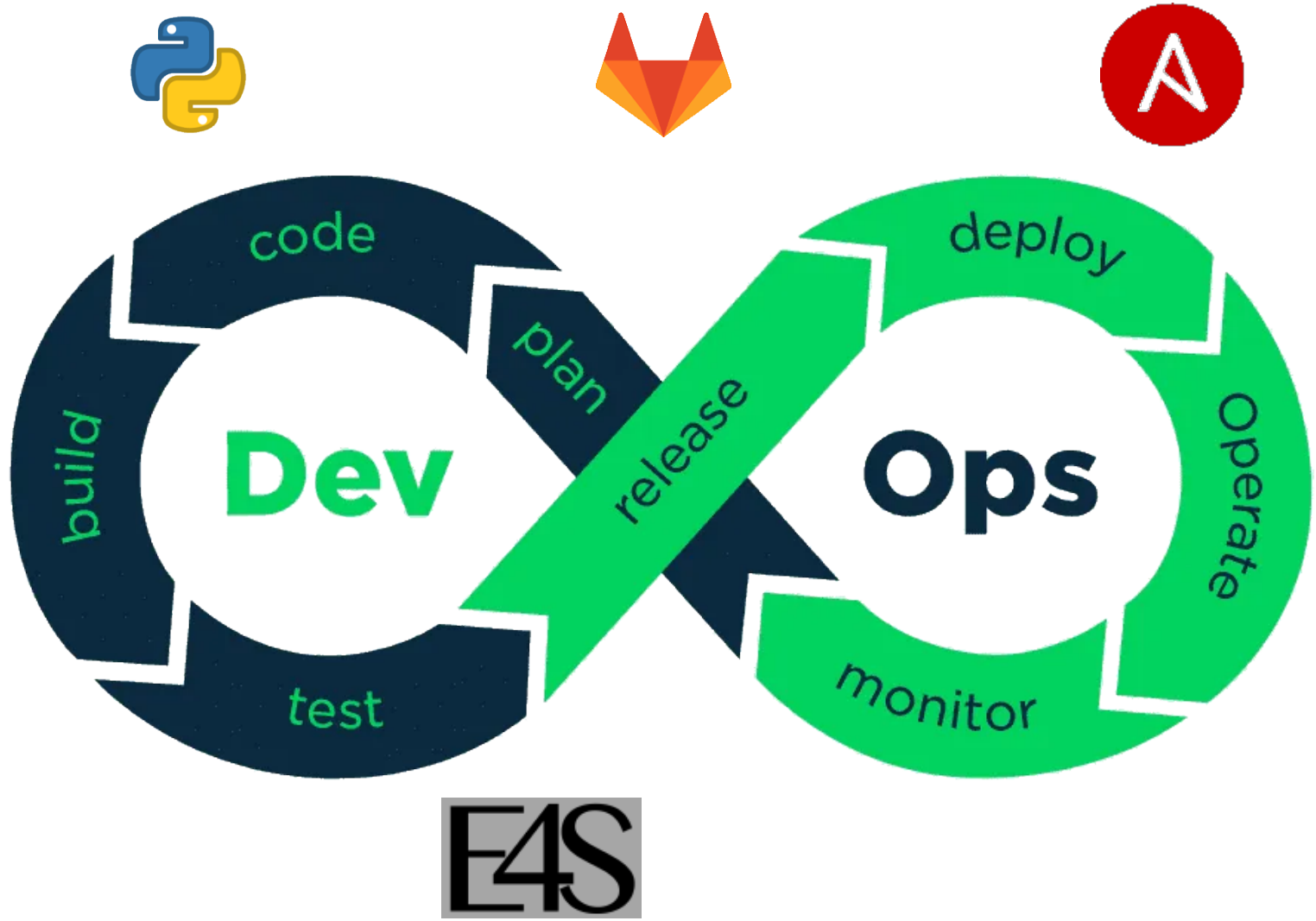
We initially designed our pipelines to build in a container

- Containers acted as clean rooms which could be discarded after a build
- Buildcache was generated after the build for deployment
  - Uploaded to Nexus Repository for reuse
- Deployment on bare-metal from buildcache
  - Encountered difficulties with maintaining the buildcache repository and indexes
  - Spack often would not/could not install from buildcache because of SHA-1 conflicts

