



**What is the name of your team and why did you choose it?**

Our team name is Team BUHPC. We are a group of students formed from the High-Performance Club on campus as well as from other students in the BU undergraduate body. Due to our club relations, we were able to obtain various types of funding from not only the CS club council, but also from the BU Engineering Department. Attending the competition has been a long-time goal of ours, and we are grateful to be a part of SC20.

**Why do you think your team will have an edge in the event (what's your secret sauce)?**

Team BUHPC brings together a diverse group of students with a variety of skills developed through personal interest and our computer science and engineering backgrounds. We have undertaken many projects as a team in the past, and we think this has created a group that understands and can communicate well with each other.

**What have you done to prepare that makes your team unique?**

Our team prepared extensively during the Summer and Fall semesters, leading workshops on Cloud VMs, Parallelization, Optimization, Cluster Configurations, Benchmarking, and Large-scale Simulations. Each member of our team was specialized in one of the competition applications, leading research and optimization efforts in accordance with their skills & background. After setting up Azure VMs, we researched what configurations were most efficient, what code implementations were best tailored for the specific hardware and optimized for performance vs. cost improvements. During the weeks preceding the competition, our team setup cloud training environments with configurations like the selected competition hardware to emulate as best as possible the performance optimizations we hope to achieve.

**What are you most looking forward to in the competition?**

We are looking most forward to learning new things about HPC and its related technologies while working on a large-scale cluster environment. Every single member of the team is a first-time competitor, and we are relatively new to HPC. Thus, we hope to come out of the competition having learned many new skills when it comes to optimizing applications. As competitors, we want to bring new ideas and come up with creative solutions to the problems thrown at us. And as always, we look forward to going up against some of the best college teams in the world.

**What time zone is your team competing from?**

5 of our members are in Boston, USA, competing from ET. Our remaining member is in California, USA competing from PT.

**What do your team members do for fun?**

For fun, our team members work on various personal projects. One of them is a 10-node Raspberry Pi supercomputing cluster effort undertaken by the club. A couple specific quotes from the team members follow:

“I love photography! During the weekends, I love walking along the Charles River Esplanade and taking pictures of the amazing scenery.” – Norman

“I like taking care of my plants, cooking, and spending time with my little brother. During the academic year, I attend hackathons with my friends to meet new people.” – Benjamin

“Cooking, work on side projects.” Po-hao (Howie)

**If your team had a theme song, what would it be?**

Our team theme song is “Eye of the Tiger” because it hypes us up when the road to success is paved with obstacles.

**Can you share an interesting fact about your team?**

This is the first time in 3 years that we’ll be competing in the Student Cluster Challenge, and with a whole new set of people too!