

# Introduction to NSLS-II Beamlines and Infrastructure

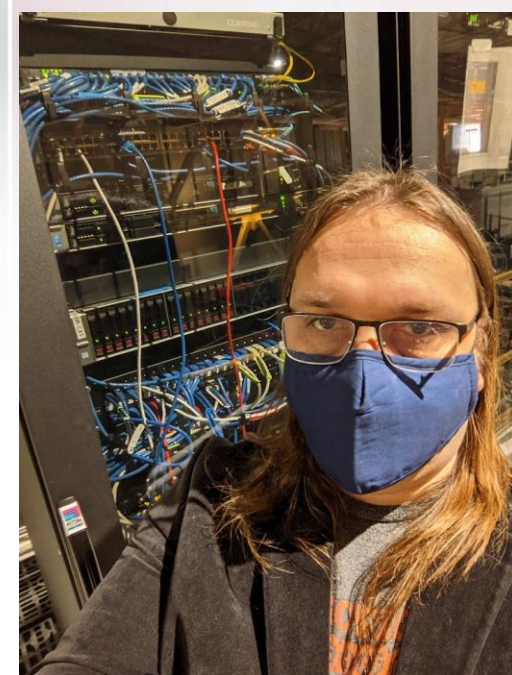
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Data Science and Systems Integration Program, NSLS-II

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# Who Am I?

- A lad from Sheffield, South Yorkshire, UK
- B.Sc. and Ph.D. in Physics from Sheffield
  - Nanomaterial Engineering Group
  - Mainly thiol encapsulated gold nanoparticle thin films
  - Characterization using many techniques from AFM, X-ray, neutron, TEM, ...
- Open source developer and programmer in my spare time
  - Gentoo porting of scientific applications to AMD64 back when it was new
  - KDE developed Kalzium components, Avogadro libraries
- Kitware after a postdoc, started as an engineer, left as a tech lead
  - Developed VTK, ParaView, CMake, ITK, Tomviz, Open Chemistry mainly C++, Git, ...
- Joined DAMA last year at NSLS-II, now DSSI, just passed one year at the lab
  - You get my interpretation of NSLS-II with some help (I hope)



