SHARCNET™

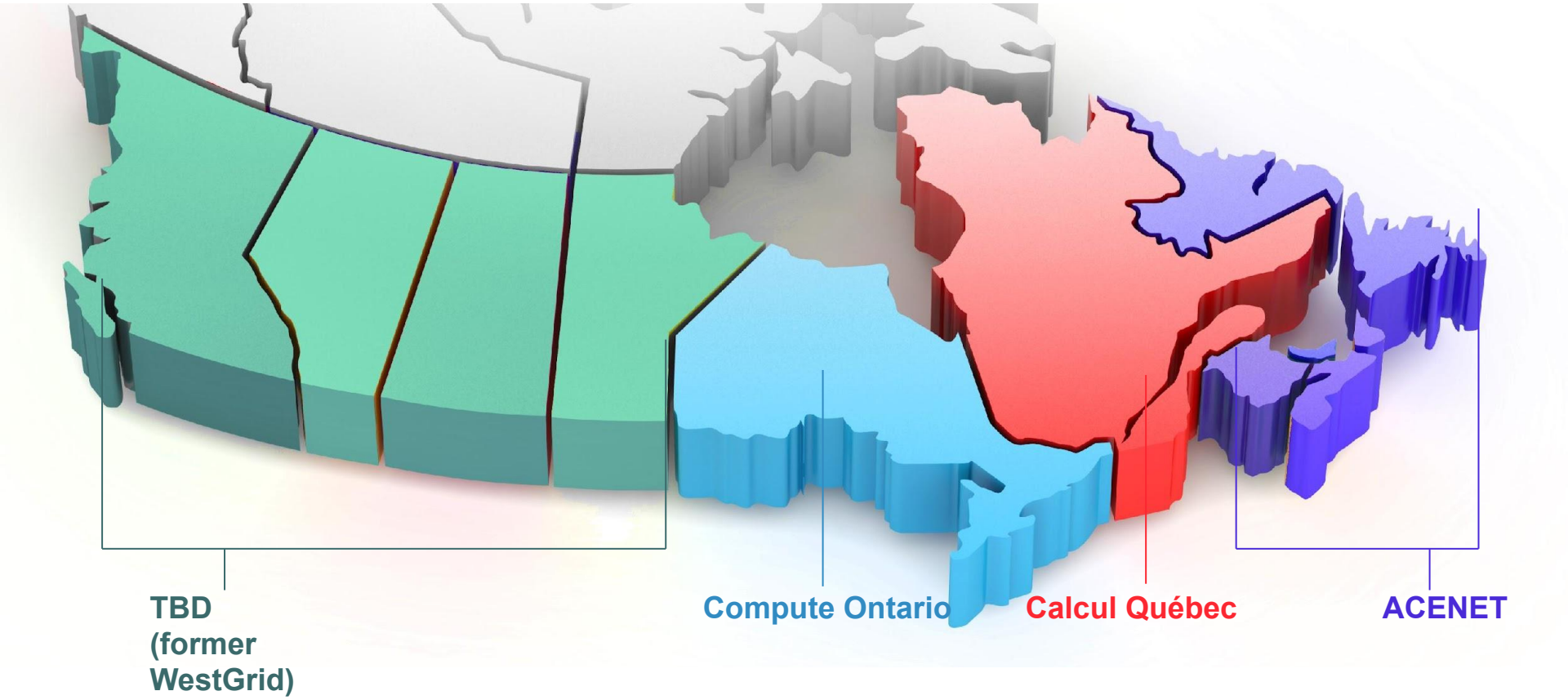
Digital Research Alliance of Canada

New User Seminar Starting Shortly...

SHARCNET™

Digital Research Alliance of Canada

Single account...



One can access all national supercomputers across the country, for free.

SHARCNET™

A consortium of 19 Ontario institutions providing advanced computing resources and support...

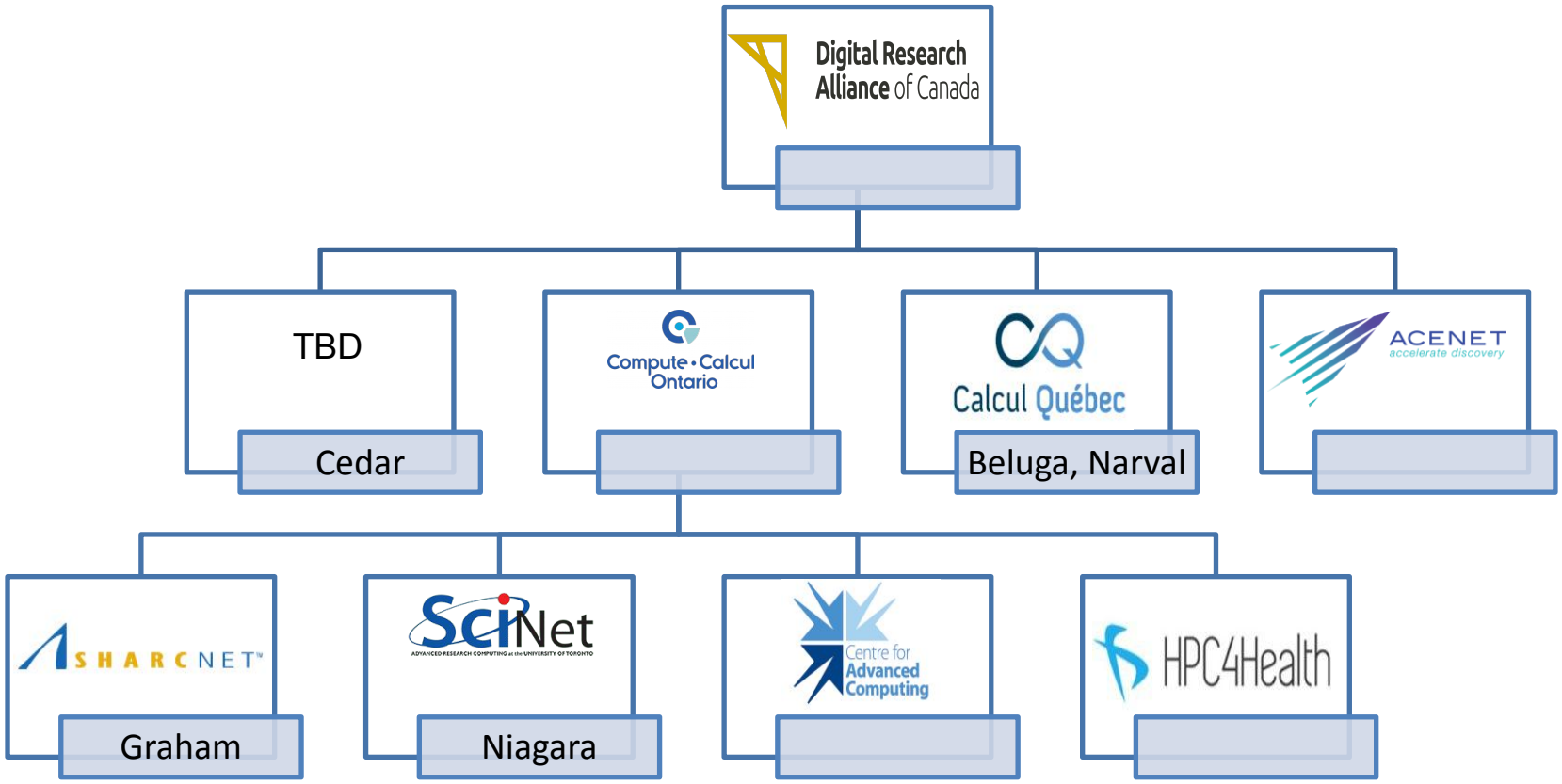
- Member of Alliance and Compute Ontario
- 3,000+ Canadian and international users

