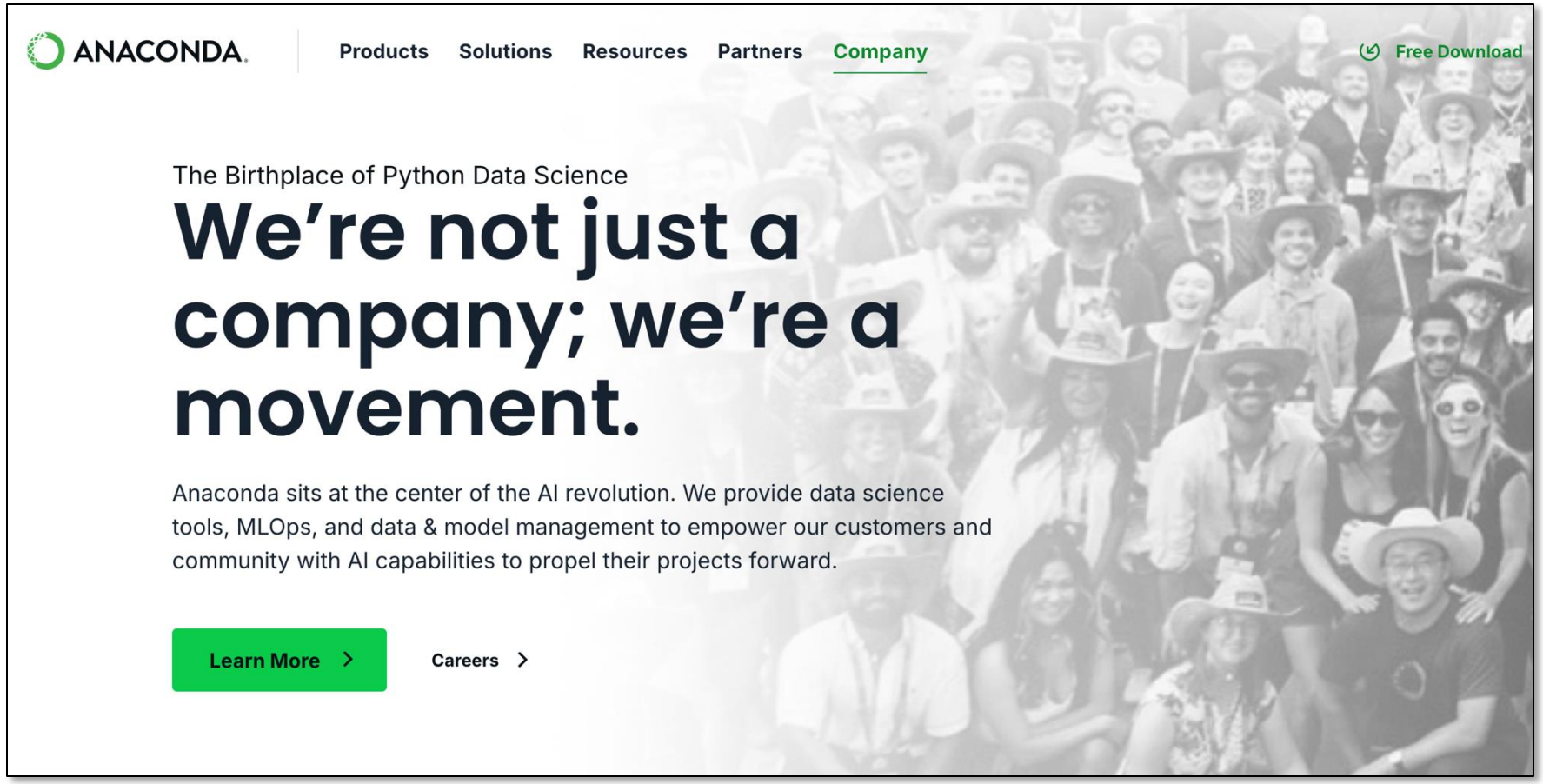
Anaconda is squeezing us

Why and how to avoid Anaconda Inc.’s paid software and services

November 13, 2024 | Robert Speck & the JuRSE Team

Background

What is Anaconda?