For now, we are not supporting containerized deployments and builds

- Executing containers is not yet available for every target platform, i.e. HPC cluster's
- Growing interest in containerized deployments
  - We will revisit this in the near future

Build and Deployment Technologies



Ansible

Gitlab

Python

Spack

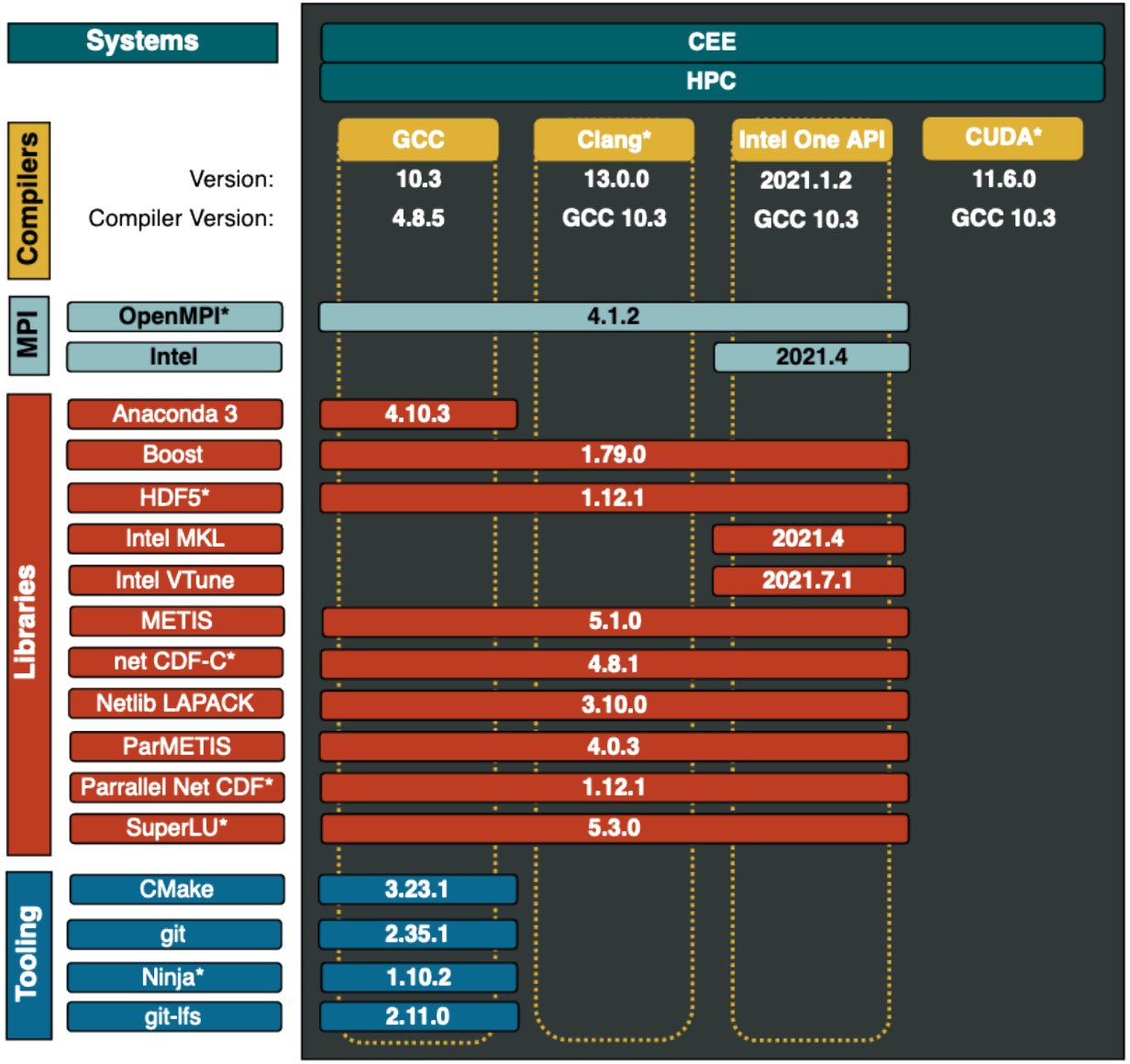
E4S

Approach to Software Deployment

- Vertical Slice
  - Support one code team
  - Support their software stack
  - Explore Technologies
  - Create Automated Process
    - Build
    - Test
    - Deploy