Shared
Hierarchical
Academic
Research
Computing
NETwork

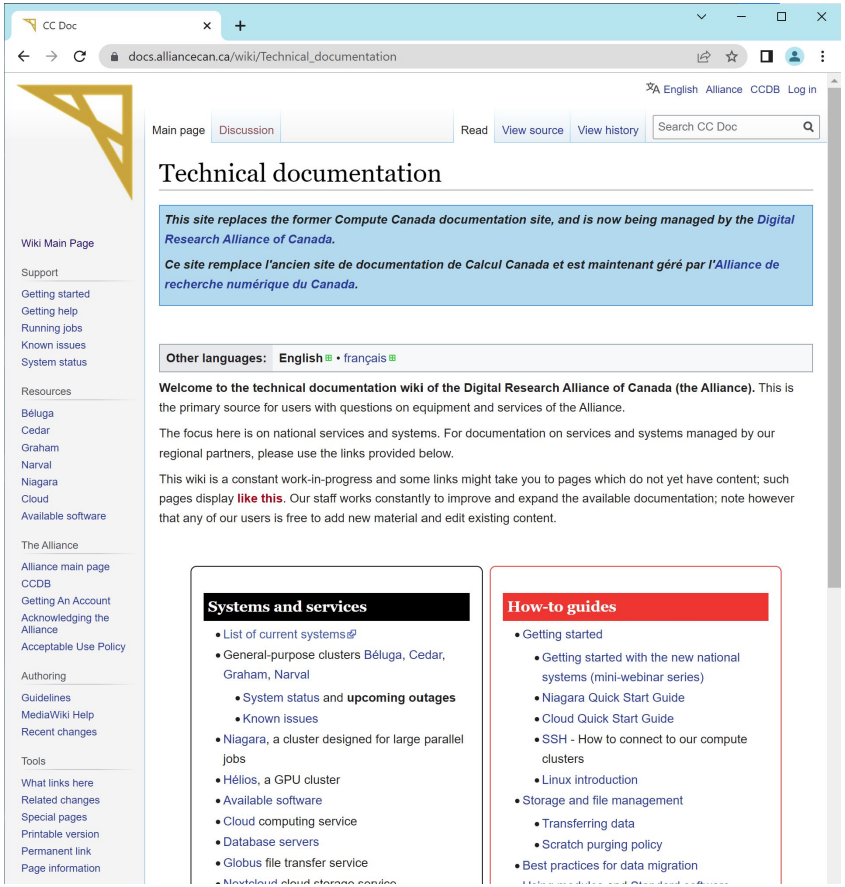
- ~50,000 CPU cores
- 370+ GPUs
- 10 Gb/s network
- 100 Gb/s between nat'l centres

