

# The Landscape of Academic Research Computing

Rob Quick <rquick@iu.edu>

Associate Director Cyberinfrastructure Integration  
Research Center

Some Slides Contributed by the University of Wisconsin  
HTCondor Team, Scot Kronenfeld, and Kyle Gross



# Who Am I?










- Director Cyberinfrastructure Integration Research Center
- NSF PI – A Gateway for the Event Horizon Telescope
- Co-chair CODATA School of Research Data Science Initiative
- Co-chair of the Technical and Organizational Advisory Boards for RDA
- Steering Committee FAIR Digital Object Forum
- Member of the WDS ITO Technical Advisory Committee and the EOSC Architecture Working Group
- 12+ Years - Chief Operations Officer of the Open Science Grid and the Software Assurance Marketplace

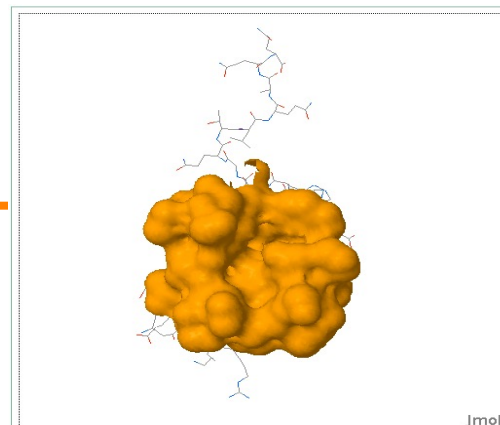
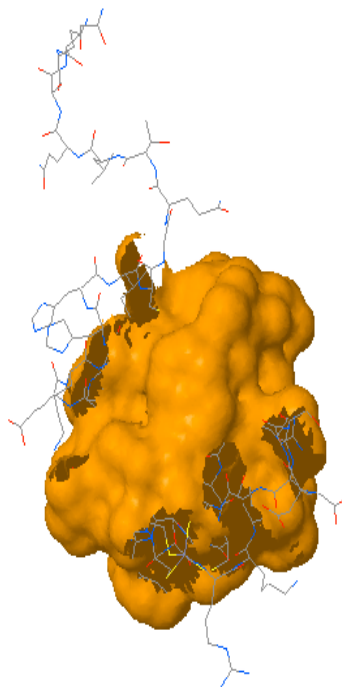
# Protein Docking Project at the IU School of Medicine

- SPLINTER - Structural Protein-Ligand Interactome
- Used autodock-vina – “...open-source program for drug discovery, molecular docking and virtual screening...”
- First run in 2013 - docked ~3900 Proteins with 5000 Ligands for a total of ~19M docked pairs.
- Submitted via command line to Condor using Pegasus on the OSG-XSEDE submission node
- Infrastructure is set and new runs can be easily started
- To date more than 6.3B dockings completed

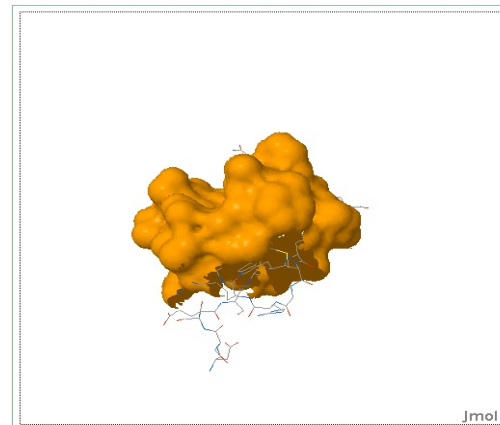


•Various rotations of Protein CBFA2T1 (Cyclin-D-related protein) (Eighty two protein) (Protein ETO) (Protein MTG8) (Zinc finger MYND domain-containing protein 2)