Background

What is Anaconda?

Anaconda is …

- … a company providing lots of software and services around **Python** (and beyond)
- … developer of software like the **Anaconda Distribution**
- … driver of the “cross-platform, language-agnostic binary package manager” **conda**
- … host of **conda repositories/”channels”** for Python packages (and beyond)
- … quite well-known and widely used, especially in science, also here on campus
- … a company that needs to earn money (and rightfully so)

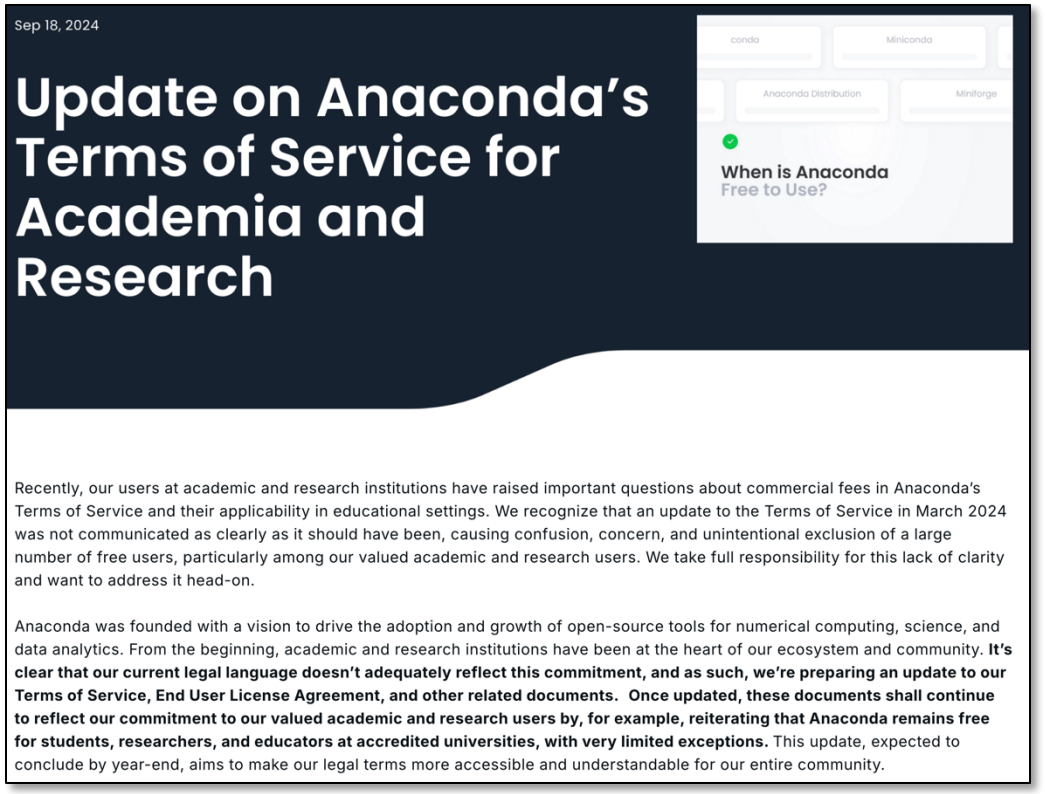
New Terms of Service

Already in 2020, but now ”clarified”

“The distribution of packages Anaconda builds and maintains remains free for individuals and small organizations, which is defined in the Terms of Service as having less than 200 employees or contractors.

A paid license is required for large organizations, which is defined in the Terms of Service as having more than 200 employees or contractors.

Anaconda is free for all educational entities—even those with 200 or more employees or contractors—when used in a course curriculum, including teaching, learning, and researching, at accredited universities worldwide.”



Sep 18, 2024

Update on Anaconda’s Terms of Service for Academia and Research

When is Anaconda Free to Use?