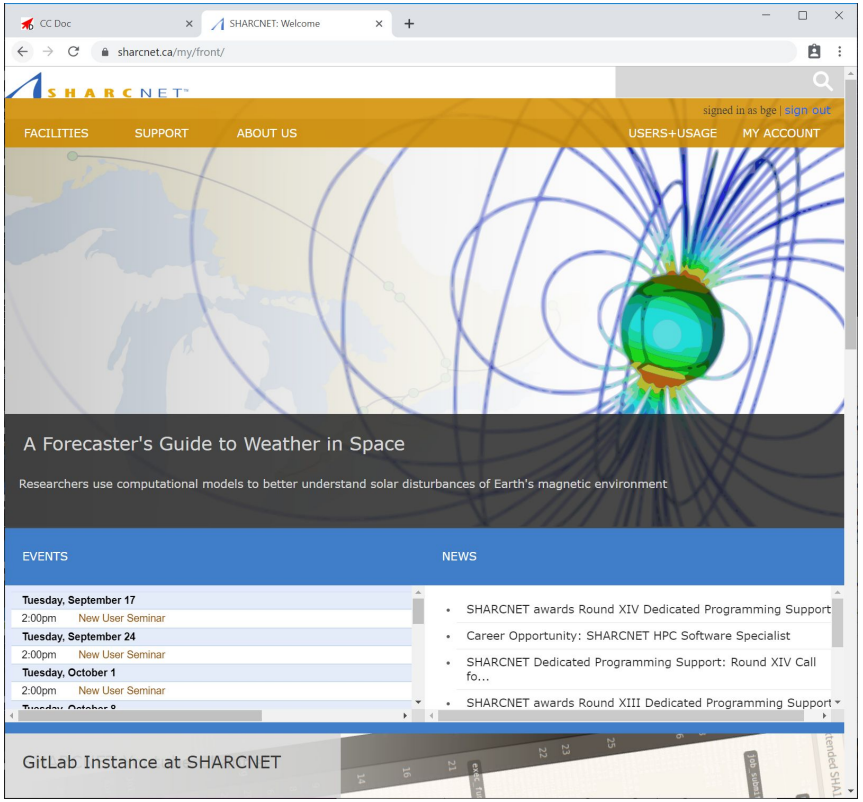
SHARCNET™

Alliance's Regional Partners



Where to look for information and get help





https://docs.alliancecan.ca/

https://www.sharcnet.ca/

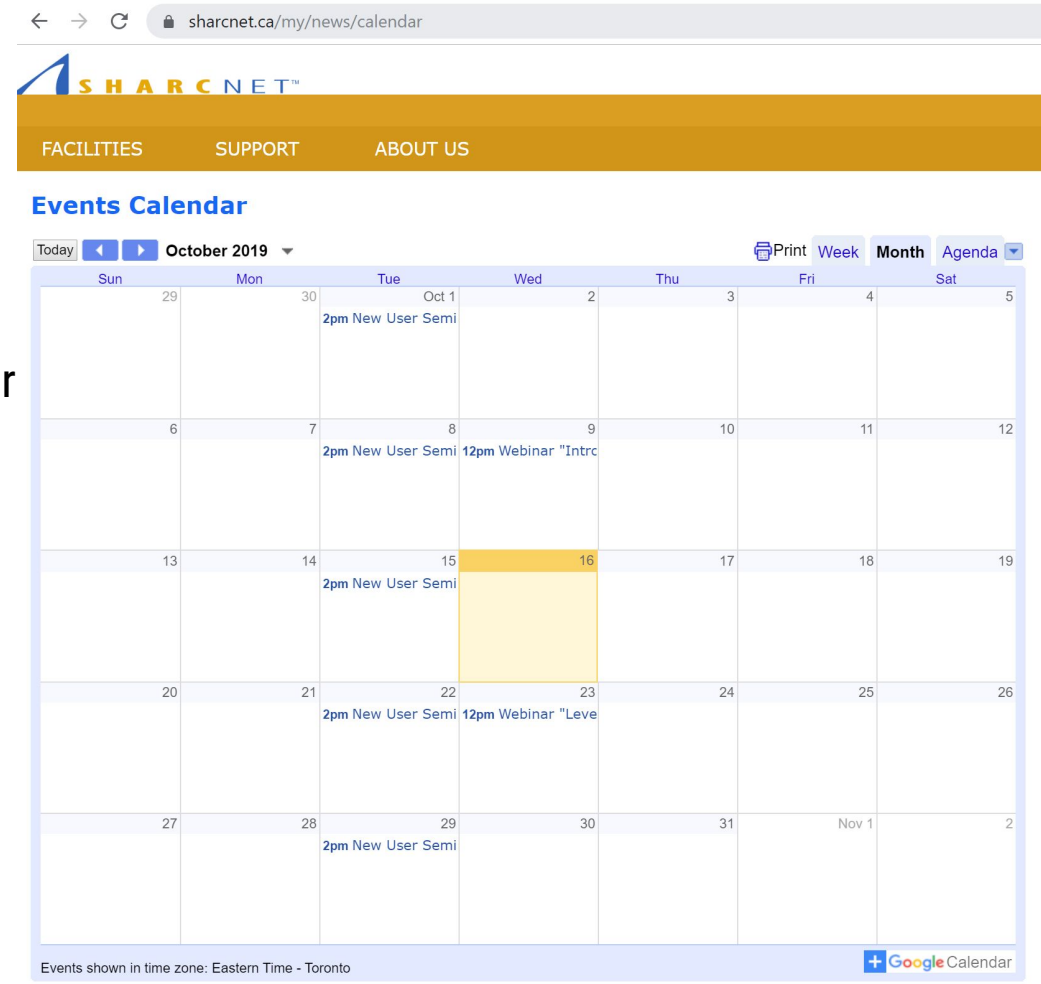
SHARCNET™

Digital Research Alliance of Canada

Where to look for information and get help

Online events

- New user seminar every Tuesday at 2pm.
- Bi-weekly general interest seminars at noon on Wednesdays.
- Check out recorded seminars on our youtube channel:
  http://youtube.sharcnet.ca
- To subscribe to our Events mailing list, send an email to events+subscribe@sharcnet.ca
- Google for “digital alliance training” to find the calendar for all Alliance events



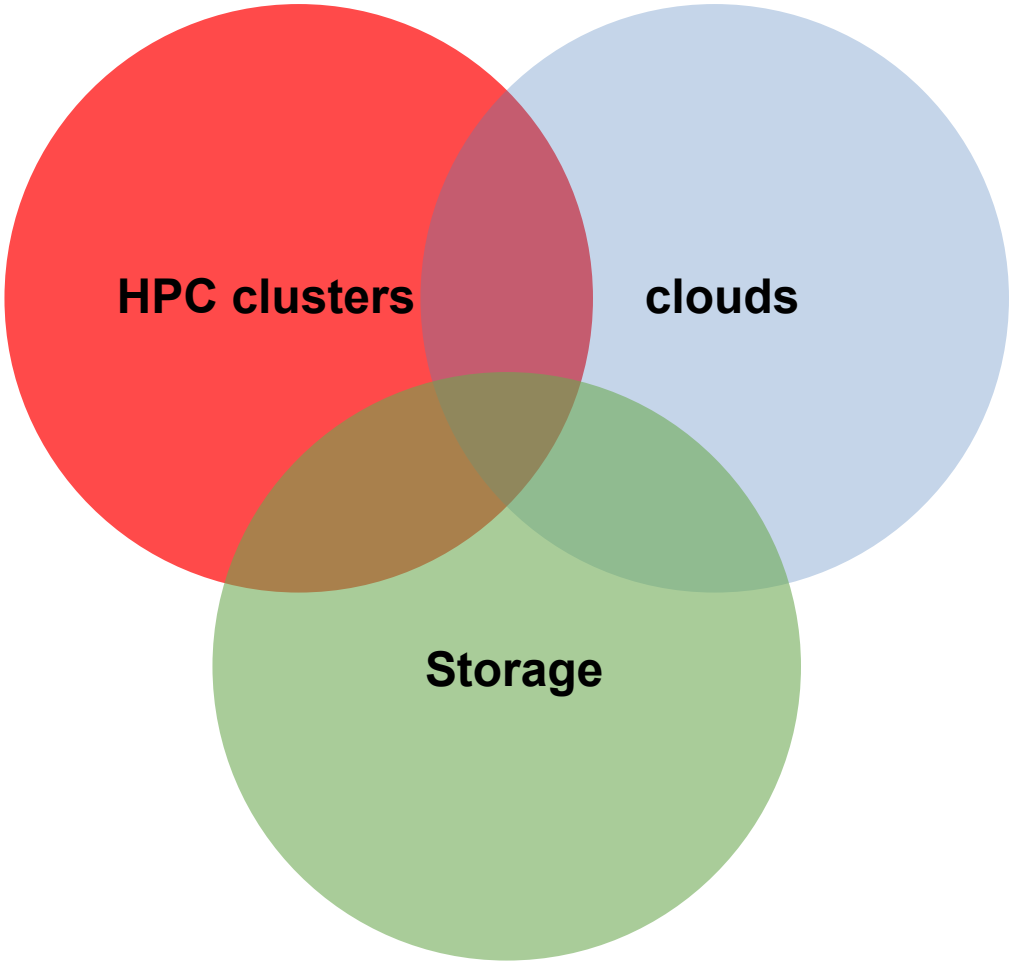
Where to look for information and get help

Interactive help

- Ticketing system via support@tech.alliancecan.ca or help@sharcnet.ca
- E-mail us - check staff contact info on https://www.sharcnet.ca/
- Phone us
- Office visit*

Use of systems
Installation of software
Access to commercial software and site licence
Debugging and optimizing code
Programming
RAC applications
...

