



# Globus: To Compute and Beyond



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globus

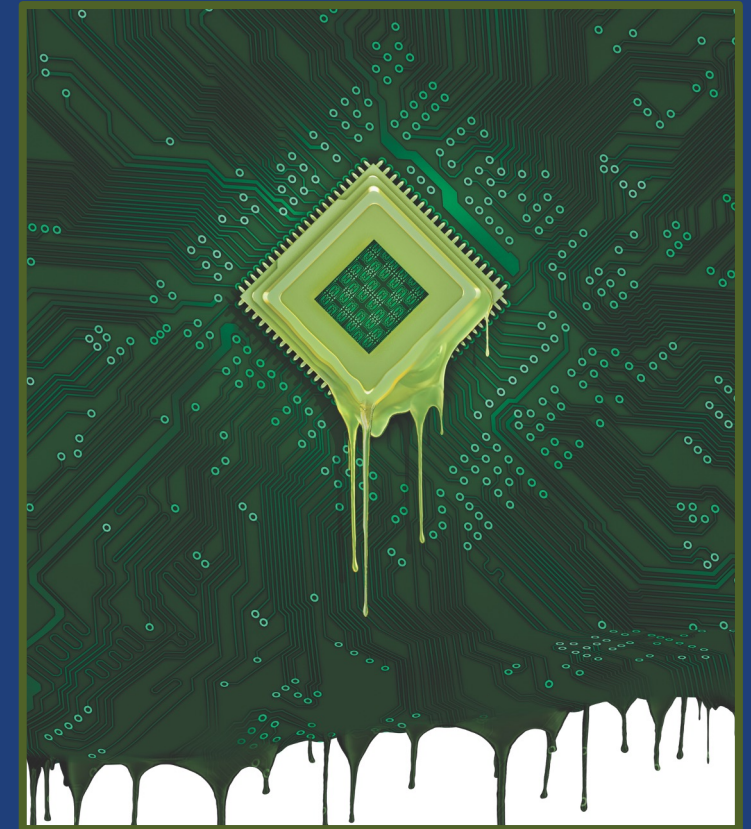


# Agenda

- **Motivation**
- **Capabilities overview**
- **Current application examples**
- **Synergy with Globus data management**
- **→ Discussion**

# General Purpose Computing is morphing...

“...the economic cycle that has led to the usage of a common computing platform, underpinned by rapidly improving universal processors, is giving way to a **fragmentary cycle, where economics push users toward divergent computing platforms driven by special purpose processors.**”



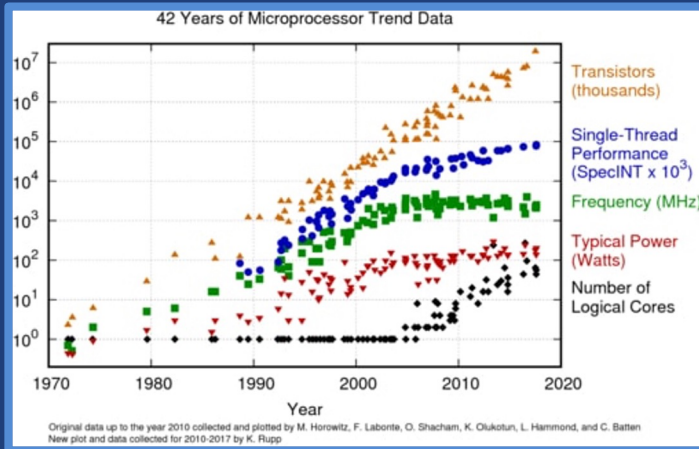
“The Decline of Computers as a General Purpose Technology”,  
*Thompson, N. & Spanuth, S., Communications of the ACM, March 2021*