Recently, our users at academic and research institutions have raised important questions about commercial fees in Anaconda’s Terms of Service and their applicability in educational settings. We recognize that an update to the Terms of Service in March 2024 was not communicated as clearly as it should have been, causing confusion, concern, and unintentional exclusion of a large number of free users, particularly among our valued academic and research users. We take full responsibility for this lack of clarity and want to address it head-on.

Anaconda was founded with a vision to drive the adoption and growth of open-source tools for numerical computing, science, and data analytics. From the beginning, academic and research institutions have been at the heart of our ecosystem and community. **It’s clear that our current legal language doesn’t adequately reflect this commitment, and as such, we’re preparing an update to our Terms of Service, End User License Agreement, and other related documents. Once updated, these documents shall continue to reflect our commitment to our valued academic and research users by, for example, reiterating that Anaconda remains free for students, researchers, and educators at accredited universities, with very limited exceptions.** This update, expected to conclude by year-end, aims to make our legal terms more accessible and understandable for our entire community.

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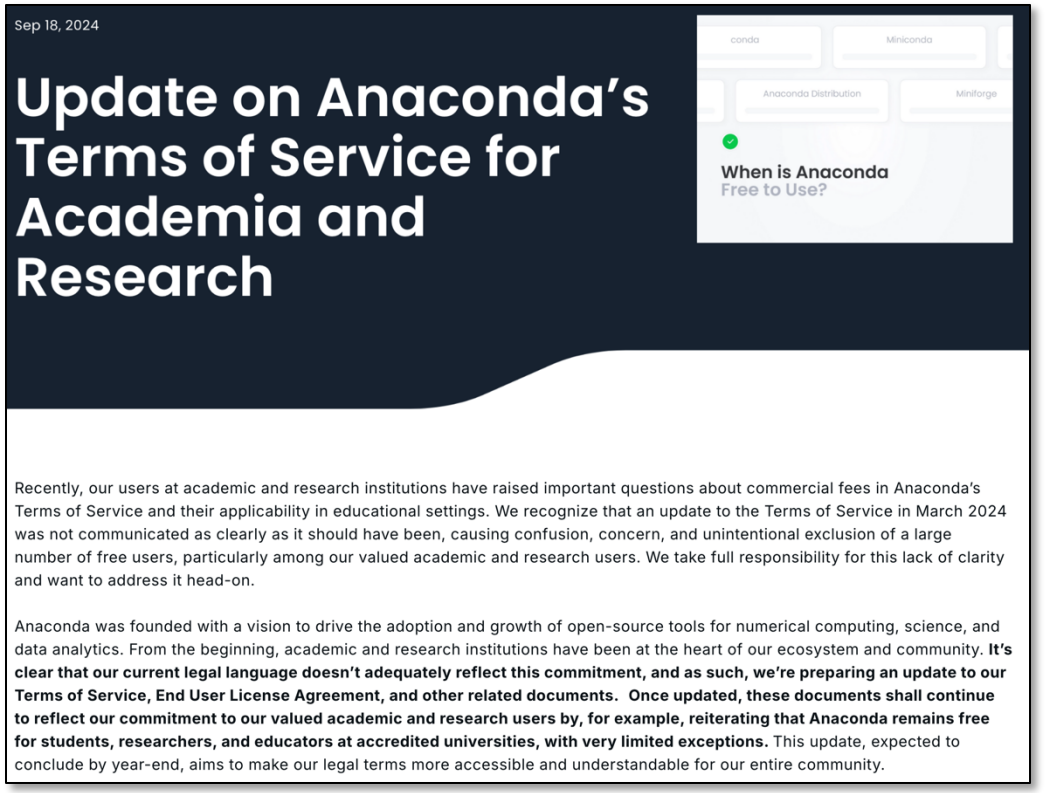