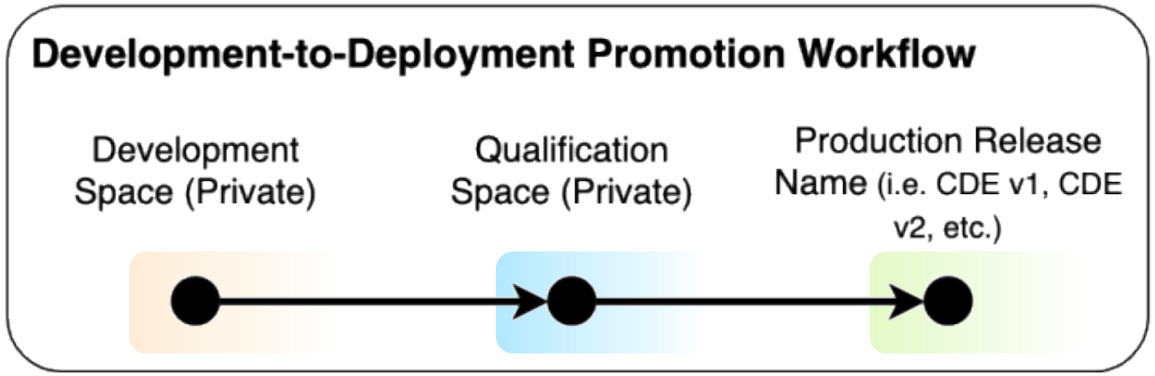
- Expand the Slice
  - Support additional teams
  - Extend software stack
  - Improve processes
  - Support additional platforms

