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Best practice made easy: Deploying tools for FAIR research software development

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Sustainable software development and metadata practices are crucial for making research software FAIR. Undeniably, this requires an initial investment of time and effort for researching and adopting best practices, as well as for regular maintenance tasks. This impairs the bottom-up adoption of best practices by RSEs. In this talk we present two complementary tools addressing this challenge:

The command-line tool `somesy1` organizes and synchronizes software project metadata across multiple required or recommended files that are typically used in a software project. It is designed for easy integration into the development workflow, reducing the overhead for software metadata management.

The `fair-python-cookiecutter2` is a git repository template providing a well-structured foundation for new Python projects. The detailed documentation also turns it into a hands-on educational resource. Besides combining various state-of-the-art tools, it includes `somesy` to simplify software metadata management. The template follows software engineering practices recommended by DLR and OpenSSF. Furthermore, it supports relevant metadata standards such as REUSE, CITATION.cff and CodeMeta.

Slot length

Primary authors: PIROGOV, Anton (Forschungszentrum Jülich); SOYLU, Mustafa (Forschungszentrum Jülich)

Co-authors: SANDFELD, Stefan (Forschungszentrum Jülich); HOFMANN, Volker

Presenter: PIROGOV, Anton (Forschungszentrum Jülich)

Session Classification: Lessons learned and applied

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