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Details

Avoiding license fees for FZJ

Don’ts

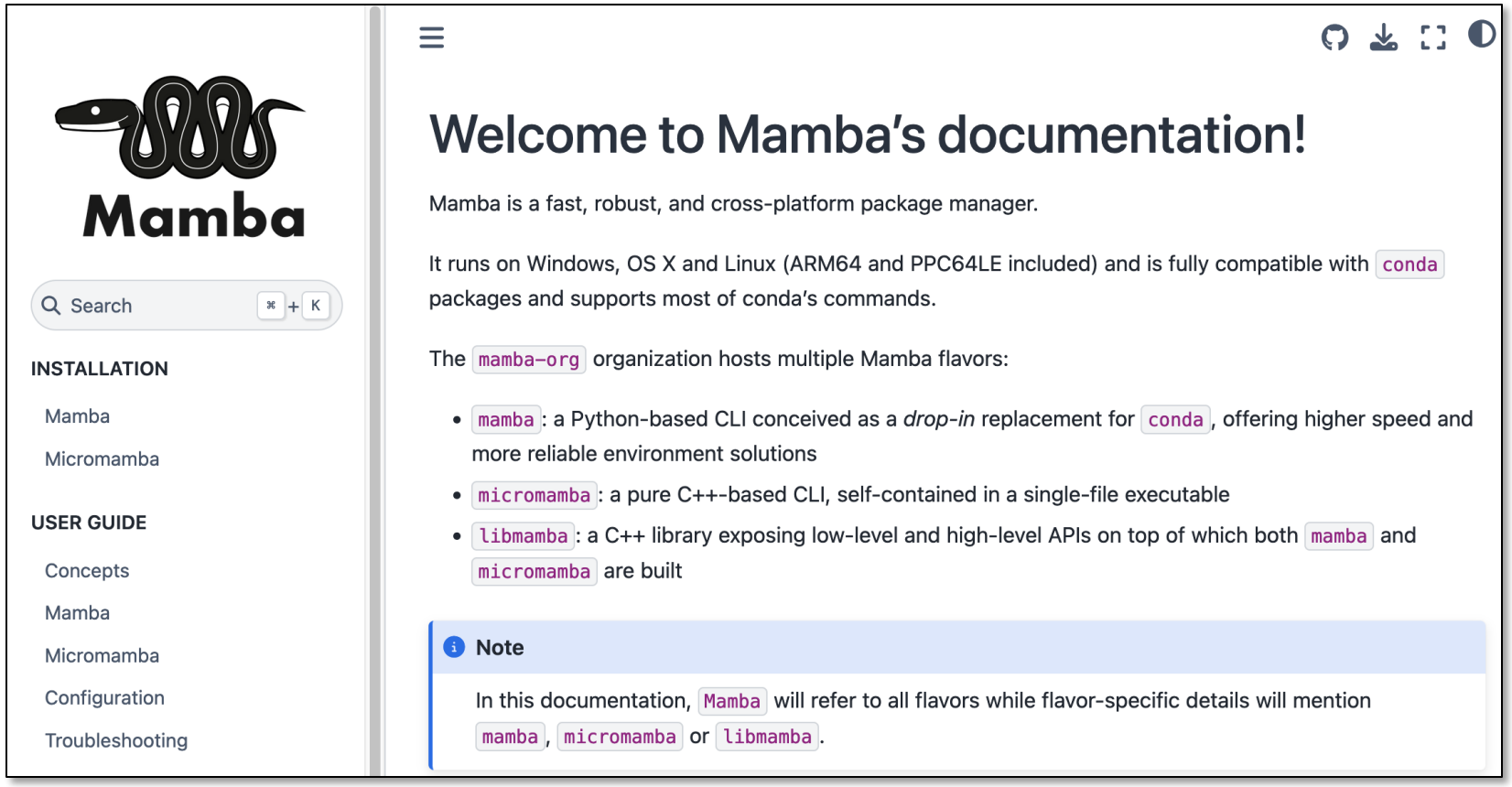
- do not use Anaconda software like the Anaconda Distribution
- do not pull packages built and maintained by Anaconda (esp. `defaults` channel)
- do not keep using non-Anaconda packages managers with the `defaults` channel

Dos

- use non-Anaconda package managers like mini-forge or micromamba
- use the `conda-forge` channel as alternative to the `defaults` channel
- check your existing environments for pulls from the `defaults` channel
- think about supporting open-source software development

Alternatives

You have a choice!