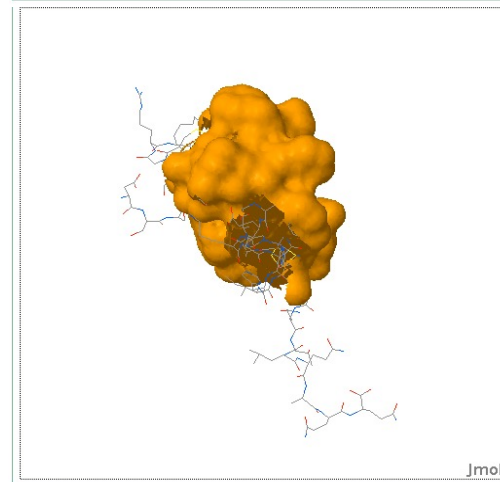
Target	Ligand Image	Rank
ZINC27470710		1
<a href="#">VIEW POSE</a> <a href="#">MOL2</a> <a href="#">ORDER INFO</a>		
<a href="#">OTHER TARGETS</a>		
ZINC01228697		2
<a href="#">VIEW POSE</a> <a href="#">MOL2</a> <a href="#">ORDER INFO</a>		
<a href="#">OTHER TARGETS</a>		
ZINC04741379		3
<a href="#">VIEW POSE</a> <a href="#">MOL2</a> <a href="#">ORDER INFO</a>		
<a href="#">OTHER TARGETS</a>		
ZINC09611213		4
<a href="#">VIEW POSE</a> <a href="#">MOL2</a> <a href="#">ORDER INFO</a>		
<a href="#">OTHER TARGETS</a>		
ZINC02810311		5
<a href="#">VIEW POSE</a> <a href="#">MOL2</a> <a href="#">ORDER INFO</a>		
<a href="#">OTHER TARGETS</a>		
ZINC02945941		6
<a href="#">VIEW POSE</a> <a href="#">MOL2</a> <a href="#">ORDER INFO</a>		
<a href="#">OTHER TARGETS</a>		
ZINC00404256		7
<a href="#">VIEW POSE</a> <a href="#">MOL2</a> <a href="#">ORDER INFO</a>		
<a href="#">OTHER TARGETS</a>		
ZINC20038318		8
<a href="#">VIEW POSE</a> <a href="#">MOL2</a> <a href="#">ORDER INFO</a>		
<a href="#">OTHER TARGETS</a>		
ZINC04039256		9
<a href="#">VIEW POSE</a> <a href="#">MOL2</a> <a href="#">ORDER INFO</a>		
<a href="#">OTHER TARGETS</a>		



Jmol



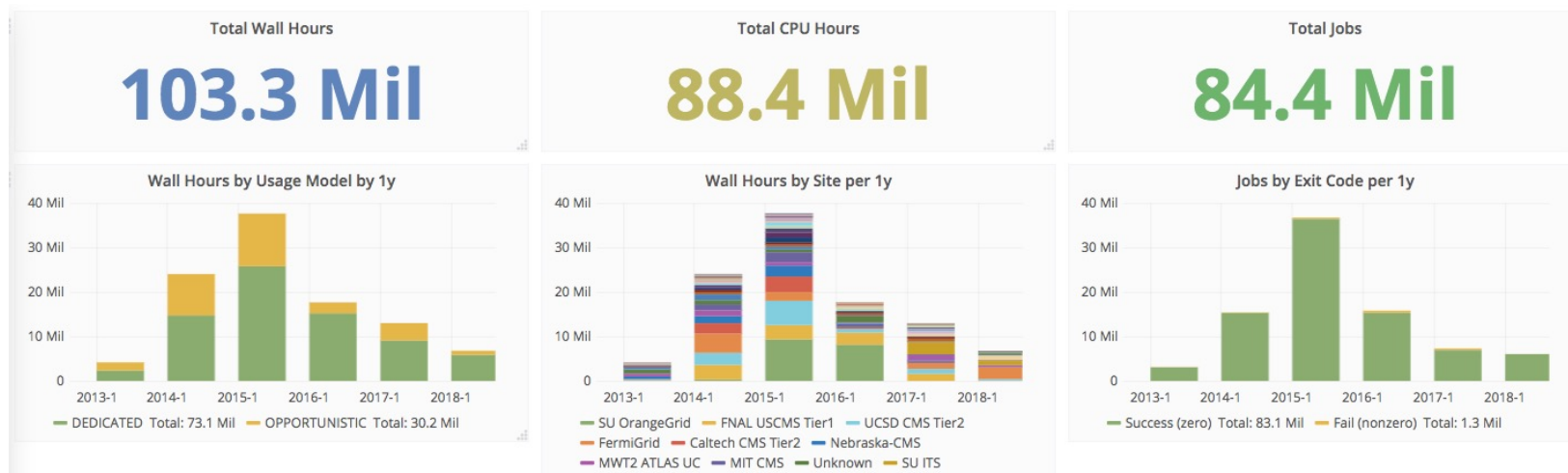
Jmol



Jmol

Jmol

# Some Numbers



- Amazon EC2 Computing \$0.046/hour
- \$4.066M Compute Only
- Data Transfer and Storage Not Included

