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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+).
A. You need to wait 15 minutes. If you just created your account, it takes time before you can log in.
A. You're trying to connect using ssh NetID@login.hpc.arizona.edu. This will not work. Instead, use: ssh NetID@hpc.arizona.edu.

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

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?
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 `vz`. 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. Well 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. See this example.

Q. I accidentally deleted files from my home directories. Or from /extra
A. Good news. Files in /home are backed up daily. Bad news. Files in /extra are not.
To restore files from any /home directories, go to https://it.arizona.edu/machine-roomoperations-center. The bottom half of the form under “File Restore Request” is all that is needed.
“System” pull-down: other
Server: homebackups.hpc.arizona.edu
Filepath: /home/u26/chrisreidy #for example
Note that existing files are not replaced.

Software

Q. How do I install this R package? Why can’t I install this R package?
A. R installations can sometimes be frustrating. We have instructions for some troublesome packages documented in our Using and Customizing R Packages section. Check to see if your package is listed. If so, follow the steps listed.
If your package is not listed, there are a few reasons why you may be having difficulties. We cover in detail common issues people run into in the link above. For quick troubleshooting:

1. Do you have Anaconda installed? If so, follow the instructions under Resolving Anaconda Issues in the link above.
2. Make sure all of your R packages were installed with the same version of R.
3. Make sure all of your R packages were installed on the same cluster.
4. If your package relies on 3rd party software, make sure R has access to that software either through a local installation or by loading the correct module. We recommend installing packages that rely on other modules on the command line and not in an OOD Rstudio session.
5. Try installing the package into a fresh library (see the linked section for instructions).
6. Check that your account doesn’t have any of the following file types: saved R sessions, gnu compiles, windows files. These can corrupt your environment and lead to trouble.

Data Transfer and Storage

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.

Q. I accidentally deleted files from my /extra/ folder, can I retrieve them?

A. Unfortunately, no. Backups are not made of /extra/ and anything deleted is permanently erased. It is impossible for us to recover it. When executing the rm command, we recommend including the -i flag:

```
rm -i <filename> # for single-file deletions
# or
rm -i -R <directory> # for deleting full directories
```

When run, you must manually confirm the deletion of each file. It may be cumbersome, but it can prevent massive headaches in the future!

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.

Q. How do I access custom python packages from an OOD Jupyter session?

A. Instructions on accessing custom packages are under Accessing Custom Packages from a Jupyter Session in our documentation on Using and Installing Python.

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.

Q. I try to run a job and get: "Bad UID for job execution"

A. This happens most frequently for new users. It takes a while to propagate new accounts to all the right places. Come back after a coffee break.