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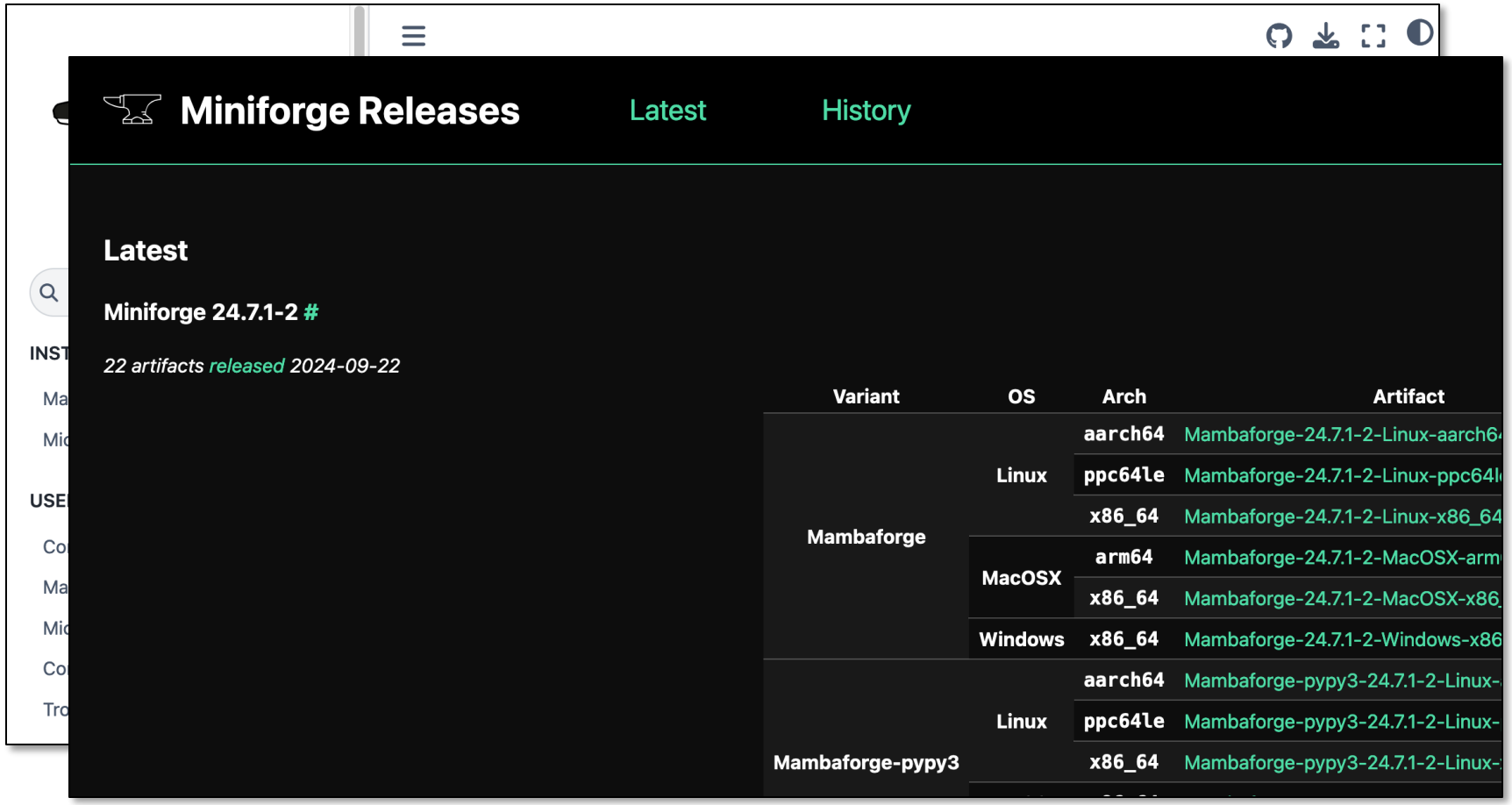