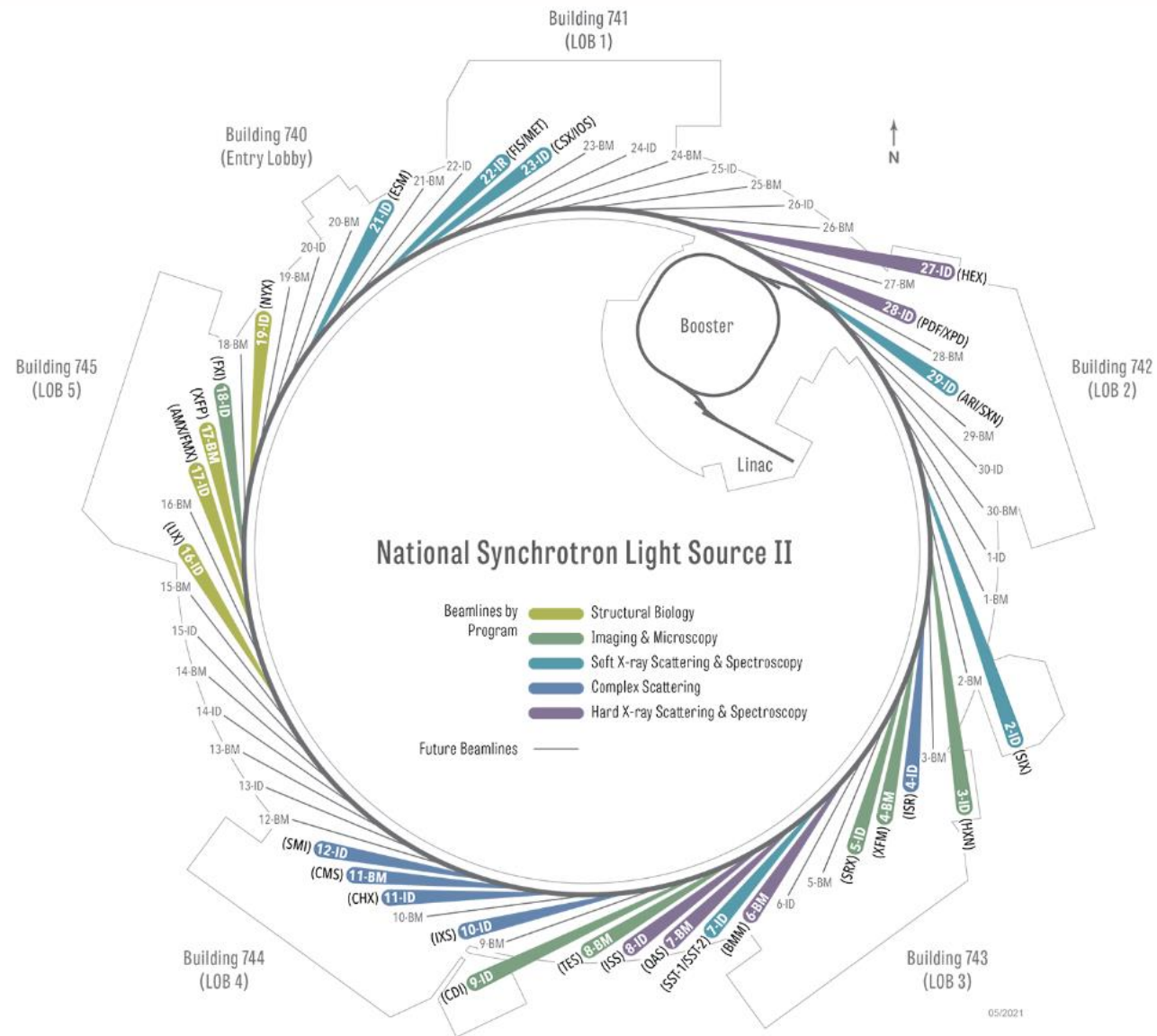




# Organizational Structure

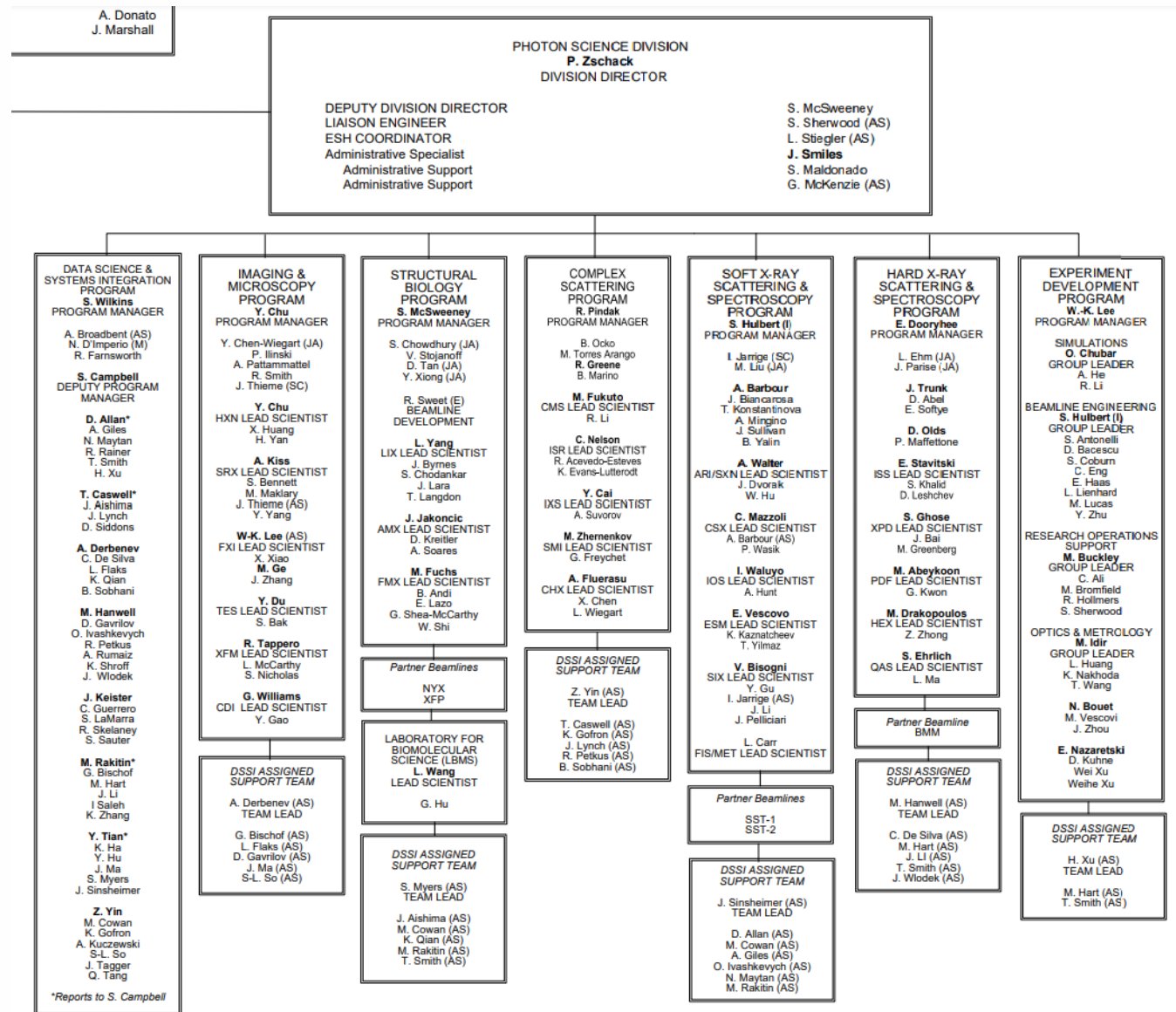
- Energy and Photon Sciences Directorate
  - National Synchrotron Light Source II
    - Accelerator Division
    - Photon Science Division
    - User Services, Communication & Outreach
    - Environment, Safety, Health & Quality (ESHQ)
- 4 LOBs housing offices along with a main entrance
- 28 experimental stations or beamlines
  - Probing electronic, chemical and atomic structure of materials
  - Largely independent infrastructure for each beamline right now





