

# CSIT Cheatsheet<sup>v3.0</sup>

Full documentation: [scicomp.aalto.fi](https://scicomp.aalto.fi) / wiki: [do.cs.aalto.fi](https://wiki.cs.aalto.fi)  
[scicomp.aalto.fi/aalto/welcomeresearchers/](https://scicomp.aalto.fi/aalto/welcomeresearchers/)

## Who?

- CS-IT: Handles CS workstations, CS data, technical procurement, loans of IT supplies. **We are here to help you and experts in facilitating research.**
  - A243 - physical location, [guru@cs.aalto.fi](mailto:guru@cs.aalto.fi) - support address, instruction sites at top. [wiki.cs.aalto.fi](https://wiki.cs.aalto.fi). Chat: [scicomp.zulip.cs.aalto.fi/](https://scicomp.zulip.cs.aalto.fi/)
- Aalto Scientific Computing: Triton (Aalto HPC cluster) and scientific software
  - [scicomp.aalto.fi/triton/issues](https://scicomp.aalto.fi/triton/issues) - issue tracker. Chat: see CS above.
  - [scicomp@aalto.fi](mailto:scicomp@aalto.fi) - account requests
  - [scicomp.aalto.fi/triton/](https://scicomp.aalto.fi/triton/) - instructions + Scientific computing guides.
- Aalto IT (ITS): Handles Aalto accounts and all basic infrastructure
  - [servicedesk@aalto.fi](mailto:servicedesk@aalto.fi) - ITS support address. Non-CS matters.
  - service desks: Main (Otakaari 1M) U133a, W-Th ~08:30-11, 12-14 ; Väre R101, M-T ~8:30-11 and 12-15 (check for updates)
  - [it.aalto.fi](https://it.aalto.fi)
  - Aalto Gitlab: [version.aalto.fi](https://version.aalto.fi)
- CSC: Finland's national computing center, [research.csc.fi](https://research.csc.fi)

## Accounts and networks *info: it.aalto.fi*

- Accounts are managed by Aalto ITS, not CS-IT.
- Activation/password reset: [password.aalto.fi](https://password.aalto.fi) (w. online bank ID) or srv desks.
- Wifi: aalto open: open network, everyone. eduroam: personal computers, access to protected resources. aalto=for Aalto-managed systems.
- [lapa.aalto.fi](https://lapa.aalto.fi): CS personal info management.
- Accounts can be extended once you leave, ask supervisor/HR for a visitor contract.

## Scientific Computing *info: scicomp.aalto.fi*

- Triton (see above) has 2PB storage, ~10000 CPUs, GPUs, large mem, scientific software. Free, uses Aalto account and Aalto data, [scicomp.aalto.fi/triton/](https://scicomp.aalto.fi/triton/)
- We have various scientific software on workstations.
- [www.aalto.fi/en/services/it-services-for-research](https://www.aalto.fi/en/services/it-services-for-research) - List of common Aalto services.
- Additional computational resources can be found from CSC. Link above.

## Data management *info: scicomp → Aalto/Data\*, Data/\**

- Aalto provides many free, central, secure, backed-up storage locations. **Avoid local storage when you can!**
- Data should be stored in project directories, not home directories.
- Three main locations: project (backed up), scratch (large, no backups), archive.
- Senior staff can request new projects, see [scicomp.aalto.fi](https://scicomp.aalto.fi). Data can be shared with any number of people.
- Use Aalto Git for version control for code, papers, etc.

## Workstations and laptops

- Most are Aalto managed: login with Aalto account, passwords kept in sync. Must log in once on Aalto network before it can work.
- For heavy computation, we usually provide a powerful computer and most work is done on Triton

## Linux workstations and laptops *info: scicomp → Aalto/Linux workstations*

- Primary user can install own Ubuntu packages. Use Software Center or:
  - search: `apt-cache search` install: `apt-get install PACKAGE-NAME`
- Module system: additional software, `module spider SEARCHTERM` and `module load NAME`. (desktops only). E.g. Python/tensorflow/etc ("anaconda"), Matlab, etc.
- Network drives (CS, Triton) available at `"/m/cs/*"`.
- NO local data backups: Use network drives instead. Local data lost on reinstall.

## Mac laptops *info: scicomp.aalto.fi → Aalto/Mac*

- Aalto software: Managed Software Center
- Local admin rights for 15 min: Managed Software Center, install and run the "Privileges" app.
- Software installation: run Privileges app (see above) and you can install dmg files
- For advanced software, install brew. See [scicomp](https://scicomp.aalto.fi) instructions.

## Windows laptops *info: scicomp.aalto.fi → Aalto/Windows*

- Aalto software can be installed from online "Self-service portal". See [scicomp](https://scicomp.aalto.fi).
- To install most other software, you must apply for a "wa" (workstation admin) account. See [scicomp](https://scicomp.aalto.fi) instructions.