Influences convergence on a unified stack



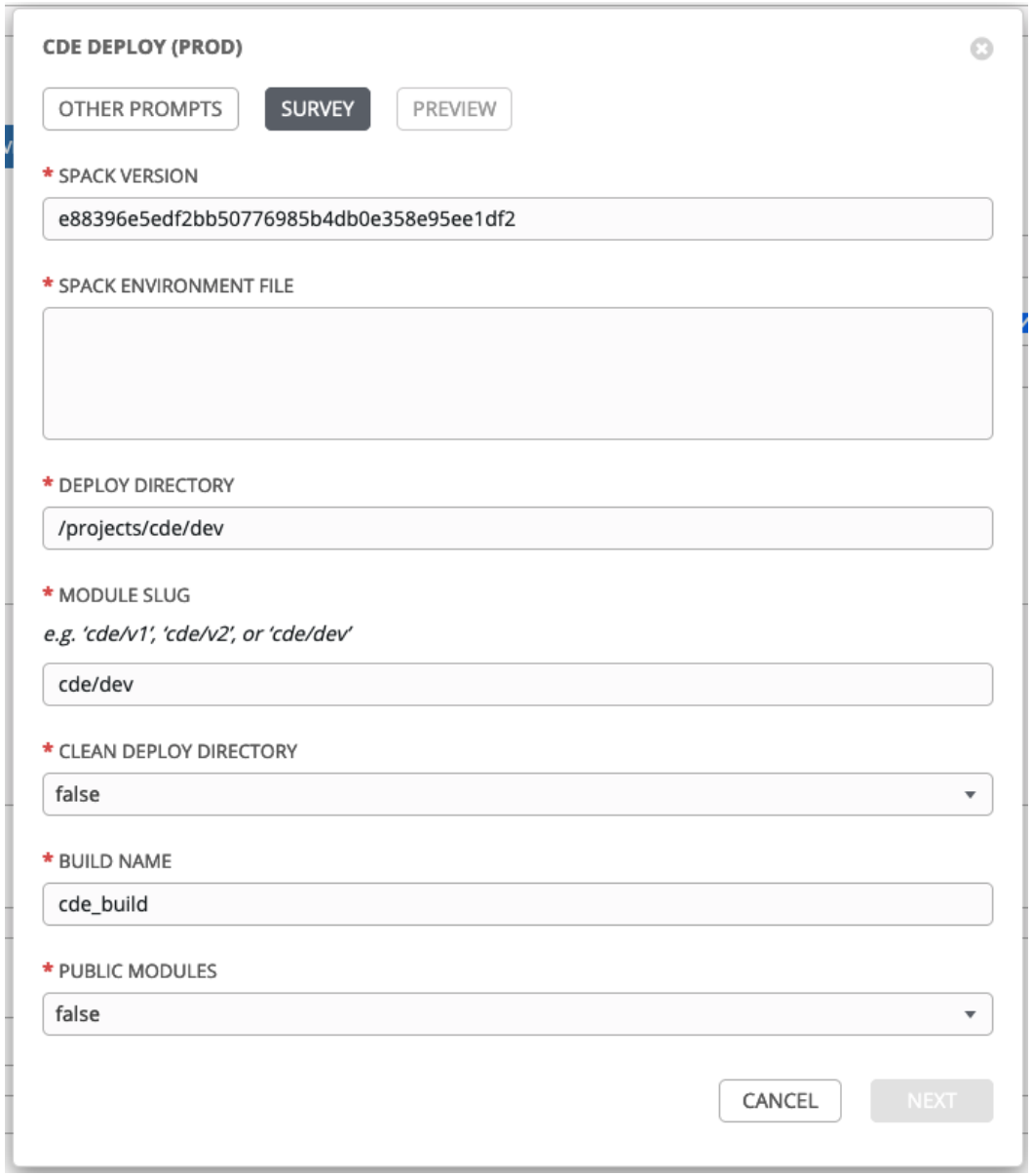
* E4S tested

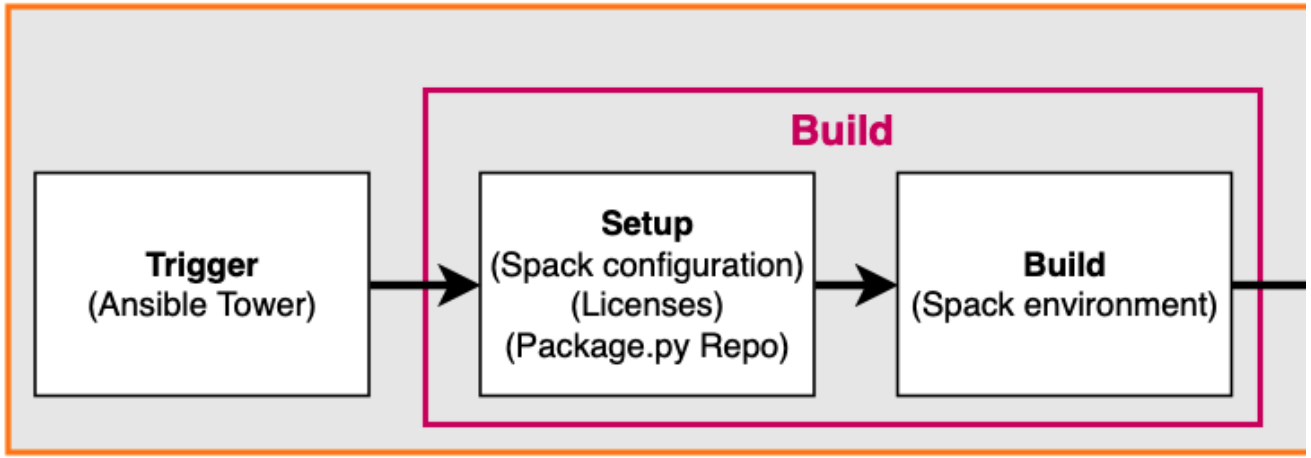
Deployment Promotion Workflow



1. Development build is automated, but can require some manual development
   - Modify package versions and/or variants
   - Build and verify stability with testing
2. Once we have a stable build, verify automation can build it cleanly
   - No manual intervention
   - End-to-end installation without errors or failures
3. Once we can build in automation cleanly
   - Verify we can build weekly
   - Build out to qualification space for additional testing
4. Once the additional testing passes
   - Build in production space as a named release
   - Symlink to public module space

CDE: Current Workflow with Ansible Tower – Dev Space





Workflow is triggered manually in Ansible Tower

- Specify target platforms
- Fill out survey options for automation
  - Environment File
  - Deploy Directory
  - Build Name