# The research computing ecosystem is rapidly evolving

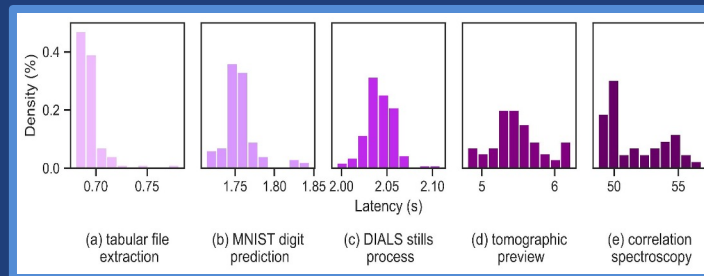
## Resources

- Hardware specialization
- Specialization leads to distribution



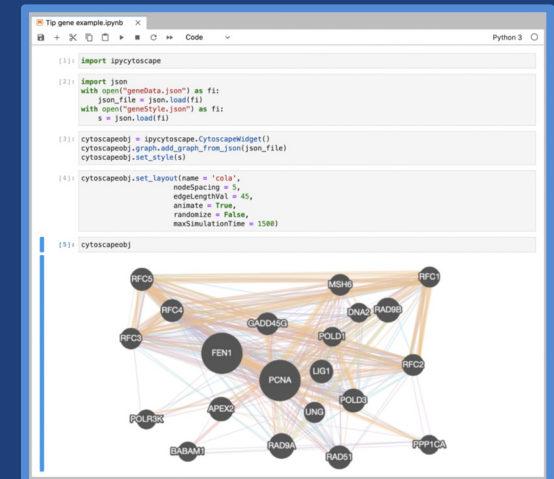
## Workloads

- Interactive, real-time workloads
- Machine learning training and inference
- Components may best be executed in different places



## Users

- Diverse backgrounds and expertise
- Different user interfaces (e.g., notebooks)



 Our data management legacy is also morphing...

- From fast, reliable, data transfer ...
- ... to secure data sharing ...
- ...and data management automation at scale
- But research flows inevitably include computation

**→ Deliver the same “fire-and-forget” capabilities for computation as we do for data management**

# Why do we need managed computation?

- **Remote computing is notoriously complicated**
  - Authentication
  - Network connections
  - Configuring/managing jobs
  - Interacting with resources (waiting in queues, scaling nodes)
  - Configuring execution environment
  - Getting results back again
- **Researchers need to overcome the same obstacles every time they move to a new resource**

# Does FaaS make sense for research?

- **Support new workloads by decomposing applications into functions**
  - Simplify development, maintenance, testing
- **Facilitate use of diverse compute resources**
  - Abstract heterogeneous compute infrastructure
- **Enable fluid function execution across the computing continuum**
  - Enable portability and sandboxing



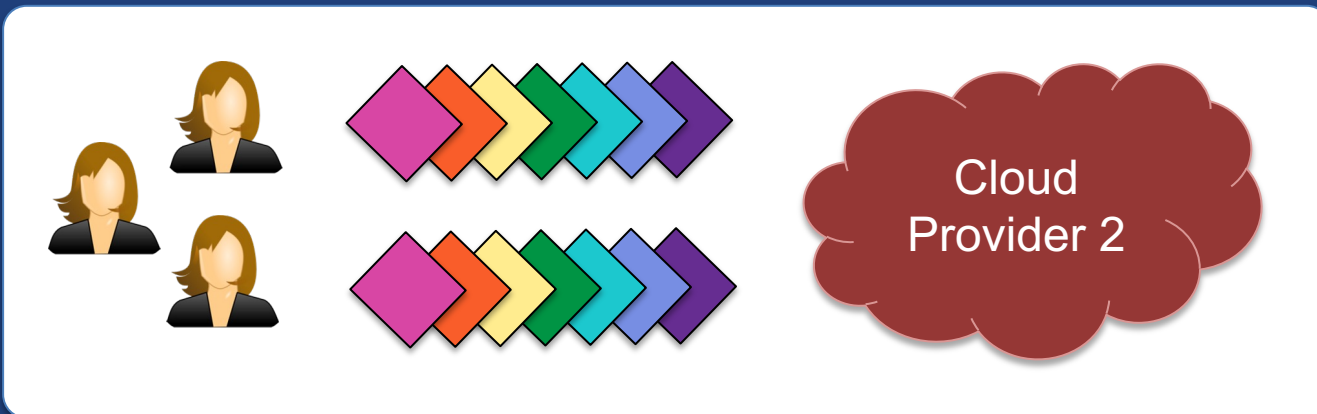
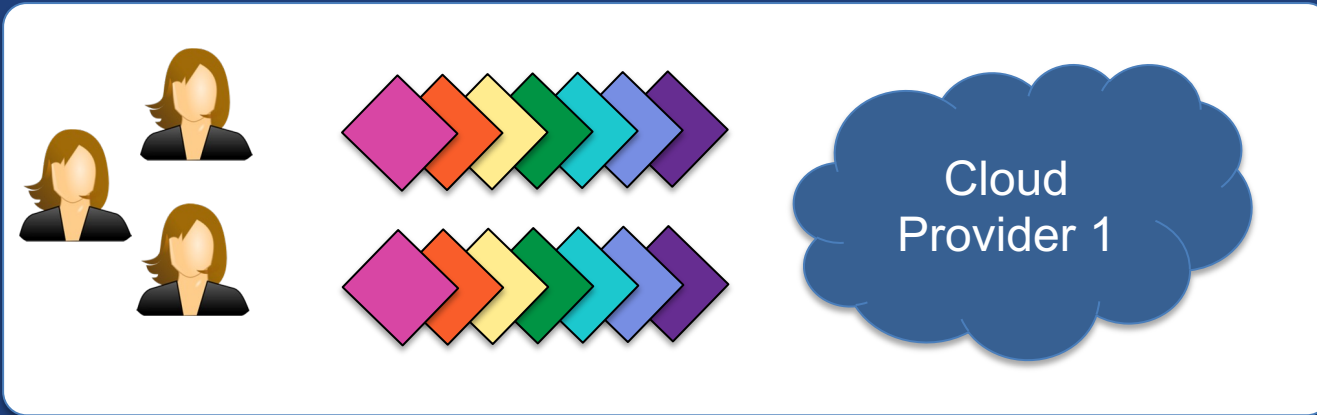


