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Sustainable open-source research software by founding a start-up: A LinkAhead story

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Often, software developed within a research group to solve specific problems evolves into an integral tool, sometimes not only for the original group, but also for other groups and institutions where it may be adapted. A well-known problem, however, is to guarantee long-term stability and maintenance, as well as the further development of the software. A lack of (permanent) funding as well as high personnel fluctuation, among others, pose challenges

In this talk, we will present how maintenance and development of such a research software, namely our open-source data-management toolkit LinkAhead (formerly known as CaosDB), could be solved by founding IndiScale, a company that provides services around this software. We will explain which considerations lead to the decision to found and why LinkAhead was well-suited for founding a supporting Start-up company.

We will also give an overview the problems to be faced, as well as the different requirements to project management and day-to-day work compared to the life as researchers and research software engineers in academia.

Slot length

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