# Follow Along at:

<https://github.com/CODATA-RDA-DataScienceSchools/Materials/tree/master/docs/DataTrieste2023/CI>

# Some thoughts on the exercises

- It's okay to move ahead on exercises if you have time
- It's okay to take longer on them if you need to
- If you move along quickly, try the “On Your Own” sections and “Challenges”

# Most important!

- Please ask questions!
  - ...during the lectures
  - ...during the exercises
  - ...during the breaks
  - ...during the meals
  - ...over dinner
  - ...via email after we depart ([rquick@iu.edu](mailto:rquick@iu.edu))
- If I don't know, I'll find the right person to answer your question.



# Goals for this session

- Define Local, Clustered, High Throughput Computing (HTC), High Performance Computing (HPC), Cloud Computing (XaaS), and Containers
- Shared, Allocated, and Purchased

# The setup: You have a problem

- Your science computing is complex!
  - Monte carlo, image analysis, genetic algorithm, simulation, ML or AI algorithms...
- It will take a year (CPU time) to get the results on your laptop, but your paper is due in a week.
- What do you do?

# Option 1: Wait a year



# Option 2: Local Clustered Computing

---

- Easy access to additional nodes
- Local support for porting to environment (maybe)
- Often a single type of resource
- Often running at capacity



## Option 3: Use a “supercomputer” aka High Performance Computing(HPC)

---

- “Clearly, I need the best, fastest computer to help me out”
- Maybe you do...
  - Do you have a highly parallel program?
    - i.e. individual modules must communicate
  - Do you require the fastest network/disk/memory?
- Are you willing to:
  - Port your code to a special environment?
  - Request and wait for an allocation?



# Option 4: Use lots of commodity computers

- Instead of the fastest computer, lots of individual computers
- May not be fastest network/disk/memory, but you can access a lot of them
- Job can be broken down into separate, independent pieces
  - If I give you more computers, you run more jobs
  - You care more about total quantity of results than instantaneous speed of computation
- This is **high-throughput computing**





Open Science Grid

# Option 5: Buy (or Borrow) some computing from a Cloud Provider

---



- Unlimited resources (if you can afford them)
- Full administrative access to OS of the resources you 'buy'
- Specialized VM images reducing effort in porting
- XaaS Business Model



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

# These are All Valid Options

- Remember the problem you have one week to publish results for your conference
  - Option 1: You will miss your deadline
  - Option 2: You might miss your deadline – But if your lucky you'll make it (or if you know the admin)
  - Option 3: If you have parallelized code and can get an allocation you have a good chance
  - Option 4: If you can serialize your workflow you have a good chance
  - Option 5: You can meet your deadline for a price. Though academic clouds are becoming more available.



# Computing Infrastructures

- Local Laptop/Desktop – Short jobs with small data
- Local Cluster – Larger jobs and larger data but subject to availability
- HPC – Prime performance with parallelized and optimized code
- HTC – Sustained computing over a long period for serialized workflows
- Cloud – Need deeper permission on an OS and have deeper pockets