The facilities and resources



The facilities and resources

Clusters across the country

- cedar.computecanada.ca
- graham.computecanada.ca
- narval.computecanada.ca
- niagara.computecanada.ca
- beluga.computecanada.ca

Cloud services

- arbutus.cloud.computecanada.ca
- cedar.cloud.computecanada.ca
- graham.cloud.computecanada.ca
- east.cloud.computecanada.ca

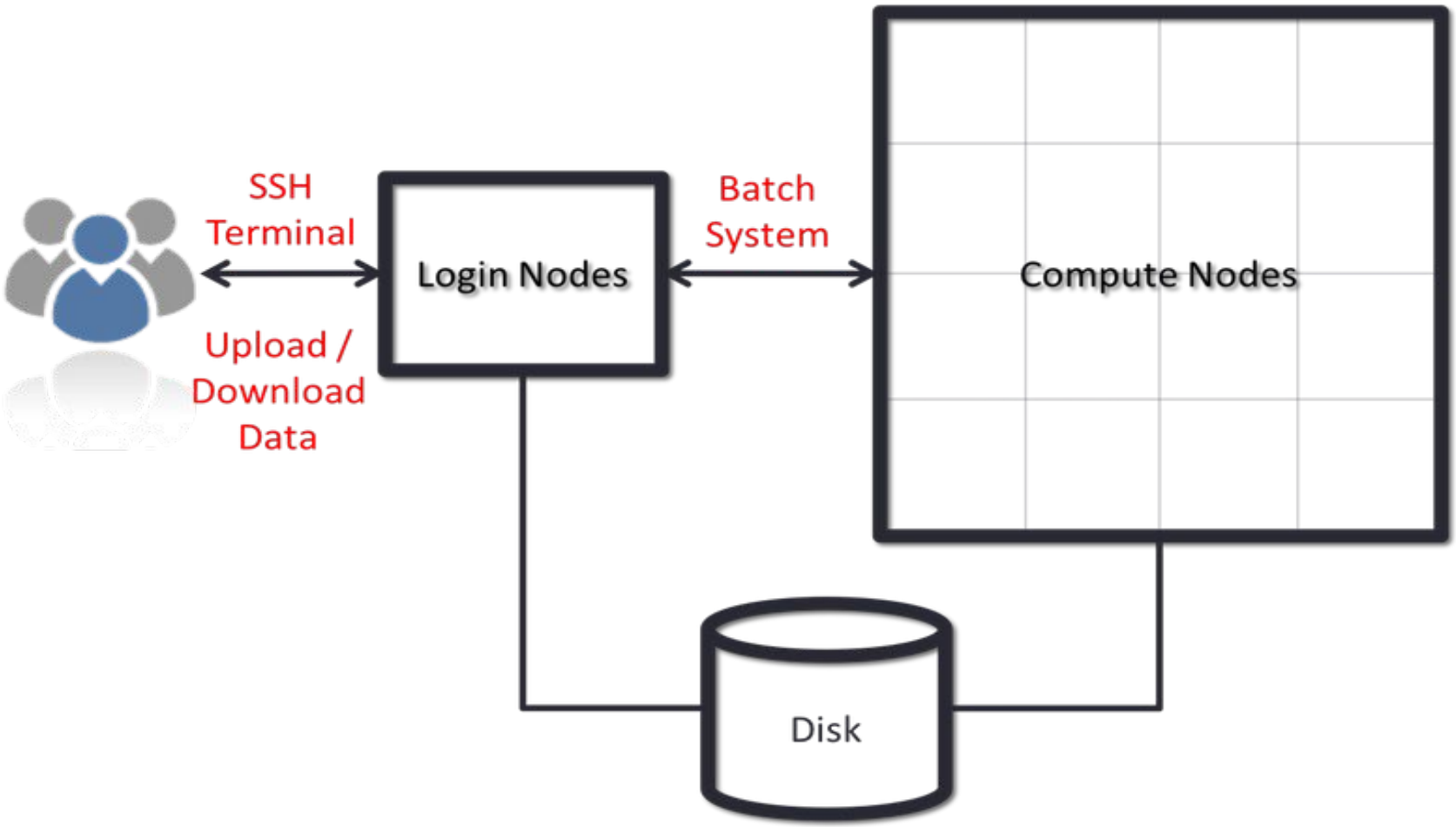
NB. Files are NOT shared across systems. You need move and copy files around as needed.

The computing environment

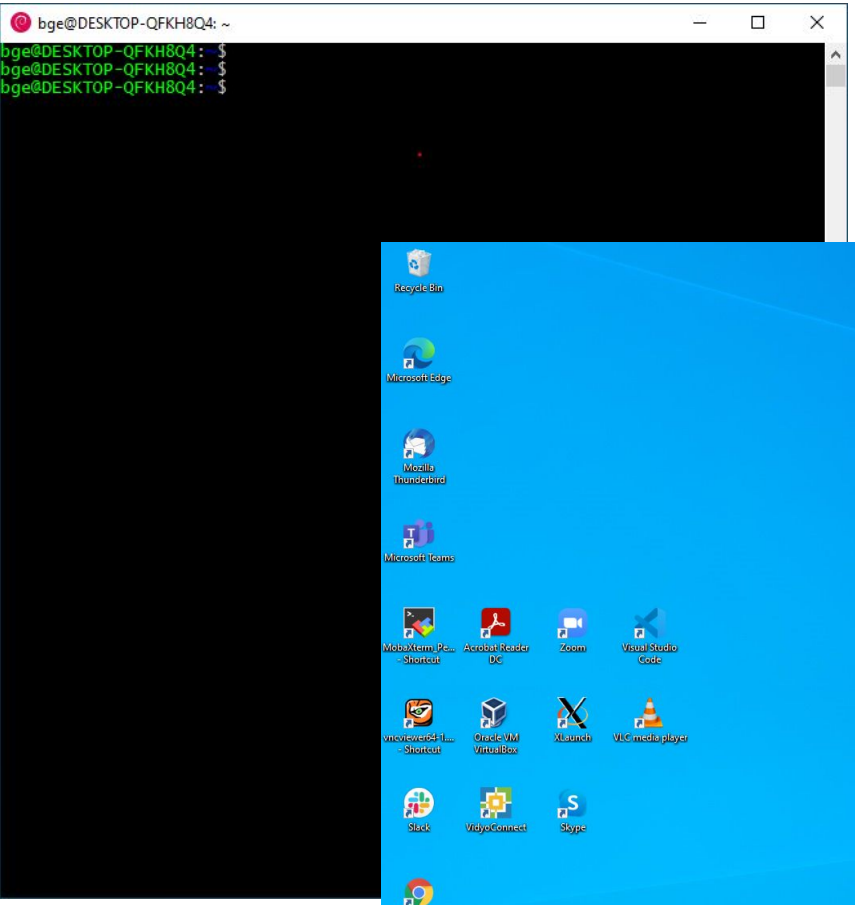
Cluster computing environment

- OS: 64-bit Linux - CentOS etc.
- Languages: C/C++, Fortran, R, Python, Matlab/Octave, Java, Julia, CUDA, etc.
- Access to a variety of software packages
- Parallel development support:
  - MPI, OpenMP, Pthreads, CUDA, OpenACC, OpenCL, DDT
  - C++: Language support for multithreading (since C++-11 standard)
  - Fortran: Language support for parallel programming (since 2003 standard)
  - Julia: Parallel processing constructs, shared and distributed objects
- Data science support:
  - R, Python, Julia, Spark, DASK, etc.
- Batch computing via slurm