# Goal: Move closer to researchers' environments

- **Researchers primarily work in high level languages**
- **Functions are a natural unit of computation**
- **FaaS allow researchers to work in a familiar language (e.g., Python) using familiar interfaces (e.g., Jupyter)**



# FaaS as offered by cloud providers



- **Single provider, single location to submit and manage tasks**
- **Homogenous execution environment**
- **Transparent and elastic execution (of even very small tasks)**
- **Integrated with cloud provider data management**



# FaaS as the interface to the research computing ecosystem?

Still need...

- Single interface
- Homogenous execution environment
- Transparent and elastic execution
- Integrated with data management



 **funcX**: Globus for compute

**Managed, federated  
Functions-as-a-Service for  
reliably, scaleably and  
securely executing functions  
on remote endpoints from  
laptops to supercomputers**



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# The *funcX* model

- **funcX service** — Highly available cloud-hosted service; provides managed fire-and-forget function execution
- **funcX endpoint** — Abstracts access to compute resources (edge device to supercomputer)
- **SDK** — Python interface for interacting with the service; familiar Globus look and feel
- **Security** — Leverages Globus Auth; funcX endpoints are resource servers, authN and access via tokens



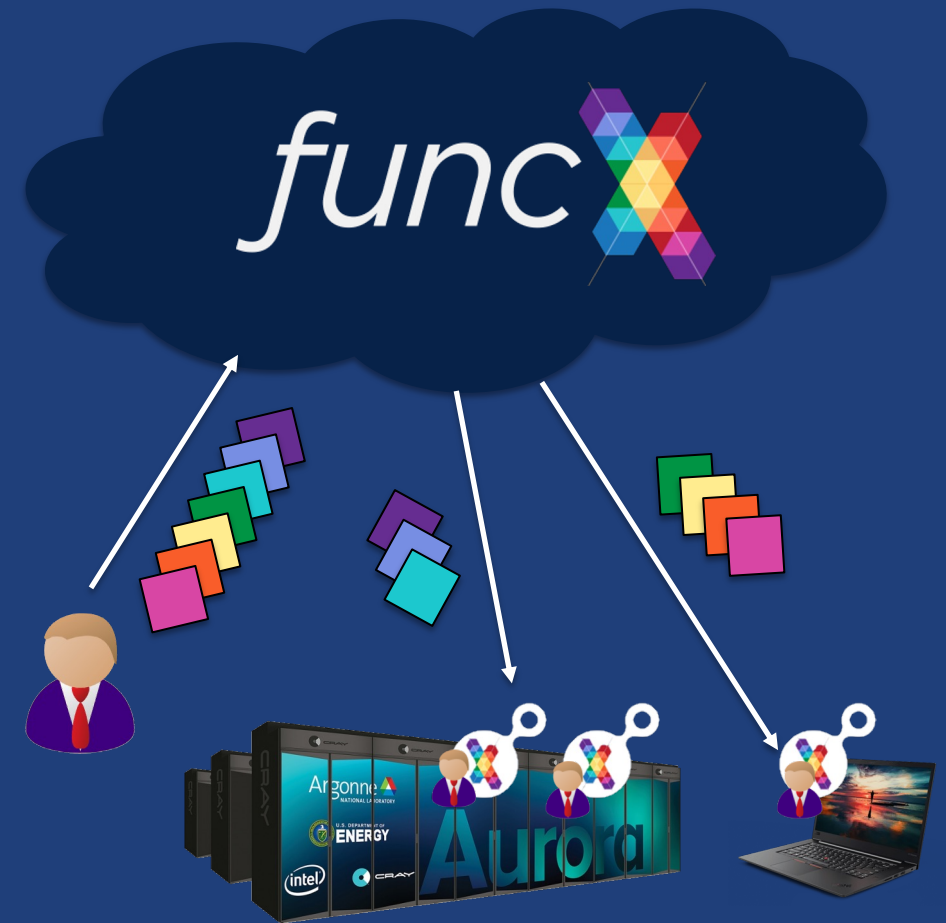
# Transform laptops, clusters, clouds into function serving endpoints