# What is a Synchrotron?

- Billion-dollar user facility
- Electron storage ring that produces very bright X-rays
- Consists of a ring surrounded by end stations that do specific science
- Divided into different programs ([url](#)):
  - Soft X-ray scattering and spectroscopy
  - Hard X-ray scattering and spectroscopy
  - Complex scattering
  - Imaging and microscopy
  - Structural biology
  - Data Science and Systems Integration (DSSI)
  - Experiment Development



# Data Science and Systems Integration Program

- Reinvention from the former Controls Program
  - Consolidated some related groups
- Goes from interfacing with hardware to the workstations
  - People working on new detectors
  - IOCs that speak EPICS for control/data acquisition
  - CS-Studio to display status and talk to EPICS IOCs
  - Bluesky to coordinate data acquisition, storage
  - Data Broker to retrieve/display historic data
  - GUIs, data visualization, analysis, processing and other steps
- Since inception we have largely been dealing with cyber security



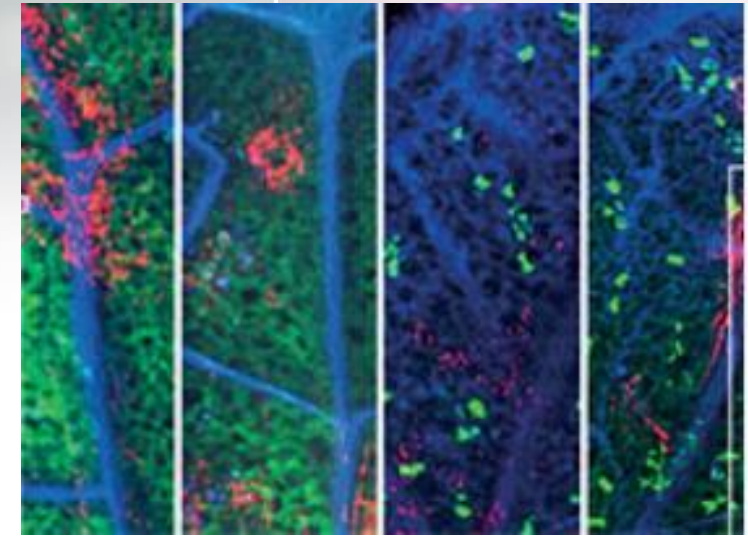
# Scientific View of a Beamline

- X-rays, samples, detectors – SCIENCE!
- Lead beamline scientist responsible for scientific activity
- Proposals are made and time is granted at each beamline
  - Each beamline fills a scientific niche that others want access to
- The heart of science is publications, citations, impact
  - This is generally how the high-level success is measured
- Accelerator and beamline uptime is precious
  - Users often only have a short time window to collect data
  - They must collect data, analyze it, take that away, publish, rinse and repeat



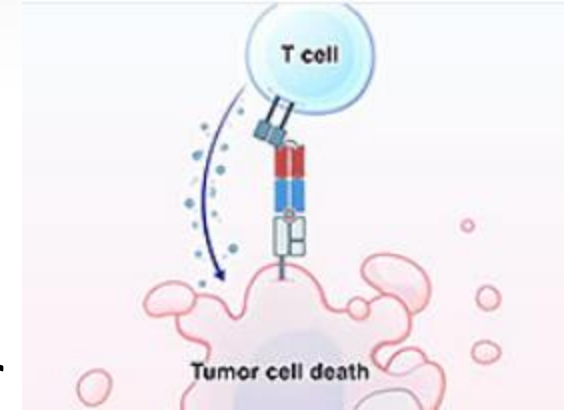
# SRX: Submicron X-ray Spectroscopy

- Lead beamline scientist: Andrew Kiss
- Program: Imaging and Microscopy
- Scientific scope: "Submicron Resolution X-ray Spectroscopy (SRX) beamline is an undulator beamline at sector 5-ID providing world-leading, high-throughput spectroscopic imaging capability with submicron spatial resolution and millisecond dwell times/pixel. Scientific communities such as energy, materials, environmental, and life sciences take advantage of this beamline to understand complex natural and engineered systems that are heterogeneous on the submicron scale."



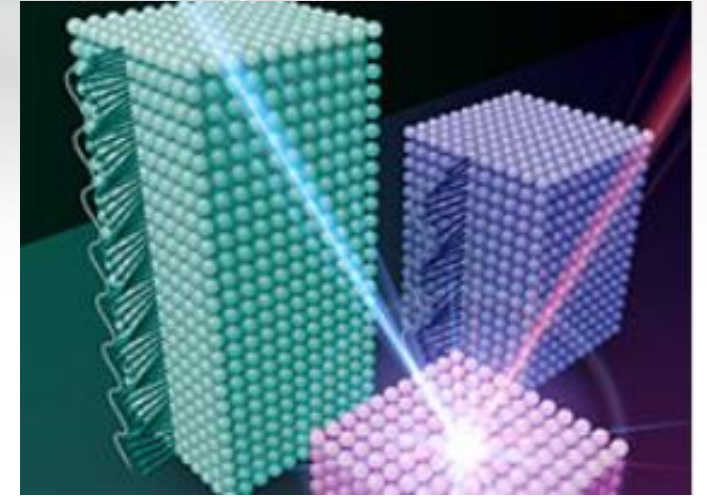
# AMX: Automated Macromolecular Crystallography

- Lead beamline scientist: Jean Jakoncic
- Program: Structural Biology
- Scientific scope: "The Highly Automated Macromolecular Crystallography (AMX) beamline is designed to meet the needs of the biomedical researcher to reveal structures and functions of proteins and other macromolecules. Researchers can use its ultrabright x-rays to investigate small crystals of proteins and macromolecules. The beamline offers a high-flux mini-beam that allows scientists to scan their crystals and collect best possible quality diffraction data for a large number of samples sizes."



