FAQ

- Account Access
  Q. How do I create an account?
  A. A step-by-step guide is available on our Account Creation page.
  
  Q. Why can't I log in?
  A. You haven't created an account yet.
  A. Your account isn't sponsored yet.
  A. You aren't using two-factor authentication (NetID+).
  
  Q. How do I add members to my HPC research group?
  A. Faculty Members (PIs) may add members by following the step-by-step instructions available on the Account Creation page under Sponsoring HPC Accounts.
  
  Q. I'm leaving the university/not affiliated with the university, can I maintain/receive access to HPC?
  A. Yes, if you are a former university affiliate or campus collaborator participating in research, you may register as a Designated Campus Colleague (DCC). Once your DCC status has been approved, you will receive a NetID+ which you may use to create an HPC Account. If you already have an HPC Account, no further action is required.

- General Computing and Storage
  Q. Why isn't my job running?
  A. Due to the number of HPC users, it may not always be possible to run a submitted job immediately. If there are insufficient resources available, your job will be queued and it may take up to a few hours for it to begin executing.
  
  It should be noted that jobs using Standard hours are given higher priority than those submitted to Windfall. Windfall jobs have the additional disadvantage of being subject to preemption by higher-priority jobs and may be repeatedly suspended and queued depending on HPC usage. If you have a high-priority job, we recommend using your available Standard hours.
  
  Q. Why do my jobs keep getting interrupted?

- Interactive Sessions
  Q. Why shouldn't I use Windfall with OnDemand?
  
- Errors
  Q. What does this error mean - pcmem (32gb != 6gb,42gb)
  Q. My group has Standard Hours available but I keep getting the error: "Not Running: PBS Error: Not enough time remaining to run your job"
A. If your jobs keep stopping and restarting, it's likely because you are using Windfall which is considered lower priority and is subject to preemption. Before submitting a job to Windfall, consider using your group's allotted monthly hours first. Jobs using Standard hours will queue for a shorter period of time and will not be interrupted. You can check your group's remaining hours using the command va. To see more information on your allotted hours and the different job queues, see: Allocation and Limits.

Q. Can I run programs on the login nodes?
A. Yes. But only for testing your code and not for more than an hour. Jobs running on the head node are subject to being terminated if we think they are affecting other users of the login nodes.

Q. Can I get root access to my compute nodes?
A. That is not possible. The compute nodes get their image from the head node and have to remain the same. If you need to install software that needs root access, for example, you can install the software to your home directories.

Q. Do you allow users to NFS mount their own storage onto the compute nodes?
A. No. We NFS mount storage across all compute nodes so that data is available independent of which compute nodes are used. See this section for how to transfer data.

Q. I can't transfer my data to HPC. I have an active account but I keep getting errors. What's wrong?
A. After creating your HPC Account, your home directory and extra folder will not be created until you log in for the first time. Without your home directory, you will not be able to transfer your data to HPC. If you are struggling and receiving errors, sign into your account either using the CLI through the bastion or logging into OnDemand and then try again.

Interactive Sessions

Q. Why shouldn’t I use Windfall with OnDemand?
A. Windfall jobs can be preempted by a higher priority queue. Each session creates an interactive job on a node. It is unsatisfactory to be dumped in the middle of that session. A desktop session would have the same unpleasant result. Windfall can be used if you do not have enough standard time left. Consider though that a one hour session using one compute core only takes up 1 cpu hour out of your group's 36,000 hours.

Q. My interactive session has been disconnected, can I return to it?
A. No, unfortunately when an interactive job ends it is no longer accessible. This applies to both OOD sessions and those accessed via the command line.

Errors

Q. What does this error mean - pcmem (32gb != 6gb,42gb)
A. pcmem is per core memory. Each node has a fixed amount of memory and number of cores. All of the standard nodes have 168GB memory allocated to PBS and 28 cores. 168 / 28 = 6. The high memory node has a ratio of 42GB. So those are the only valid options.

Q. My group has Standard Hours available but I keep getting the error: "Not Running: PBS Error: Not enough time remaining to run your job"
A. To access your group's allocated Standard Hours, you must include the group's name in your PBS script:
#PBS -W group_list=<YOUR PI GROUP ID>

If you do not specify a group, you will only have access to Windfall. See the Quick Start section for more information.