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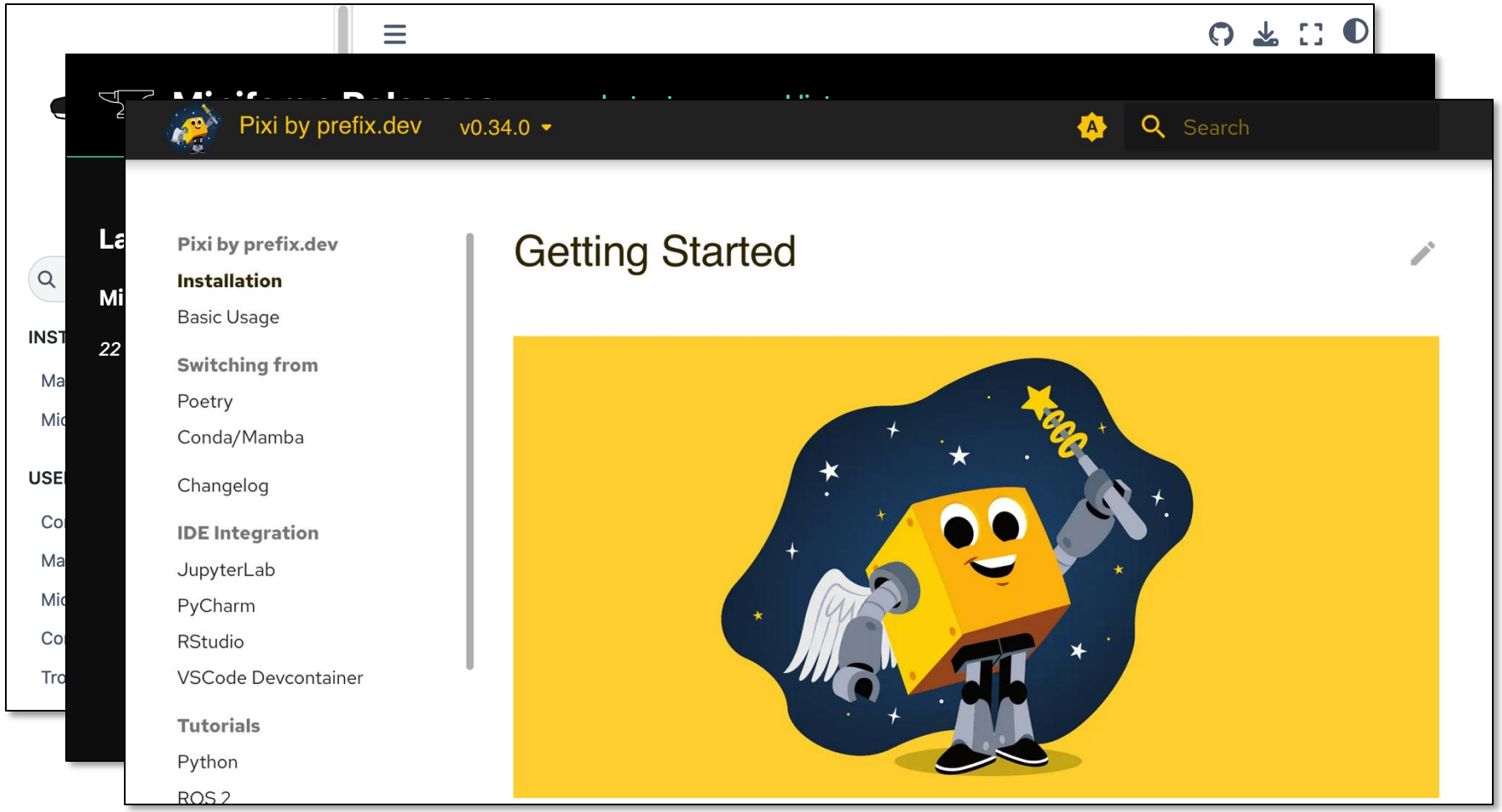

Help?

JuRSE is here to help

Resources for getting help:

#rse Rocket Chat channel

https://www.fz-juelich.de/en/rse/the_latest/the-anaconda-is-squeezing-us

Thank you for your attention!