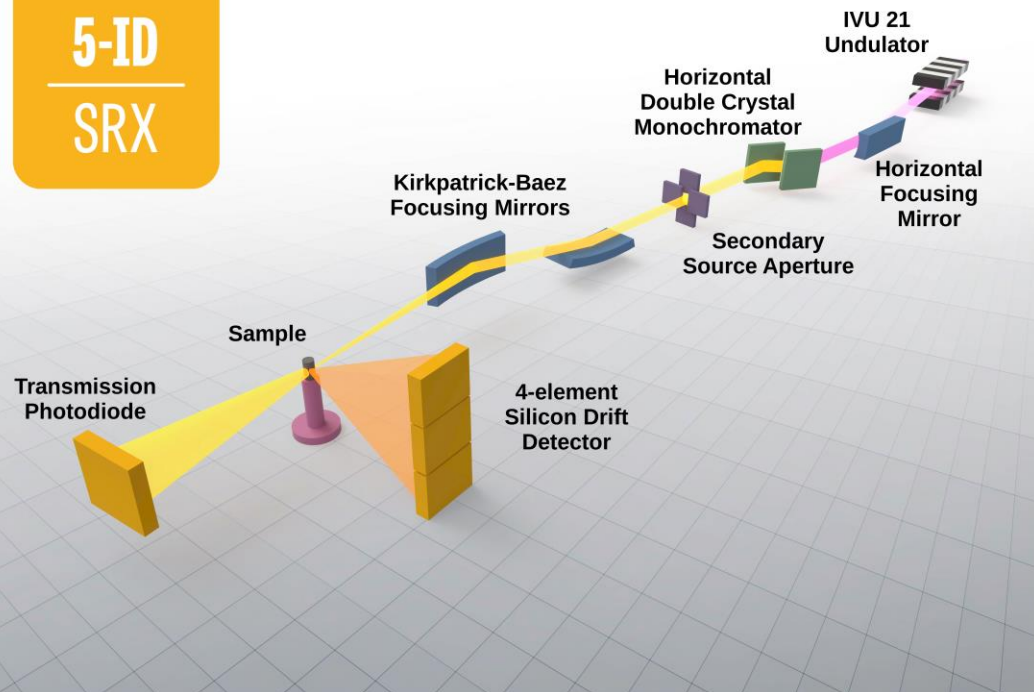
# SIX: Soft Inelastic X-ray Scattering

- Lead beamline scientist: Valentina Bisogni
- Program: Soft X-ray Scattering and Spectroscopy
- Scientific scope: "The Soft Inelastic X-ray Scattering (SIX) beamline utilizes resonant inelastic x-ray scattering (RIXS) to study the elementary excitations (spin, charge, orbital, and lattice) in materials with an ultrahigh energy resolution. This allows researchers to investigate a wider variety of materials in the areas of condensed matter physics and quantum materials, unveiling the interactions leading to their unconventional properties."