Login nodes vs. compute nodes

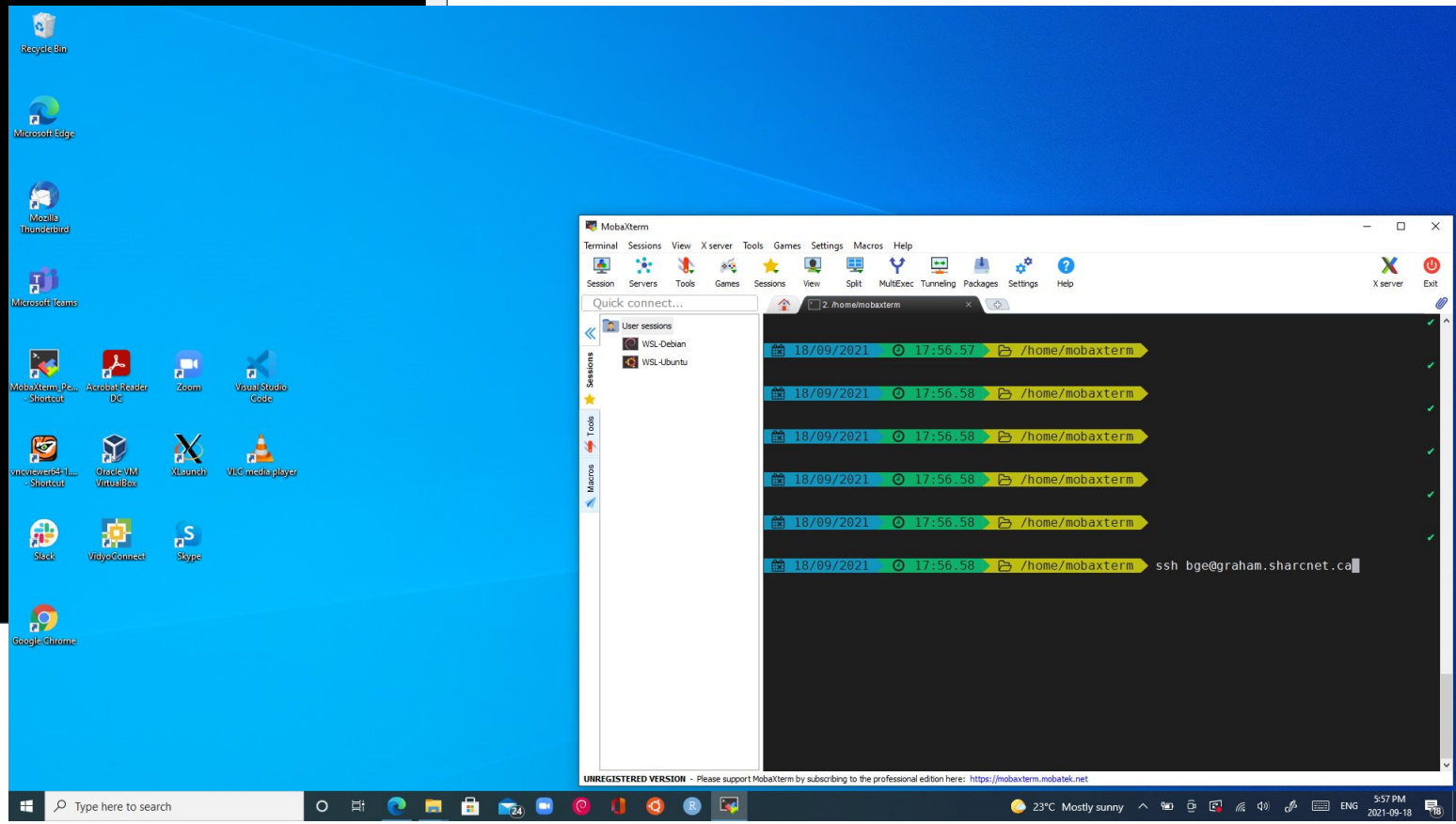


Connecting to clusters via SSH



via Linux terminal

- Use MobaXterm or Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL)
- Use **XQuartz** for mac



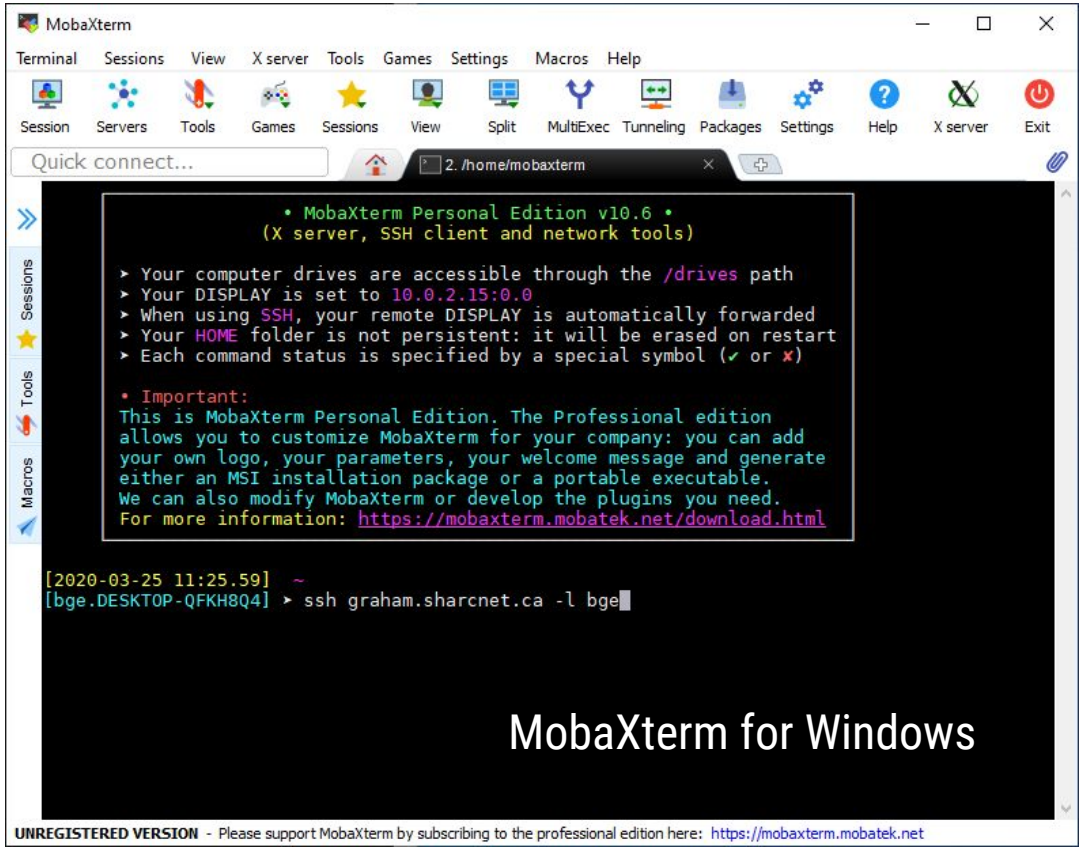
Connecting to clusters via SSH

For Windows users we recommend free software **MobaXterm**. It combines:

- SSH client (to login to systems)
- SFTP client (to copy files)
- Xwindow server (to run graphical applications)

Linux and Mac users can use command line tools ssh, scp, rsync etc.

For Mac only, running graphical applications remotely requires free software **XQuartz**.



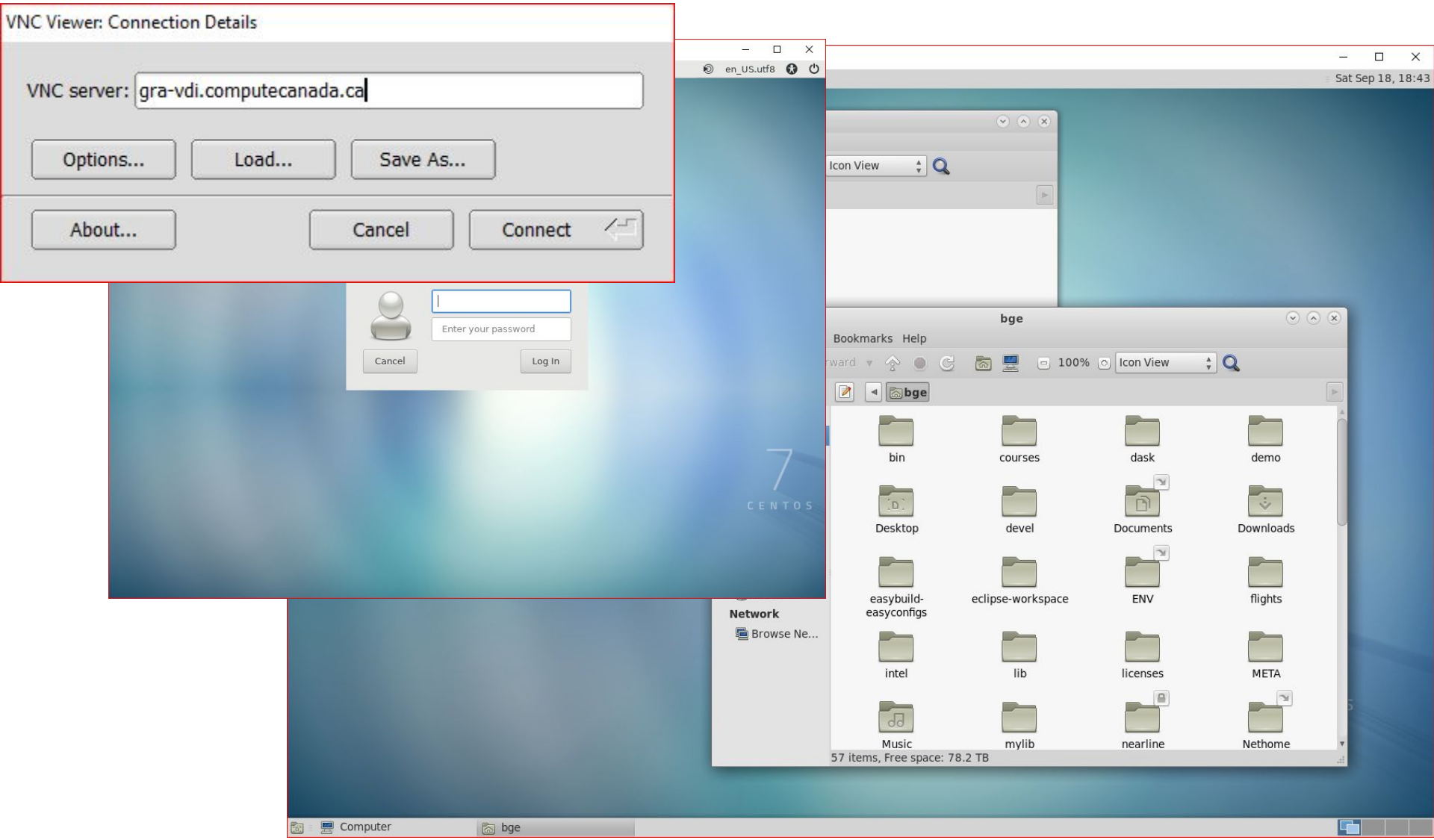
MobaXterm for Windows

Transferring large amounts of files

Transferring data between your computer and clusters and between clusters via Globus (see https://docs.alliancecan.ca/wiki/Globus):

- Uses different protocols, generally has higher throughput.
- Web based.
- Enables file transfer between any two computers, known as end-points.
- Local computer needs to run Globus Connect Personal for transferring files between the local computer and remote end-point.
- Allows non Alliance users share data (via arrangements).

Connecting to GUI desktop



Accessing and managing files

Everyone has the access to the following file systems

- /**home**: 50G, 0.5m files; backed up regularly
- /**project**: 1T (extendable to 10T) per group, 0.5m files; backed up.
- /**scratch**: 20T per user, 1m files, up to 100T; 2 months of life.
- **nearline**: to store files not currently in use, but may be needed later. 5000 files (approx. 10T) per group. NOT available on compute nodes.