## Remote access *info: scicomp.aalto.fi: Aalto/Remote access*

- [magi.cs.aalto.fi](https://magi.cs.aalto.fi): CS shell server, all filesystems mounted, can access workstations.
- [{kosh,lyta}.aalto.fi](https://kosh.lyta.aalto.fi) - all Aalto people, general shell servers. `talтта`: staff
- [vdi.aalto.fi](https://vdi.aalto.fi) - Virtual desktop environment, Windows/Linux
- VPN: see Aalto IT instructions. Gets you on Aalto net.
- Aalto nets are: eduroam, workstation net, [aalto wifi with Aalto laptop](https://aalto.wifi) (130.233.\*)

## Printing *info: wiki: https://wiki.aalto.fi/display/CSdept/Printing*

- Secure Print Aalto account / HSL card. Various locations, check wiki.
- Mobileprint: mail to [mobileprint@aalto.fi](mailto:mobileprint@aalto.fi) from Aalto email only, pick up printer.
- Scanning/copying at printers, poster printing available for CS (see wiki)

## Common software *info: wiki: IT/Printing (not on scicomp yet)*

- Cloud: Overleaf, Adobe,
- Aalto hosted: Chat (Zulip), Jupyter ([jupyter.cs](https://jupyter.cs)),

# Science-IT Data Management Cheatsheet v2.0

Full info: [scicomp.aalto.fi/data/](https://scicomp.aalto.fi/data/)

General Aalto info: [www.aalto.fi/rdm/](https://www.aalto.fi/rdm/)

**Basics info:** *info: scicomp* → *Aalto/Data Outline*

- There is great value in data, but if it is not handled well, value can be lost. Society now recognizes this and requires good data management all around.
- Funding agencies require good data management for future funding. Start now.
- New projects should request dedicated storage directories.
- **Data should be stored in project directories, not home directories.**
- Projects: Senior staff can request new projects, see docs. To get access to data, find project name, mail and cc data owner for approval. See docs.
- We will accommodate almost any data as long as it is being managed properly.
- Ask us if you have any questions.

## Organization strategies

- Separate data by type for proper management. Keeping different types of data separate is the most important step to take at the start.
  - For example: Code vs data, original data vs intermediate files, final results vs other, for-archival vs to-delete, can-be-opened vs confidential.
- Whatever you do, don't copy code. Have master repository in a VCS.
- Back up original data into `/m/$dept/archive/`.
- Traditional project - basic arrangement for one user on one project.
  - `$proj/code/` - code, primary work. Backup to VCS.
  - `$proj/original/` - original data. Backup to archive.
  - `$proj/scratch/` - intermediate files. Replaceable with code+original.
  - `$proj/doc/` - final results, final data, etc. Backup to archive when done.
- Multi-user project - users have dirs organized as above, original data can be shared.
  - `$proj/$user1/...`, `$proj/$user2/...` user's directories as above, code synced with VCS.
  - `$proj/original/`, `$proj/scratch/` - shared files among all users.
- Master project - one project per research group with sub-projects.
  - `$proj/$theme/$user/` - for organized themes.
  - `$proj/$user/$theme/` - user's independent work.

## Archival / deleting / opening

- You need to be able to end-of-life your data, otherwise it happens when disks die.
- Large amounts of data can't be stored forever. Separate important from replaceable.
- The easiest way to ensure you always have data is to open it and put in a long-term public repository. Funders encourage this. Zenodo is recommended.

## Types of data

Different types of data have different needs. Consider this and keep them separate, so some can be backed up, some deleted. Keep data organized from the start.

- **Code:** backed up and archived, use version control (git checked out wherever).
- **Documentation:** info on how to use code and what you did, similar to code.
- **Original data:** Irreplaceable, at least one copy backed up and archived (project/archive)
- **Intermediate files:** replaceable, closer to computation (scratch, project).
- **Personal data:** Requires special considerations and process, see [aalto.fi](https://aalto.fi).
- **Published results:** long-term archived (external repository like Zenodo).

**Data storage** *info: scicomp* → *Aalto/Data Storage, Data/Data Storage Services*

Not all storage suits everything. Put the right data in the right place.

Qualities: L=large, F=fast, C=confidential, BU=backups, LT=long term backup, S=shareable

Path (on Linux)	L	F	C	BU	LT	S	
\$HOME			++				Home dir, 40GB smb://home.org.aalto.fi/
/m/\$dept/project/\$project/	+	+	++	++		++	Typical project files, 10-100s of GB. smb://tw-cs.org.aalto.fi/project/\$project
/m/\$dept/archive/\$project/	+	+	++	++	+	++	Per-project archive., 10-100s of GB smb://tw-cs.org.aalto.fi/archive/\$project
/m/\$dept/scratch/\$project/	++	++	+	--	--	++	Triton, large, <b>not backed up</b> . 10-100sTB* smb://lgw01.triton.aalto.fi/scratch/\$project
/m/\$dept/work/\$username/	++	++	+	--	--		Like scratch but per-user.. 10-100sTB* smb://lgw01.triton.aalto.fi/work/\$username
/l/	+	+++					Local disk storage. Not backed up.
<a href="https://version.aalto.fi">version.aalto.fi</a>			+	++		++	Aalto git repository
Aalto laptops		+	-	--	--		High risk of data loss
External drives, USB, etc			--	---	--		High risk of data loss
\$HOME/public_html/				++		++	Webpace ( <a href="https://users.aalto.fi/~username">https://users.aalto.fi/~username</a> )
CSC IDA service	++		+		++	++	Long-term archival by CSC
<a href="https://filesender.funet.fi">filesender.funet.fi</a>						++	Cloud-based file sending. 50GB
Zenodo (EU project)			--	++	++	++	EU project for long-term open data
Public services (google, dropbox)		-	--		--	+	Be careful, there is no service or confidentiality guarantee.
Google Drive	+	-	--		--	+	Unlimited via Aalto account and registration
Own computers			--	--	--		Unmanaged and risky.

\*Scratch and work require Triton accounts.

To mount on own computers via SMB: Ubuntu/Mac "Connect to Server", Win use \\ instead of /. Must use Aalto network instead of VPN.

**Version control** *info: scicomp* → *Aalto/Gitlab, Sci.comp/git*

- At Aalto, private repositories can be hosted at [version.aalto.fi](https://version.aalto.fi)
- Code and related data should be in a version control system. Learn one well.
- Git is most common and best supported, but there are others. [git-scm.com](https://git-scm.com)