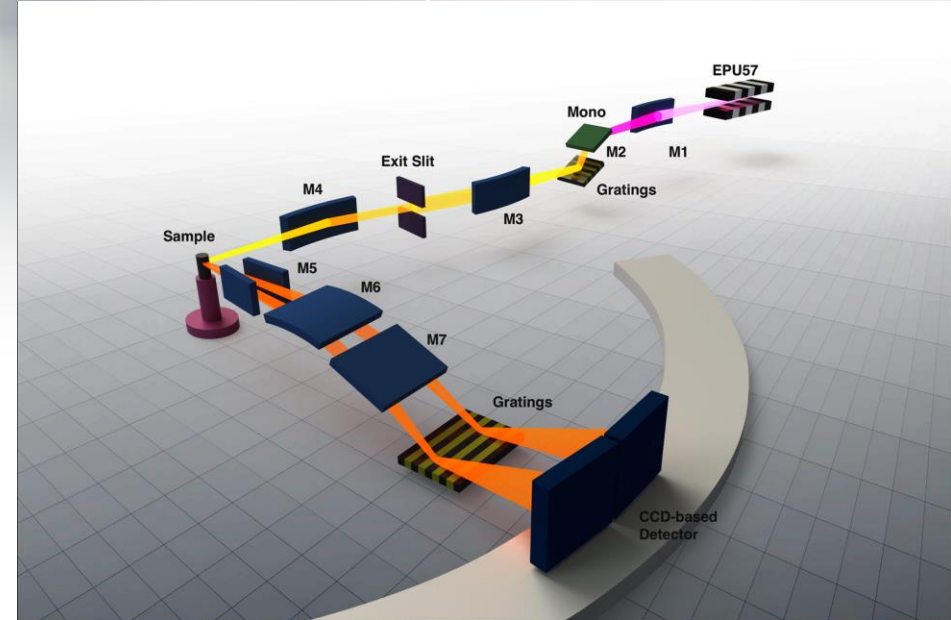
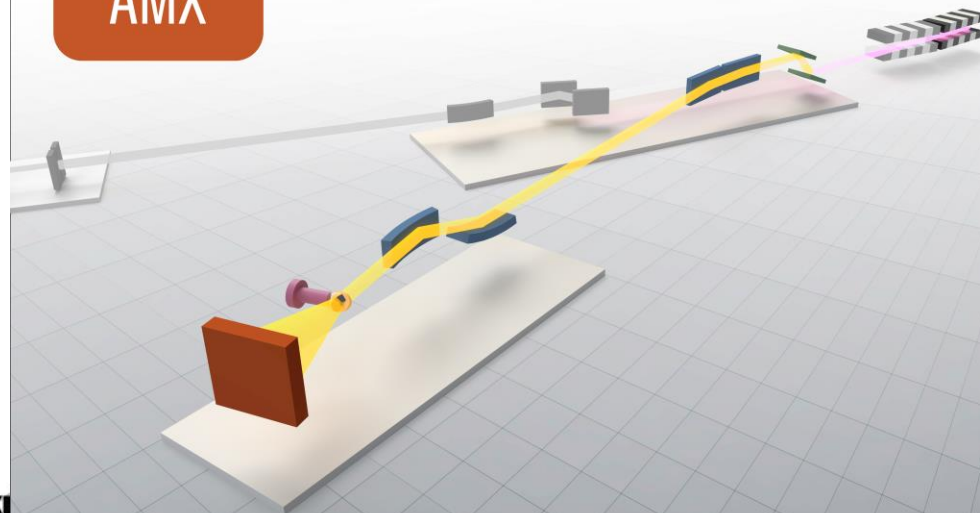




# 5-ID SRX

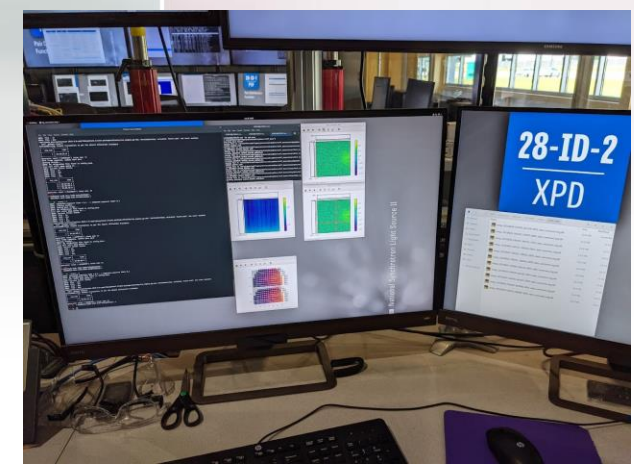


# 17-ID-1 AMX



# Computational View of a Beamline

- Detectors and motors either networked, serial or USB
- IOC servers on the "EPICS" VLAN talk to detectors, motors, etc
  - Cameras live on a "CAM" VLAN stream images mainly
  - Instruments on an "INST" VLAN for general instruments
- Some servers act in special roles
  - GPFS clusters, processing, etc
- Channel archiver servers used for various beamline services
  - Alarm servers, olog, channel archiving, beamline MongoDB
- Workstations on the "SCI" VLAN used to control beamline operations
  - Usually dual-homed with "EPICS" VLAN to talk to IOC services
  - These are often accessed remotely with NX or Guacamole







# Assigned Support Teams

- The new DSSI program has assigned support teams
  - A lead for the program and specialists in different areas
- Hard X-ray scattering and spectroscopy (HXSS)
  - Led by Marcus Hanwell
  - Ji Li and Chanaka de Silva acted as points of contact for HXSS before
  - Jakub Wlodek on EPICS development, acquisition software
  - Michael Hart on Bluesky development
  - Thomas Smith from the former sysadmin group
- Day-to-day operations, troubleshooting, minor development tasks
- Six beamlines: ISS, QAS, PDF, XPD, BMM and HEX (being built)