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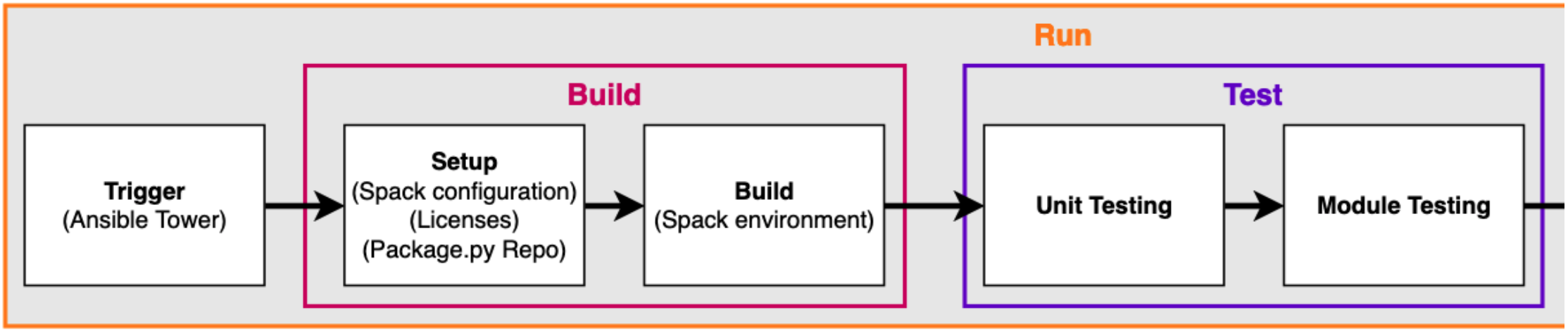
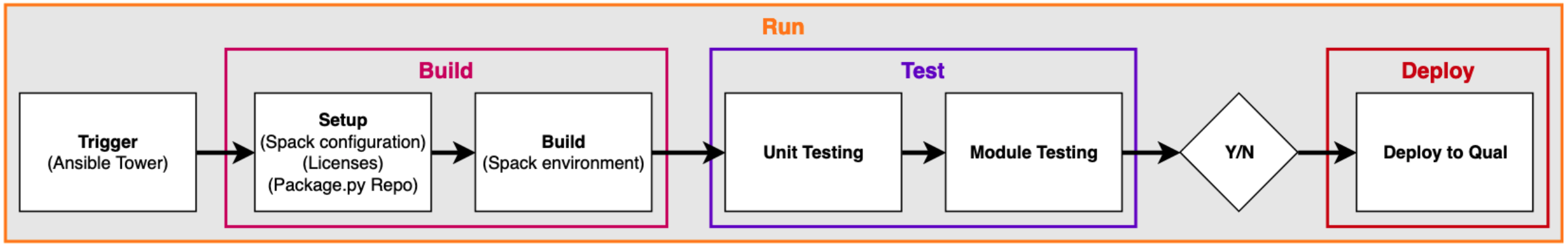


Execute workflow multiple times for staged builds:

1. GCC Compiler
2. Compilers – Intel, LLVM, Cuda, Platform Specific
3. Third-Party Libraries (TPL's)

Workflow executed on each target platform to a unique deployment directory

CDE: Current Workflow with Ansible Tower – Dev Space



Unit Testing

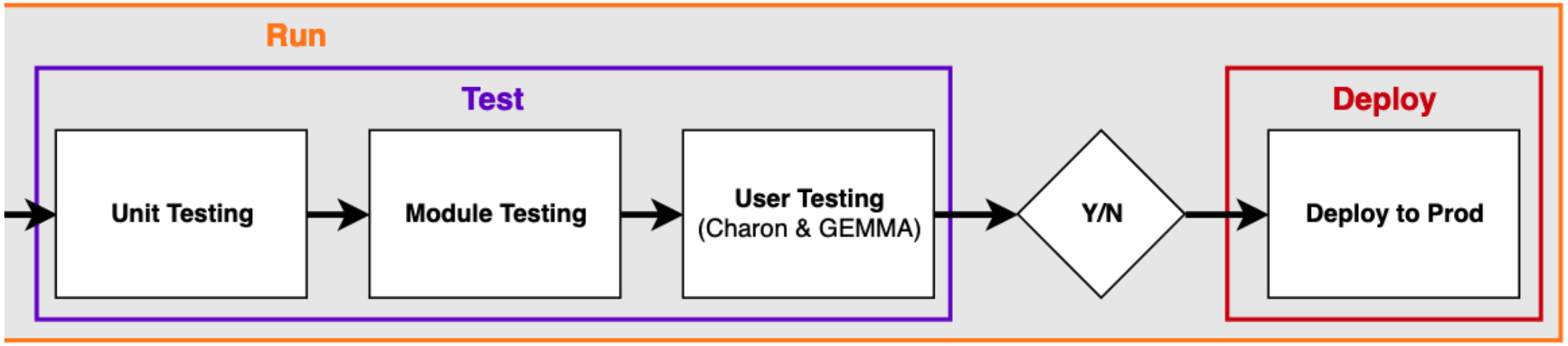
- Individual package tests
- Smoke and feature tests
- Tests provided with packages
- CDE developed tests

Module Testing

- Availability of the modules
- Load, Swap, Unload
- Autoload

With successful testing, promote to qualification space and build weekly

CDE: Current Workflow with Ansible Tower – Qual Space



User Testing

- Can our customers build on our stack?
- Integration testing with Charon & GEMMA
  - Trilinos as a dependency
- If Yes, deploy to production space

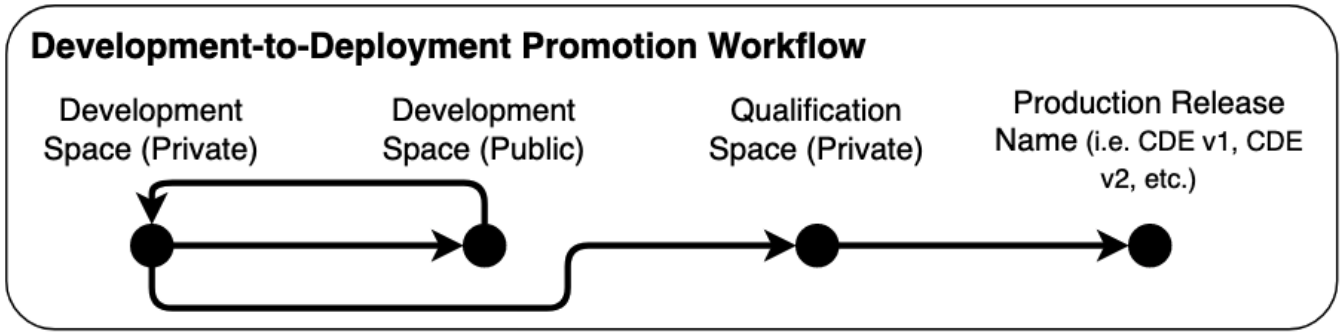
With successful testing, promote to production space and link modules publicly

Limitations of the Current Workflow

- **Limited parallelism**
  - Spack Pipelines – We currently lack sustainable gitlab runners
    - Desire for Jacamar runners as sustainable solution
  - Distributed CLI Spack
- **Coupling of Packages to Spack version**
  - Converging on need to build from Spack develop branch
  - Need process to verify builds in order to promote Spack develop branch commit

- Manual Trigger
  - Desire CI/CD workflow on our manifests
- Limited Testing & Analysis
  - Is the MPI we are currently building comparable in performance to prior releases?
  - Do the features the code teams need in software package X work?

Future Improvements



- Improved parallelism
- Public development space for software rolling releases
- Improved automation
  - Automate build trigger's for Continuous Integration and Delivery
  - Sustainable integration testing
- Improved monitoring and user-statistics
- Caching builds
- Generating containers of the CDE software stack
- Provide our tooling for generating builds

Conclusions

1. We strive to provide the ASC Code Teams with the software they require to develop
   - And further, the tools they require to develop
     - Build caches for rapid deployment of an existing, stable software stack
     - Software stack deployment tooling for one-off and experimental builds

2. We envision a unified environment where the software needed by the code teams is readily available and with up-to-date versions

3. We strive to develop and maintain sustainable practices so the desired product is consistently delivered, no matter how the ecosystem and technology adapt

Points-of-Contact

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