- **pip installable endpoint**
  - Globus Auth for registration
- **Elastic resource provisioning from local, cluster, or cloud system (via Parsl)**
- **Parallel execution using local fork or via common schedulers**
  - Slurm, PBS, LSF, Cobalt, K8s
- **Optional managed execution in Docker, Singularity, Shifter containers**
- **Endpoint sharing with collaborators**



# Executing functions with funcX

- **Users invoke functions as tasks**
  - Register Python function body
  - Pass input arguments
  - Select endpoint(s)
- **funcX stores tasks in the cloud**
- **Endpoints fetch waiting tasks (when online), run the task, and return the results (or errors)**
- **Results stored in the cloud; users retrieve results asynchronously**
- **Functions shareable with collaborators**

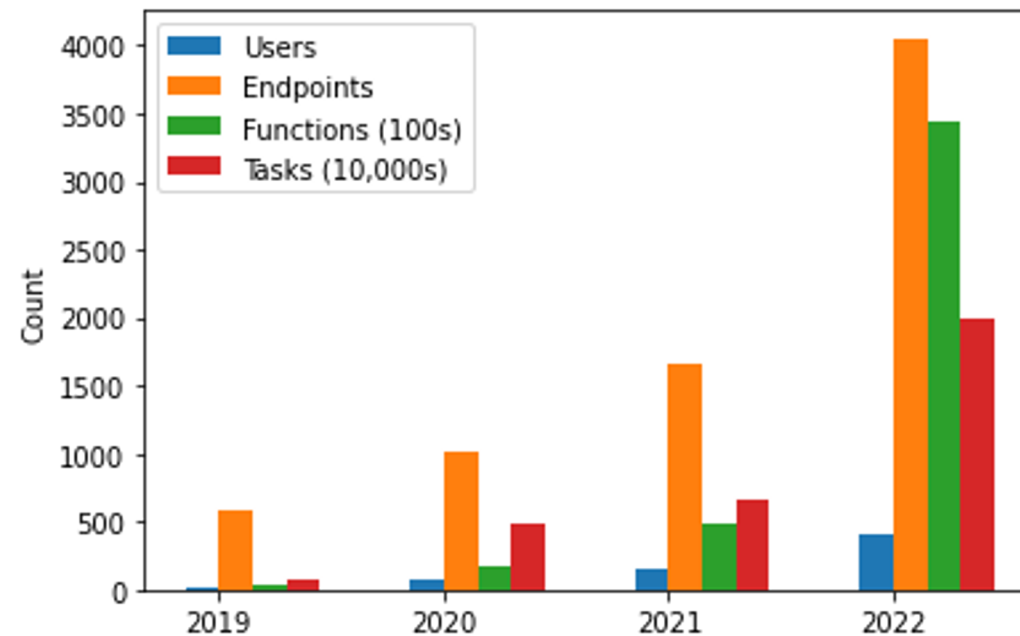




# Usage is growing rapidly

Early adopters generally in one of three categories:

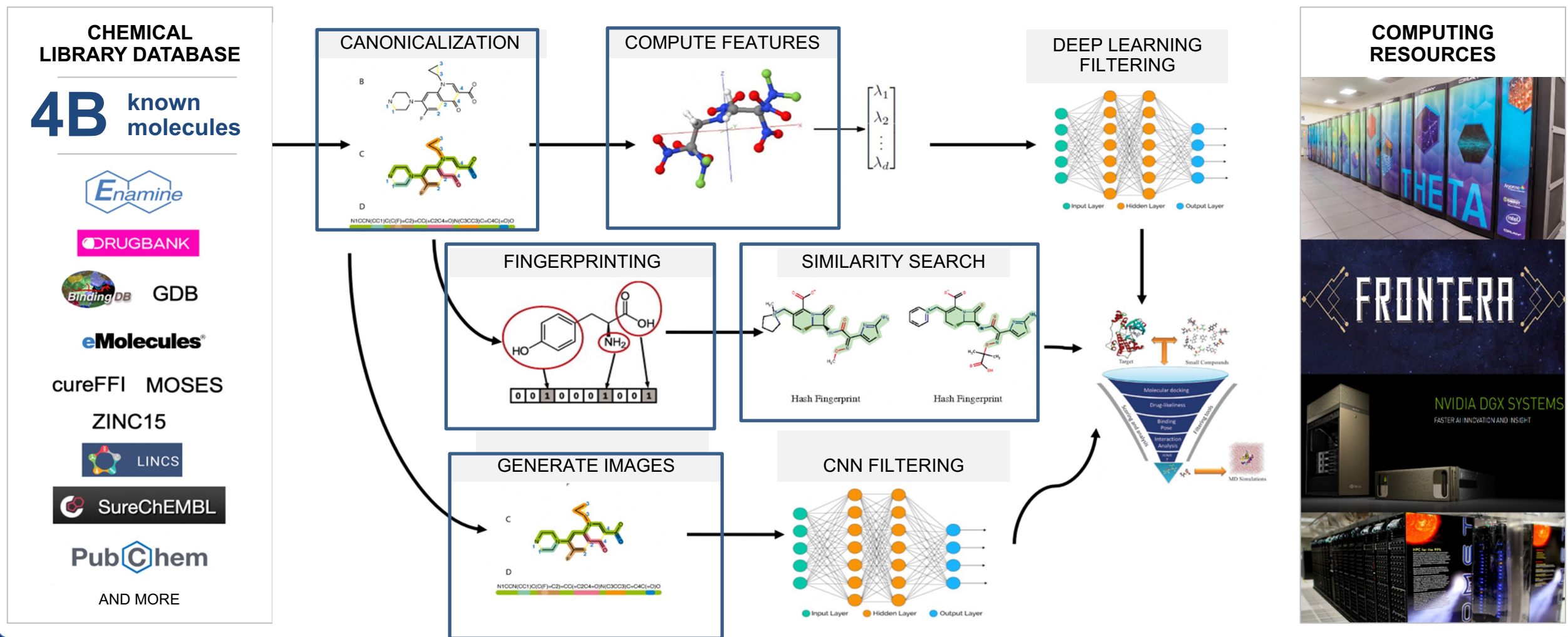
- Remote (bag-of-tasks) execution
- Research automation
- Platform for building other services



>20M tasks, >340K functions, >4000 endpoints



# Application: Using AI and supercomputers to accelerate drug development







# Automation: Serial crystallography

## Data capture

Globus  
Flows



funcX



Launch QA  
job



Carbon!