*NB: Please **DO NOT** store everything, remove the files no longer in use to save space.*

Tips for project space

- Do not preserve file permissions when copying files to Project! If you do, you will likely get a “Not enough of disk space” error on Project.
- Specifically, **don’t do** the following when project is the destination, and source is not in project:

  $ cp -p

  $ mv

  $ rsync -a

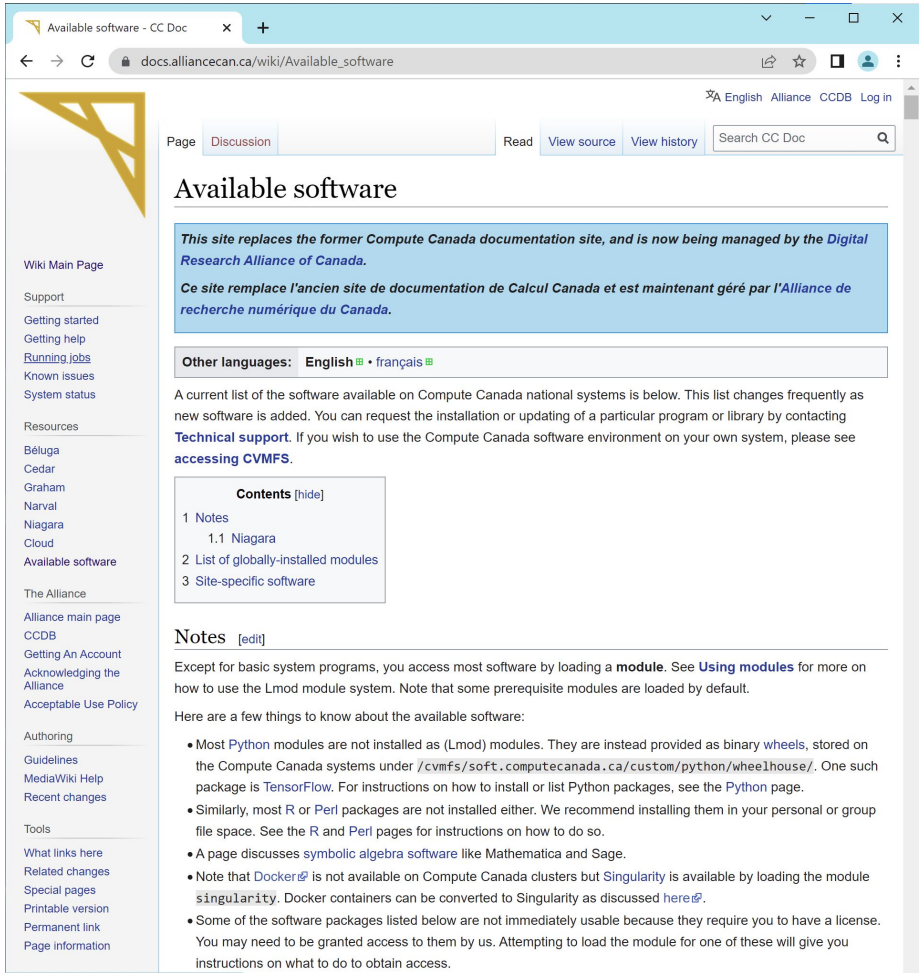
Tips for nearline space

- Quota limit is an “ingest” limit. After it has been consumed, you can add more files up to your file count limit.
- Find your file count by typing:

  find /nearline/YOUR_ACCOUNT/ | **wc** -l

- Don’t edit files in nearline! If it is on tape, your editor might hang.
- File size, some guideline:
  - At least 10G to 20G per file. Ideal file size is 100G to 500G. Up to 2T per file is acceptable.

What software packages are available?



Available software - CC Doc

docs.alliancecan.ca/wiki/Available_software

English Alliance CCDB Log in

Page Discussion Read View source View history Search CC Doc

Available software

This site replaces the former Compute Canada documentation site, and is now being managed by the Digital Research Alliance of Canada.

Ce site remplace l'ancien site de documentation de Calcul Canada et est maintenant géré par l'Alliance de recherche numérique du Canada.

Other languages: **English** • français

A current list of the software available on Compute Canada national systems is below. This list changes frequently as new software is added. You can request the installation or updating of a particular program or library by contacting **Technical support**. If you wish to use the Compute Canada software environment on your own system, please see **accessing CVMFS**.

Contents [hide]

1 Notes
  1.1 Niagara
2 List of globally-installed modules
3 Site-specific software

Notes [edit]

Except for basic system programs, you access most software by loading a **module**. See **Using modules** for more on how to use the Lmod module system. Note that some prerequisite modules are loaded by default.

Here are a few things to know about the available software:

- Most Python modules are not installed as (Lmod) modules. They are instead provided as binary wheels, stored on the Compute Canada systems under `/cvmfs/soft.computecanada.ca/custom/python/wheelhouse/`. One such package is TensorFlow. For instructions on how to install or list Python packages, see the Python page.
- Similarly, most R or Perl packages are not installed either. We recommend installing them in your personal or group file space. See the R and Perl pages for instructions on how to do so.
- A page discusses symbolic algebra software like Mathematica and Sage.
- Note that Docker is not available on Compute Canada clusters but Singularity is available by loading the module `singularity`. Docker containers can be converted to Singularity as discussed here.
- Some of the software packages listed below are not immediately usable because they require you to have a license. You may need to be granted access to them by us. Attempting to load the module for one of these will give you instructions on what to do to obtain access.

Wiki Main Page

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Getting help
Running jobs
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Acknowledging the Alliance
Acceptable Use Policy

Authoring
Guidelines
MediaWiki Help
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Tools
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Special pages
Printable version
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Page information

Check for software while on a cluster

$ **module avail**

$ **module spider** *keyword*

Running jobs using a slurm script - *myjob*.sh

Submitting a serial job

```
#!/bin/bash
#SBATCH --time=00-01:00:00 # DD-HH:MM
#SBATCH --account=def-user
module load python/3.6
python simple_job.py 0 output 10
```

Submitting a series of jobs

```
#!/bin/bash
#SBATCH --time=01:00
#SBATCH --account=def-user
#SBATCH --array=1-200

python simple_job.py $SLURM_ARRAY_TASK_ID output
```

To see what account groups you have access to, use command **sshare -U** or **salloc** by itself

sbatch *myjob*.sh

META package

https://docs.alliancecan.ca/wiki/META:_A_package_for_job_farming

(Google for “meta digital alliance”)

A more universal and convenient way to manage a large number of similar jobs.

Running jobs using a slurm script - *myjob*.sh

Submitting a threaded job

```
#!/bin/bash
#SBATCH --account=def-user
#SBATCH --time=0-03:00
#SBATCH --cpus-per-task=32
#SBATCH --ntasks=1
#SBATCH --mem=20G

export \
  OMP_NUM_THREADS=$SLURM_CPUS_PER_TASK

./myprog.exe
```

Submitting a parallel job

```
#!/bin/bash
#SBATCH --account=def-user
#SBATCH --time=5-00:00
#SBATCH --ntasks=100
#SBATCH --mem-per-cpu=4G

srun ./mympiprog.exe
```

