

Introduction to NCBI Cloud Computing for Biologists

Cooper J. Park, PhD

In this workshop you will learn how to:

- Navigate the AWS cloud console page and understand how to access and use some popular console-based tools.
- Access and mine metadata for information in the NCBI SRA database to select an interesting dataset for further study using the AWS Athena service.
- Retrieve SRA sequence data and perform a sequence alignment analysis using the NCBI tool MagicBLAST.
- Visualize the aligned data against the wealth of information in NCBI databases by uploading it to the NCBI Genome Data Viewer browser application.

Outline

- About NCBI
- What is the Cloud
- Objective 0 - Logging In
- Today's Case Study
- Objective 1 – Navigating the AWS cloud console
- Objective 2 – Mining NCBI's SRA data
- Objective 3 – Using magicBLAST & Genome Data Viewer in the Cloud
- Wrap up & Billing

WHAT IS NCBI?

We are a center within the NLM responsible for creation, curation and maintenance of medical and scientific databases *and other things...*



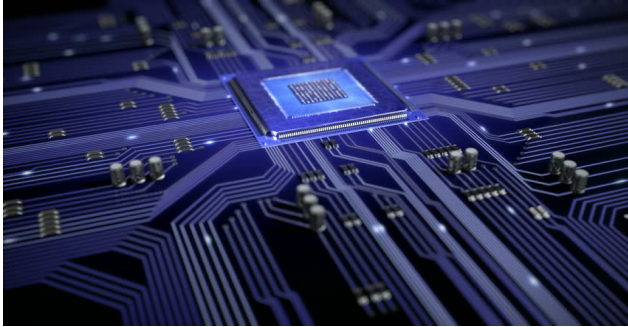
We receive, create, archive & make available biomedical information, as well as perform computational biology & IT systems research.....

but we really aspire to help make sense of the information!



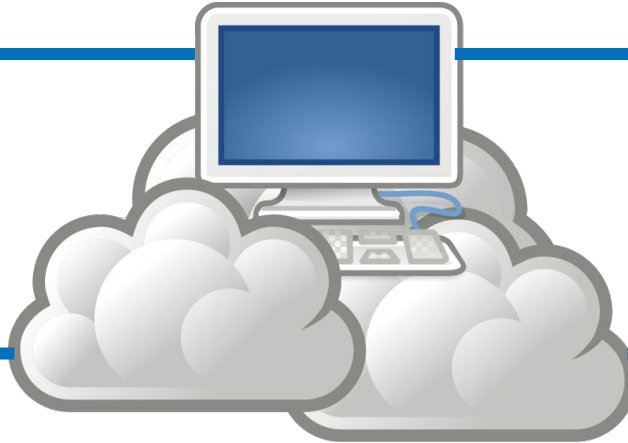
What is “The Cloud”

A “one-stop shop” for high-demand computing services delivered across the internet



Compute Power

“The Cloud”

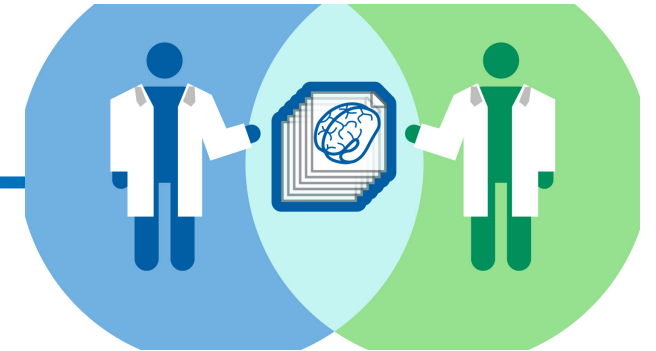


File Storage



Database Management

AND MORE!



Data Sharing

POLL!