# Services DSSI Offers

- Data Science and Systems Integration!
- Interface with the beamlines to achieve their scientific goals
- Ensure all equipment can talk to relevant services
  - Motion control, detectors, cameras, temperature monitors, encoders
- Racked servers at the beamlines providing services
  - IOC services to control equipment, acquire data, monitor
  - File systems, databases, archival services, etc
- Workstations, detector PCs, analysis machines
  - Usually RHEL 8, formerly Debian 7, 8, 9, 10

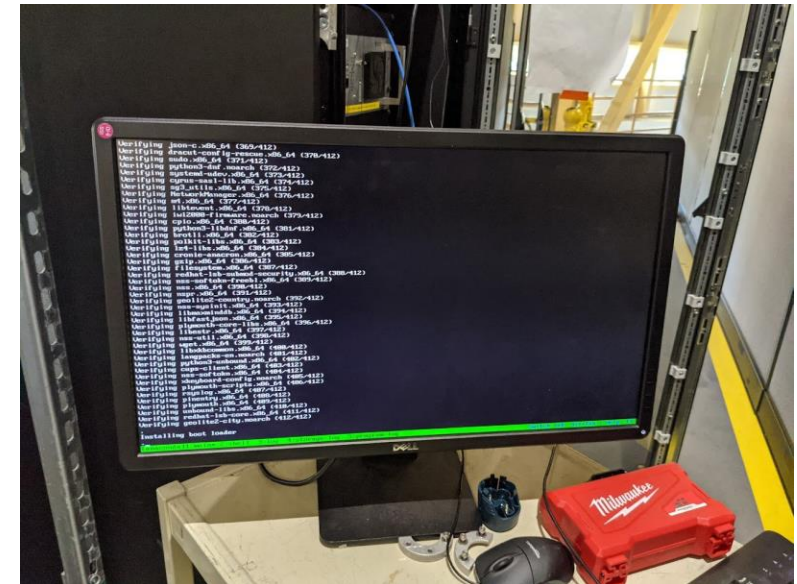


# Challenges for DSSI and NSLS-II

- Getting and remaining cyber compliant
  - Operational schedule restricts when updates/reboots are possible
  - Various device drivers can be vendor specific without upgrade paths
  - Resistance to change without clear benefits
- Catering to the user facility with general users
  - Domain scientists interested in characterizing data
  - Familiarity with SSH, Linux, coding, version control are not guaranteed
- Need access to resources as experiments run
  - Batch schedulers not fit for purpose
  - Samples may degrade as data is acquired in beam

# Challenges for Central Services

- Moving from hand-curated machines to mass deployments
  - Satellite for RHEL provisioning
  - Tower for configuration deployment
  - RPM packaging
  - Conda packaging
- Centralized services migrating from beamlines
  - MongoDB single node to central cluster
  - Filesystem GPFS clusters to central Lustre/others
  - EPICS services moving from channel archiver
- Developing analysis cluster, computational cluster, data processing
  - Tackling both post experiment and real-time processing/feedback/vis



# Future Plans

- Assigned support teams integrate and participate in beamline work
- Centers form around core areas
  - Motion control
  - Area detector
  - Bluesky
  - EPICS services
  - GUIs, UX, data visualization
  - ...
- DSSI moves to greater emphasis on research and development
  - Enable science through state-of-the-art data science and systems integration





# Strategic Directions

- Vision is aligned with the five DOE light sources
- Forming partnerships with relevant lab facilities
- Leverage common use cases where we can work together
- Build capabilities where we need to do things differently
- Strong emphasis on open source at the facility
  - Contribute where reasonable
  - Default to open when developing code
- As with many units timelines are tight, resources are scarce
  - Leverage expertise from other groups where
- Partnering to develop code, GUIs, visualization, automation

# Questions?

- DSSI is a young program with big challenges
  - The interface of computational with scientific
- Unique challenges with user facilities
  - Domain scientists with short-lived experiments visit frequently
  - Unique samples that may degrade as they are characterized
- Each beamline is a one-off
  - Commonalities such as technique, detectors, software
  - Likely wouldn't have been commissioned without unique elements
- Software is at the heart of the modern scientific enterprise
  - How can we better partner with scientists to enable their science?