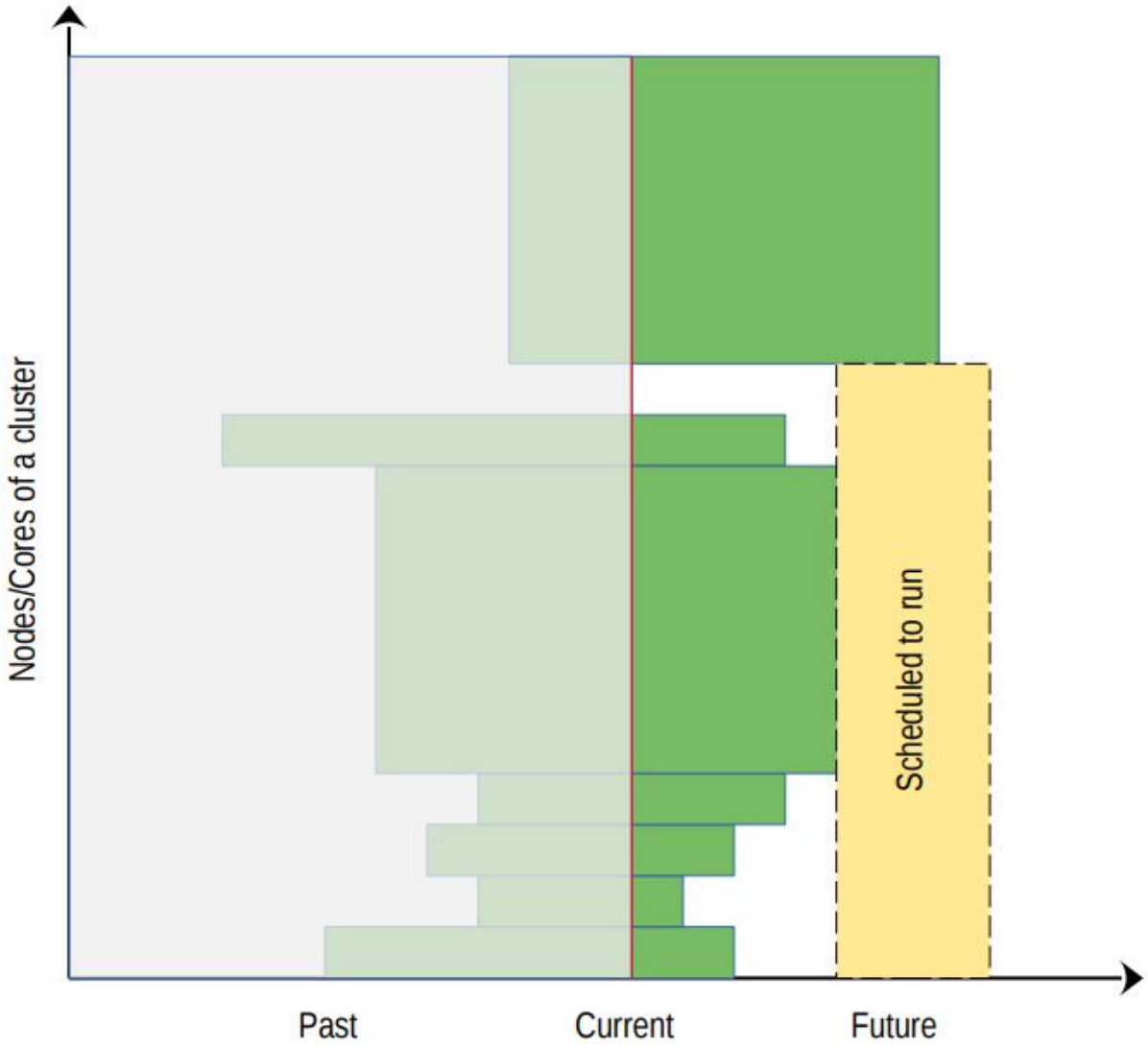
sbatch *myjob*.sh

Viewing your jobs

Commonly used slurm commands

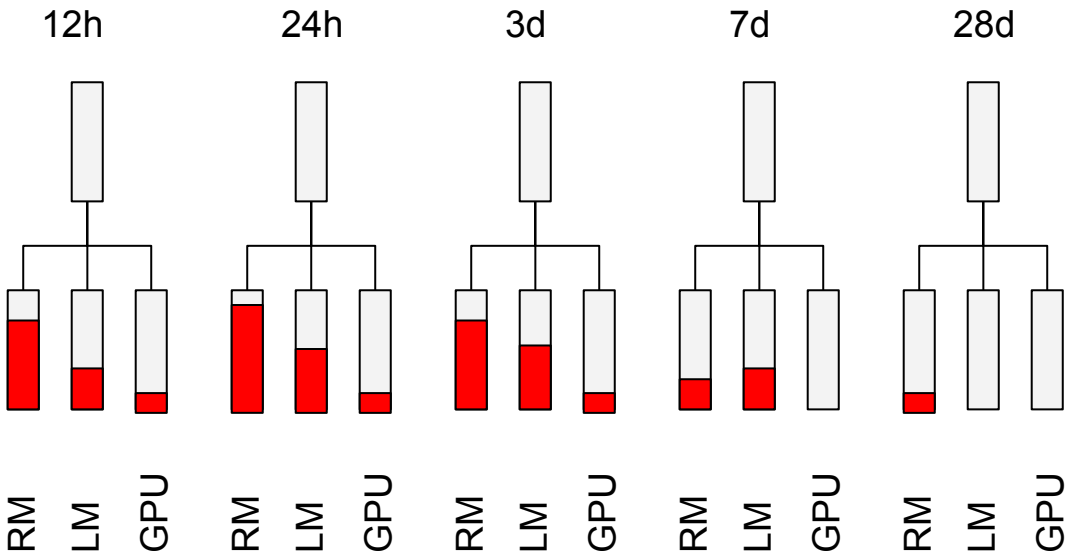
- squeue -u *you*
- sacct
- scancel
- seff

How scheduler works



Why my jobs don't start

On entry, each of your jobs is "placed in one of the partitions" by its attributes (cores, memory, runtime, etc.) you specified



You may use command **partition-stats** to see the system status.

What can be done about wait times

- Requesting more resources (runtime, CPU cores, memory) than what the job process requires can result in a longer queue times.

  Tip: request only what the job needs, with a bit of leeway for time and memory.

- The recent usage of an account is calculated independently on each of the Alliance general purpose systems (Graham, Beluga, and Cedar) and the availability of the resources varies across systems.

  Tip: use multiple systems when appropriate.

- More resources are available to full-node jobs. If your job can efficiently use multiples of 32 cpu cores (graham) it gains access to a larger set of nodes if it is submitted as a full-node job.

  Tip: use --nodes=N and --ntasks-per-node=32 sbatch arguments for full-node jobs.

- Less than 20% of all resources are available via default accounts.

  Tip: If a project needs more than the default level usage, a larger target share of the system can be obtained through the annual Resources Allocation Competition (RAC)

Common mistakes to avoid

- Do not run significant programs on login nodes, nor run programs directly on compute nodes.
- Do not specify a job run time blindly (say, 28 days), or more memory than needed for your program
- Do not create millions of tiny files, or large amounts (> GB) of uncompressed (eg. ASCII) output
- Do not let your jobs access (read/write) files frequently (more than 10 files per second from all of your running jobs).

Q&A