

Lessons Learned from Developing a Comprehensive CI for Natural Hazards



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What is DesignSafe?

• A web-based research platform that enables transformative research that protects human life and reduces damage during natural hazard events

DesignSafe Vision

- A cyberinfrastructure (CI) that is an integral part of research discovery
 - Provide a platform for data sharing/publishing
 - Enable research workflows and access to high performance computing (HPC)
 - Deliver cloud-based tools that support the analysis, visualization, and integration of diverse data types
- Amplify and link the capabilities of natural hazards researchers in the US and abroad

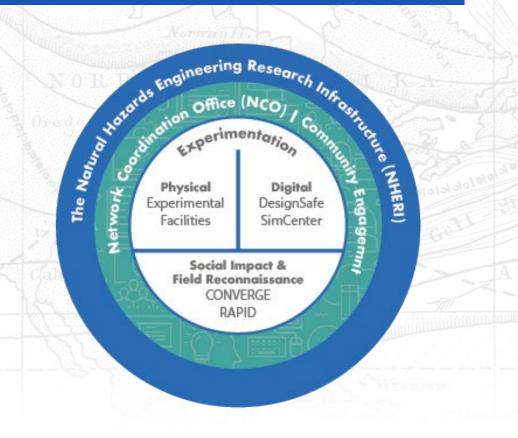






Natural Hazards Engineering Research Infrastructure

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The University of Texas at Austin

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Michael Little

UCLA TAGG RICE Florida Tech



Help-

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DesignSafe Data Models



Structured, yet *flexible*, data models for different types of research



Experimental Project

For physical work, typically done at an experimental facility or in the field.



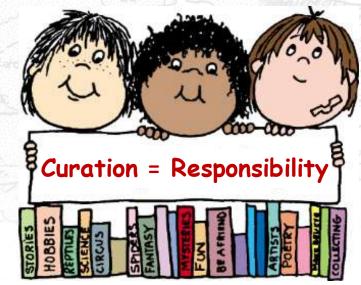
Simulation Project For numerical and/or analytical work, done with software.



Hybrid Simulation Project For work using both physical and numerical components.

Field Research Project For work done by observation in areas affected by a natural hazard.

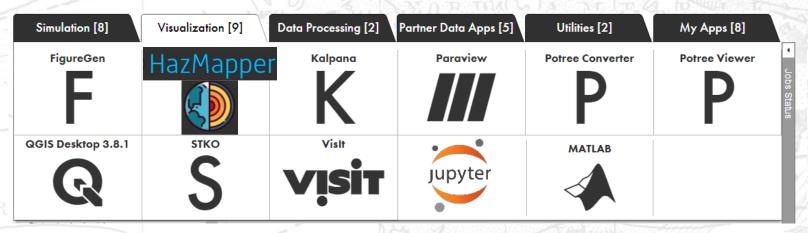
Other Project For work other than the project types above.





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Tools and Applications



Simulation codes on high performance computing (HPC) resources

- OpenSees, LS-Dyna, ADCIRC + SWAN, OpenFOAM
- Cloud-based tools for data analysis and visualization

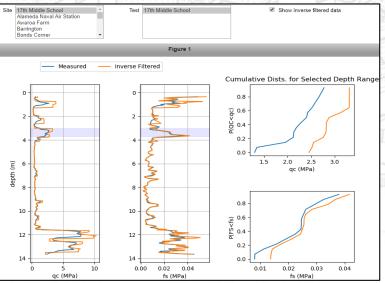


Jupyter Notebooks

- Electronic notebooks in Python or R
- JupyterHub in DesignSafe
 - Access to Data Depot files
- Interactive data viewer
- Can write scripts for data processing, Al or machine learning
- Publish for use by others
- Accelerates data reuse, adoption of approaches into practice

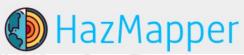


Next Generation Liquefaction

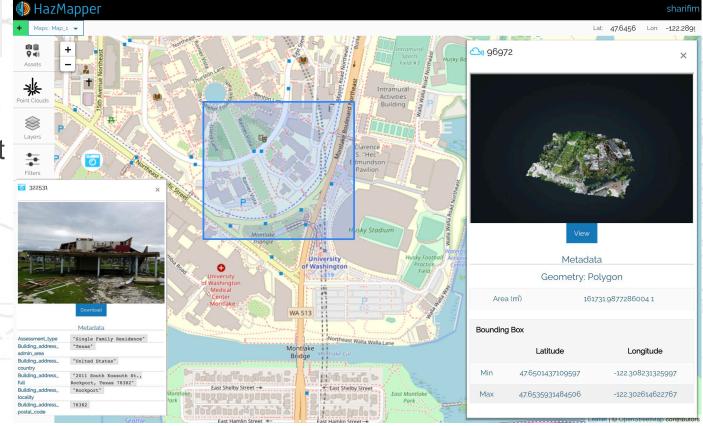


From Scott Brandenberg (UCLA)





- Easy access to images and point cloud data
- Location and preview exposed
- Link to Potree viewer provided



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Support for Structured Databases

- NGL: Community database of liquefaction case histories
- Data housed in SQL database with its own schema
- Database replicated to DesignSafe daily
- Jupyter notebooks to access data available in DesignSafe





A Little History...

NEES (for earthquakes) was the predecessor of NHERI

- 2000-2004: NEES facility and CI development (CI-1)
- 2004-2009: NEES Operations (CI-2)
- 2009-2014: NEES Operations recompeted (CI-3)
- 2015-2020: NHERI-DesignSafe (CI-4)
- 2020-2025: NHERI-DesignSafe renewal (CI-4)



Lessons Learned: leadership

- Partnership between domain scientists and CI specialists
 - DesignSafe PIs are researchers in natural hazards
 - Leadership team includes PIs and TACC Director/Staff
 - Working with TACC allows us to leverage expertise as needed
- Develop a cyberinfrastructure that can evolve and grow
 - Top down (CI staff \rightarrow domain) AND bottom up (domain \rightarrow CI)
 - Don't be afraid to modify your plan (e.g., Jupyter)
 - Being a part of TACC allows us to maintain state-of-the-art CI



Lessons Learned: user needs

- Data publishing and sharing
 - Make data publishing easy ("give me tools not rules")
 - Data publishing as a goal rather than a technical requirement
 - Educate the community about citing data to properly credit others
 - Younger researchers are the most open to sharing (open source generation)

- Broader vision in terms of the goals of the CI
 - Enable research workflows, provide access to HPC, deliver cloud-based tools for analysis, visualization, etc. – what do users want/need?
 - Meet the needs of a diverse user base from novice to power users



Lessons Learned: usage

- Promoting adoption of CI
- Highlight real research examples that utilize the CI
 - Advanced user support for early adopters
 - Training webinars and online resources

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