Which aspect of your own computational
research slows your progress down

Reasons to use the cloud

1) Cost

- Pay only for what you use
- Often cheaper than managing your own infrastructure

2) Global Access

- Data can be shared and accessed seamlessly on a global scale

3) Speed and Performance

- Resources can be optimized for specific needs
- Workflows can be scaled to meet demand
- New technologies/services constantly developed and immediately available

4) Reproducibility, Security, and Reliability

- Easily back-up, protect, version control and recover crucial data
- Computing environments can be saved with 3rd party tools to replicate workflows

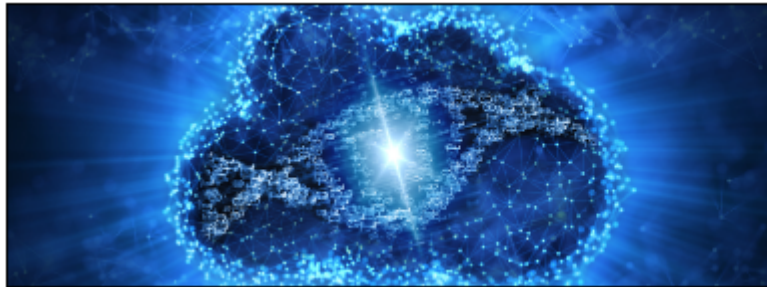
Meet your commercial cloud providers



Google Cloud

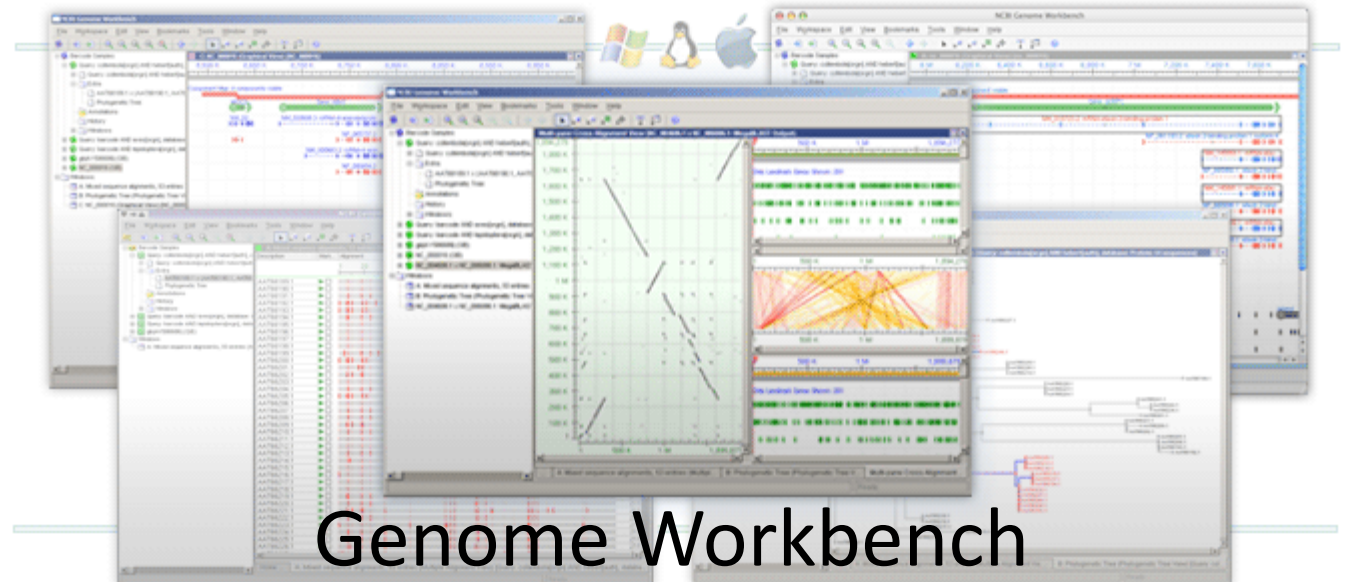
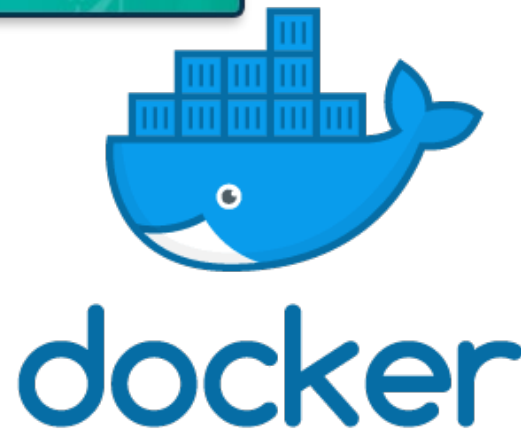


