INTRODUCTION TO ACT SERVICES

Find your way around our Linux systems
OVERVIEW OF ACT SYSTEMS
MET-CLUSTER RETIREMENT

• Met-cluster is now a legacy service and is soon to be retired
• It is operating on out of warranty servers
• Currently operating at reduced capacity to accommodate existing projects and some shared resources
• No more software upgrades/installations
THE RACC
The Reading Academic Computing Cluster (RACC)

- Currently 2 login nodes
- Currently ~ 500 cores for batch jobs
- More resilient job scheduler ‘slurm’
- Dedicated cron job node ’racc-cron’
- One single pool of maintained software and libraries
- Core python versions are static and new packages can be installed in personal environments
- All software accessible via modules (no ‘setup’)
- Default shell is bash but korn is also available (for existing users)
STORAGE

• 3 types of ‘new’ storage:
  • Basic (no snapshot, one copy on system, no backup)
  • Silver (snapshots, 2 copies on same system, optional cloud backup)
  • Gold (snapshots, 2 copies on separate systems, cloud backup)

• Can be requested from IT via the Self Service Portal
  • ‘Place a Request’ > ‘Research Data Storage’

• Some legacy storage in other locations and being migrated, personal communications with share owners
IT INFORMATION

• Meteorology Intranet

COMPUTING IN METEOROLOGY

CONTACT IT

» Phone: x6262 (or 0118 378 6262 from outside)
» Raise a ticket through the Self Service Portal: https://uor.topdesk.net/ or via email: it@reading.ac.uk

ACADEMIC COMPUTING

Read more about services such as the computing cluster, the research cloud, research data storage or projects websites on the Academic Computing Team website:

ACT website

Two Academic Computing Team (ACT) members (Maria Broadbridge and Eric Mathieu) are located in the Met building (Room 3L45).

GENERAL IT SERVICES

Quick-links:
» Request a user account
» Working from home
» Connect to WiFi Eduroam (and request access)
» Printing
» Buying a computer (windows, mac, linux)
» Using your personal computer & laptop: please contact the Service Desk (x6262)

MET SPECIFIC IT INFORMATION

» Met webpages (staff list, personal details, personal websites)
» Local computer labs: there are 4 computer labs in the meteorology building: GL68, the library, 1L34 and 3L67
» Web conferences (GoToMeeting): The Met department has an account with the GoToMeeting. Contact Met admin for credentials.
» 3 laptops for loan: Windows laptops can be borrowed by Met department staff and PhD students. Available in office 3L45.
» Globe display in the library
IT INFORMATION

- ACT website: https://research.reading.ac.uk/act/
IT INFORMATION

• ACT website

How to...

Use the Reading Academic Computing Cluster (RACC)
Use the Linux Desktop Service (NX with NoMachine)
Transfer files in and out of the university
Connect from outside of campus
Manage my web presence
Contact IT
• COMING SOON:
  • IT training sessions for all staff and students
    > To be run bi-monthly
    > Will cover full hands-on introduction to our systems
    > Initial session to run in May/June

  • Training in coding skills
    > To be run once/twice per term
    > Will cover coding basics, languages and best practice
    > Aiming for autumn term start