November 25, 2009

Subject: Support of Center for Parallelism at Utah (CPU)

I am happy to express my support for the formation of the Center for Parallelism at Utah (CPU). As a committer on the Eclipse Parallel Tools Platform, we have worked hard to assemble tools to assist users in developing, running, debugging, and analyzing parallel applications. Ganesh Gopalakrishnan and his undergraduate students (Alan Humphrey and Chris Derrick) have put forth a great deal of effort to contribute to this open-source Eclipse project, with the happy result that their Eclipse support for their MPI analysis system (ISP) is in the soon-to-be-released version of PTP from the Eclipse foundation.

This collaboration included inclusion of ISP and the Eclipse integration in the PTP full-day tutorial recently taught at Supercomputing 2009 in Portland, presented by Alan Humphrey. And we are co-authoring a paper on ISP and the Eclipse integration into PTP for the upcoming HIPS conference.

The research that went into development of the analysis of ISP, and the software engineering expertise that culminated in a working integration within the Eclipse and PTP environment are to be commended. Also their enthusiasm: it has been a joy to work with them and I look forward to future collaborations as well. ISP tackles a real-world problem of analyzing MPI codes, and they have worked hard to assure it works on large-scale projects, an importance as the scale of future applications is rising as the promise of larger parallel machines bears fruit.

The Center for Parallelism (CPU) proposed at Utah holds further assurance for future work, including research and collaboration with open-source projects and industry. Based on my work with Ganesh and his students, I am confident of the high quality of future work from this group. In conclusion, I enthusiastically support the proposed center and am certain that it will have the resources to support future research and collaboration with industry on increasingly complex problems at scale.

Sincerely,

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