NCBI and the Cloud



SRA - Now available on the cloud

Sequence Read Archive (SRA) data, available through multiple cloud providers and NCBI servers, is the largest publicly available repository of high throughput sequencing data. The archive accepts data from all branches of life as well as metagenomic and environmental surveys. SRA stores raw sequencing data and alignment information to enhance reproducibility and facilitate new discoveries through data analysis.



Genome Workbench

Objective 0 – Logging in & Navigating the AWS Console page

Login Walkthrough

Subject line: NCBI Codeathon Credentials

Welcome to the NCBI Codeathon!

Your username is: cooper.park

Your password is hz>wMBH5

Login at <https://codeathon.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>

Outline

- About NCBI
- What is the Cloud
- Objective 0 - Logging In
- Today's Case Study
- Objective 1 – Mining SRA metadata using AWS Athena
- Objective 2 – Aligning sequence reads using AWS EC2 & MagicBLAST
- Objective 3 – Visualize read alignment in Genome Data Viewer
- Wrap up & Billing

Case Study – Clinical background

- Through years of clinical tests and evaluations, a 3-year-old Guyanese child is diagnosed with Bardet-Biedl syndrome (BBS).

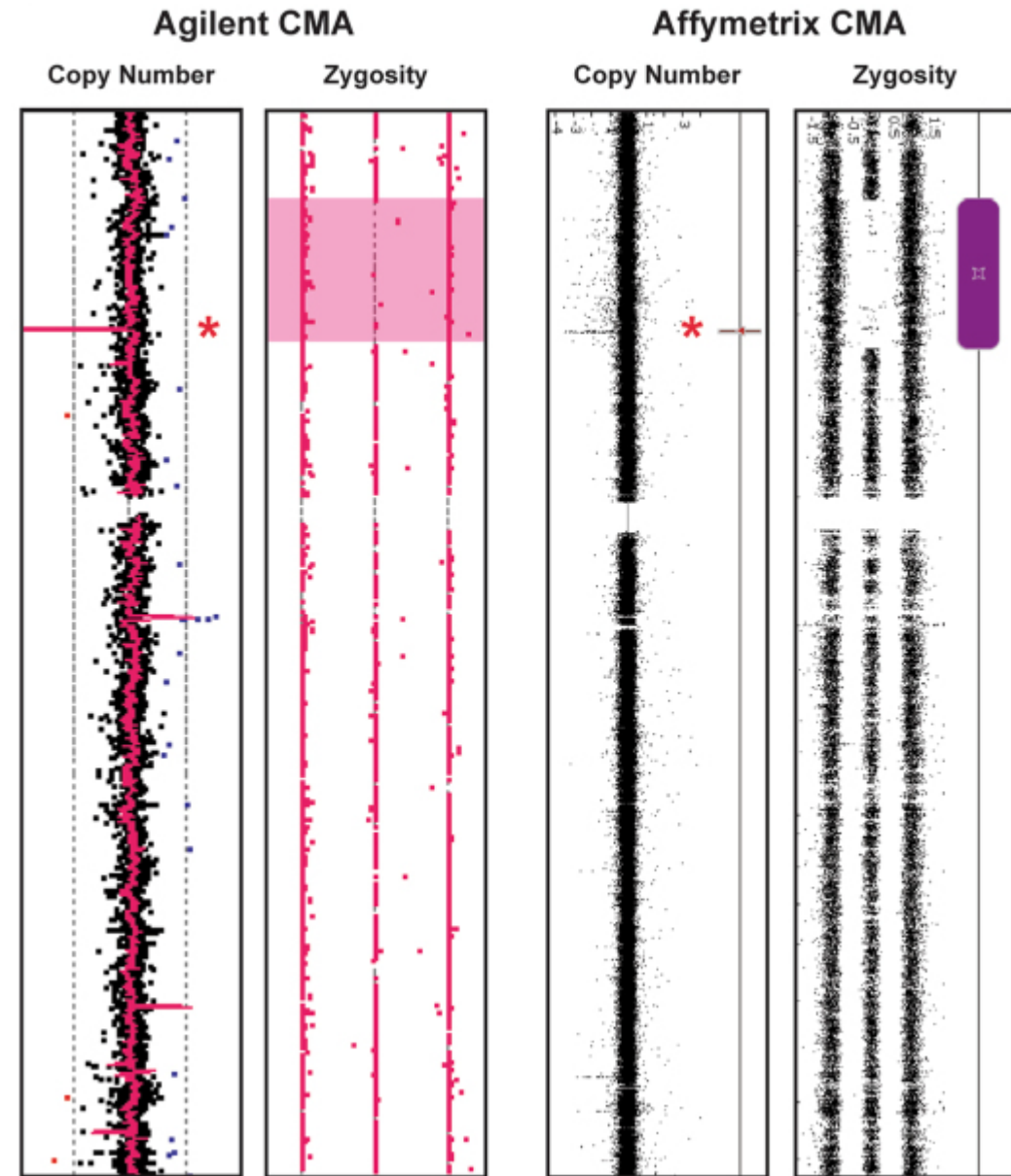


Bardet Biedl Syndrome is a rare genetic disorder with highly variable symptoms which may include retinal degeneration, obesity, reduced kidney function, polydactyly (extra digits of the hands or feet) among many other features. While there are more than 20 genes associated with BBS, the underlying cause regardless of gene is malfunction of primary cilia, a key component of cellular communication. BBS is thus categorized as a ciliopathy, or a disease of the cilia.

- Authors sought to confirm this clinical diagnosis using some newer “long-read” sequencing technologies.

Case Study cont.