# Why focus on high-throughput computing? (HTC)

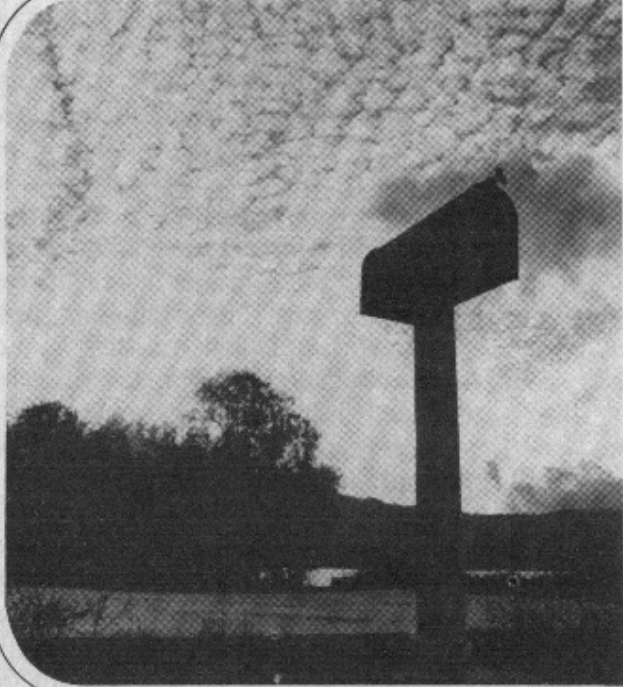
---

- An approach to distributed computing that focuses on long-term throughput, not instantaneous computing power
- The lessons learned in HTC environments and HTCondor are easily applied to other clustered or HPC systems
- We have access to an international HTC system to show the power of distributed computing



*Only that shall happen  
Which has happened,  
Only that occur  
Which has occurred;  
There is nothing new  
Beneath the sun!*

Ecclesiastes Chapter 1 verse 9



What is a "Distributed"  
Data Processing System?

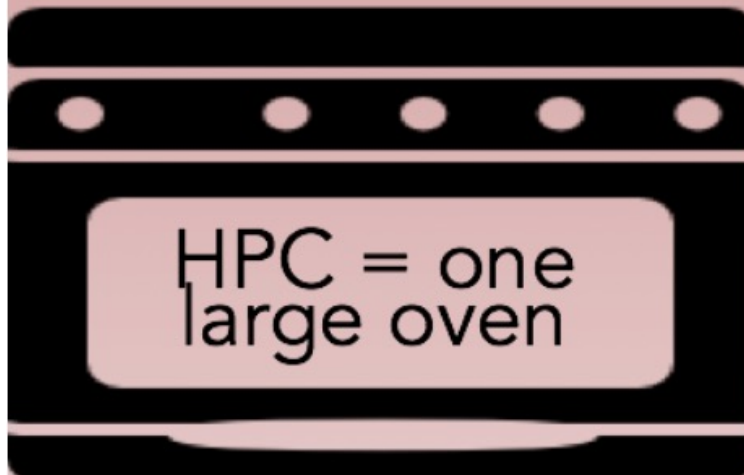
Philip H. Enslow, Jr.  
Georgia Institute of Technology

# HPC vs HTC

- You've decided you want to bake a cake large enough to break the World's Record for wedding cakes.
- Currently WR 6.818 tonnes (15,032 lb)
- You could approach this two ways...



# The HPC Approach



**A special oven**

Expensive to build & maintain

Scheduling use





# The HTC Approach



**High throughput**  
Many ovens working  
independently,  
outputs assembled  
afterwards



- For 5 minutes, talk to a neighbor: If you want to run a 100 job parameter sweep in a local environment:
  - 1) What do you (the user) need to provide so a single job can be run?
  - 2) What does the system need to provide so your single job can be run?
    - Think of this as a set of processes: what needs happen when the job is given? A “process” could be a computer process, or just an abstract task.





# What does the user provide?

- A “headless job”
  - Not interactive/no GUI: how could you interact with 1000 simultaneous jobs?
- A set of input files
- A scheme of output
- A set of parameters (command-line arguments)
- Requirements:
  - Ex: My job requires at least 2GB of RAM
  - Ex: My job requires 2 CPUs
- Control/Policy:
  - Ex: Send me email when the job is done
  - Ex: Job 2 is more important than Job 1
  - Ex: Kill my job if it runs for more than 6 hours

# What does the system provide?

---

- Methods to:
  - Submit/Cancel job
  - Check on state of job
  - Check on state of available resources
- Processes to:
  - Reliably track set of submitted jobs
  - Reliably track set of available resources
  - Decide which job runs on which resource
  - Manage a single computer
  - Start up a set of jobs

# Questions?

- Questions? Comments?
  - Feel free to ask me questions now or later:  
Rob Quick [rquick@iu.edu](mailto:rquick@iu.edu)

Exercises start here:

<https://github.com/CODATA-RDA-DataScienceSchools/Materials/blob/master/docs/DataTrieste2023/CI/>

Slides are also available from this URL.