

Hello,

below are instructions how to get the Physics Department's central Linux LX* cluster account credential and password and, if necessary, how to arrange an upload of your ssh public key in case you also need remote access.

- initial account and password:

Please use GigaMove (1) to send a file to EDV-Support@physik.rwth-aachen.de.

The file has to contain

- *your full name*
- *are you an RWTH student with subject physics ? If not, what is the reason to apply for an Linux cluster account ?*
- *your (preferentially) RWTH or FZJ, CERN, ... lab Email address (commercial (Google, GMX, ...) provider's email addresses are not tolerated)*
- *your RWTH identity ID (of the form „ab123456“), xx000000 if not existing*
- *does an account on our cluster already exist ?*
- *the institute and experiment group (e.g. „Institute 3a, CMS group“) you are performing your Bachelor, Master, Ph.D., postdoc, ... work, use „not yet associated to an institute“ otherwise*
- *a one time PIN of your choice (e.g. „ehg65TTw“). Remember your PIN !*

Once we have created your account we will send you an URL to download a file by GigaMove, protected with your PIN, containing your account information with an initial password for the LX* cluster, which you have to change next time you login into the cluster (if you login in by ssh (see below, use „passwd“ to change the password“. The loginID and password can also be used to access a WIKI (2) with instructions e.g. how to login to the cluster remotely by ssh (see also below).

If your Email address can be signed with a S/MIME (X.509) certificate (3) (e.g. issued by RWTH or from CERN or a HEP Grid authority) you don't have to use GigaMove, it is only necessary to send us the required information without the PIN in a signed Email, then we will reply to you in a saved encrypted Email.

- remote ssh connection:

Remote ssh login to your account is no longer possible with the cluster password, you have to use ssh keys, instructions are given in (2) (with your loginID and password from the cluster).

If you can not prepare your key setup using a PC directly from the console (which you can enter with your password) you can send us your public key (don't give anyone your private key and protect it with a strong passphrase) which we will install in your ~/.ssh/authorized_keys file. You may send us your public key by an Email (with RWTH or e.g. FZJ, CERN ... lab address) only if you are able to sign the Email with an appropriate S/MIME (X.509) certificate (3). If you don't have such a certificate, use GigaMove (1) and send us an URL to download a file containing your account loginID and the public ssh key; it is not necessary to protect this file by a password.

- (1) <https://gigamove.rz.rwth-aachen.de> (accessible if associated with German DFN institutions like RWTH, FZJ, ...)
- (2) <https://wiki-3ab.physik.rwth-aachen.de/twiki/do/view/Inst3IT/SSHConnection>
- (3) <https://doc.itc.rwth-aachen.de/display/CERT/Home>