

Revolutionary Approaches

Initial Discussions

William Gropp, UIUC

Thomas Sterling, IU

Engaging Application Developers

- Education
- Early adopter platform availability
- Long term horizon for new methods
- Tools for data decomposition
 - Didn't happen
 - Too problem specific
- Computational scientists in need
 - How do you make the case?

Where can revolutionary approaches succeed

- Applications that have given up on extreme scale
- Current applications exhibiting poor scaling
- Complementing other non-revolutionary approaches
- E.g., Pointer arithmetic
- An economic argument for general acceptance
- Note: reliability factors need to be better quantified
- Quantify the threat to Exascale.
 - Move from qualitative and intuitive to quantitative and repeatable

Trailblazing

- Need a few good people
- Need infrastructure with longevity
- Give them a place where they can succeed
- Learn from what has failed in the past
- We need to start, somehow
- Undertake point-designs
 - E.g. co-design
- Experience possibilities and weed out or add as appropriate

Practical Constraints

- Major issue is cost
 - Capital or acquisition cost
 - Operating cost
 - Memory capacity an example
- Revolution can be:
 - Much cheaper
 - Much easier
 - Making it possible