Check  
threshold

Transfer



Transfer  
raw files

funcX

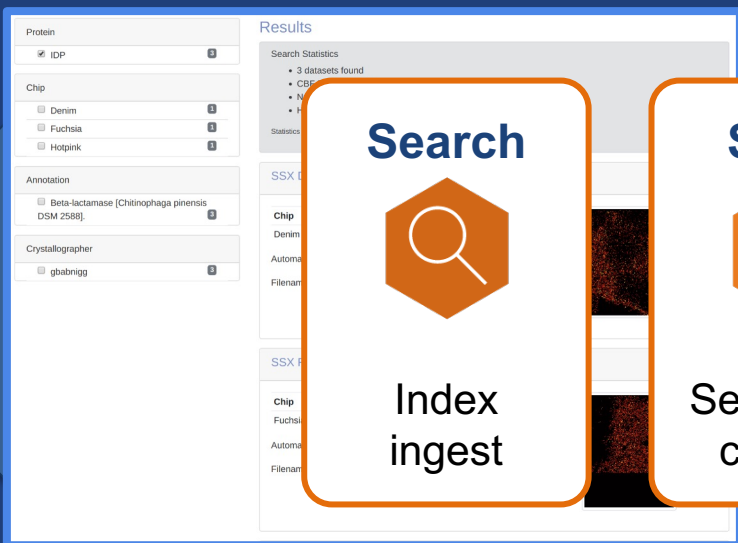


Analyze  
images

Image  
processing



## Data publication



Search



Index  
ingest

Share



Set access  
controls

Transfer



Move results  
to repo

funcX

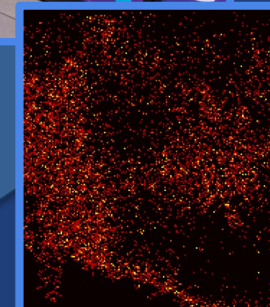


Gather  
metadata

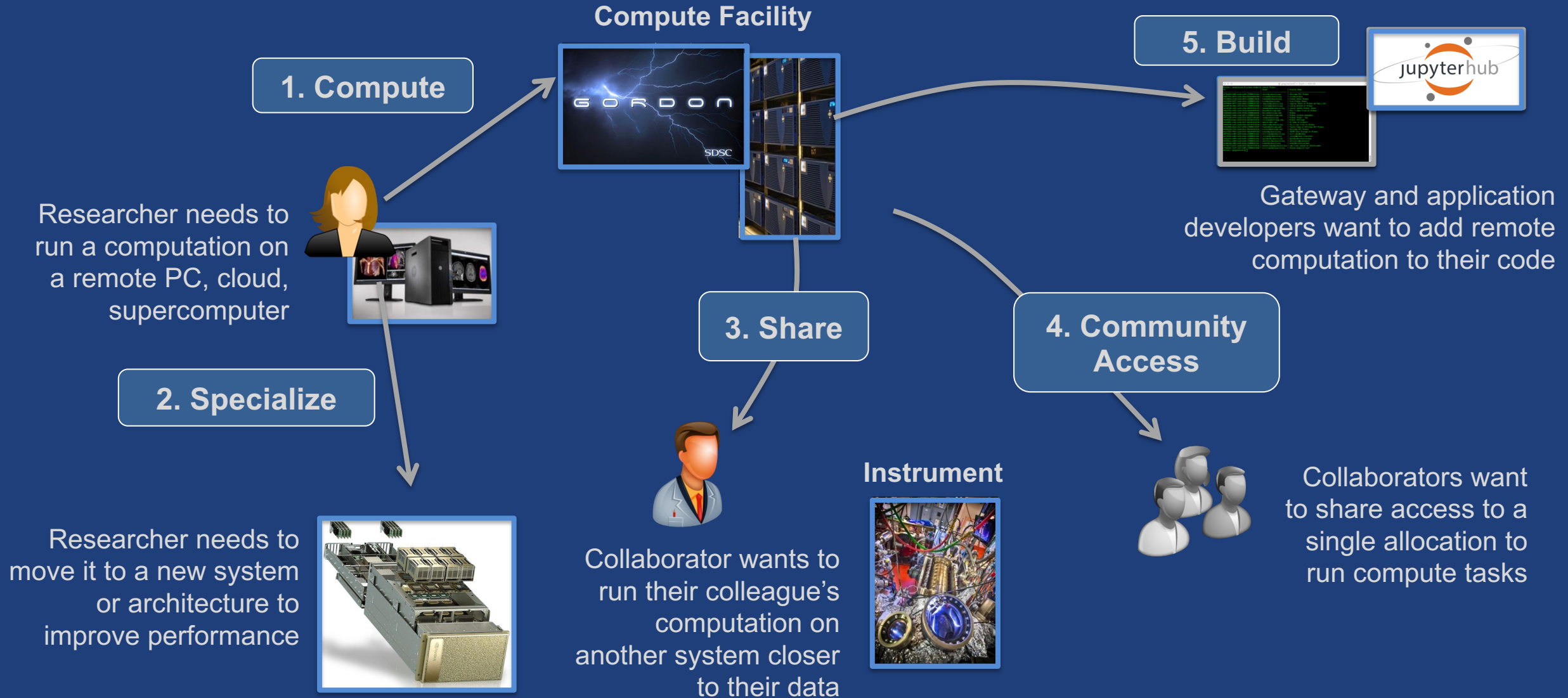
funcX



Visualize



# funcX as a platform for research computing





# Discussion

- **What use cases do you think funcX will be useful for?**
- **What barriers do you see to adoption?**
- **What questions would you want to ask before deploying?**
- **Imagine a world in which all computing resources had a funcX endpoint, what new use cases would be enabled?**

# Acknowledgements

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