- Authors first perform a chromosomal microarray test to identify which of the 20 BBS genes could be affected and **identify a deletion in *BBS9***
 - The BBS phenotype is recessive, therefore Mom & Dad need the deletion too



Case Study – Our goals

Objective 1 – Search for the child's sequencing reads from deposited into NCBI's SRA database

Objective 2 - Align the DNA sequences against a template (aka: *Reference*) genome sequence for comparison

Objective 3 - Visualize the read alignment to confirm the deletion and investigate any known clinical relevance

Objective 1 – Search for the sequencing reads deposited into NCBI's SRA database with AWS Athena

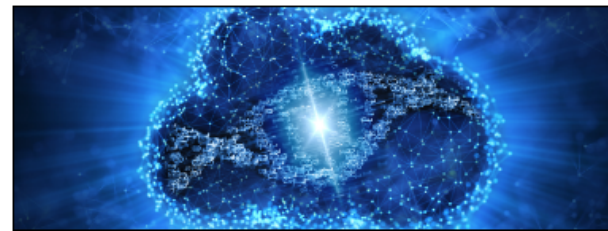


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What is the Sequence Read Archive

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra>

- Collection of user-submitted nucleotide sequencing reads, most of which are publicly available to download
 - Current size = >10 petabytes
- You can search the data online using the URL above, or by using AWS Athena



SRA - Now available on the cloud

Sequence Read Archive (SRA) data, available through multiple cloud providers and NCBI servers, is the largest publicly available repository of high throughput sequencing data. The archive accepts data from all branches of life as well as metagenomic and environmental surveys. SRA stores raw sequencing data and alignment information to enhance reproducibility and facilitate new discoveries through data analysis.

AWS Athena

- AWS data-table querying platform designed to rapidly query large tables of data using the SQL language
- NCBI offers all SRA read metadata as a table we can import into Athena
 - We can query the metadata with Athena to pull out only useful sequence data to use in our own research
- Results can be saved to an S3 bucket



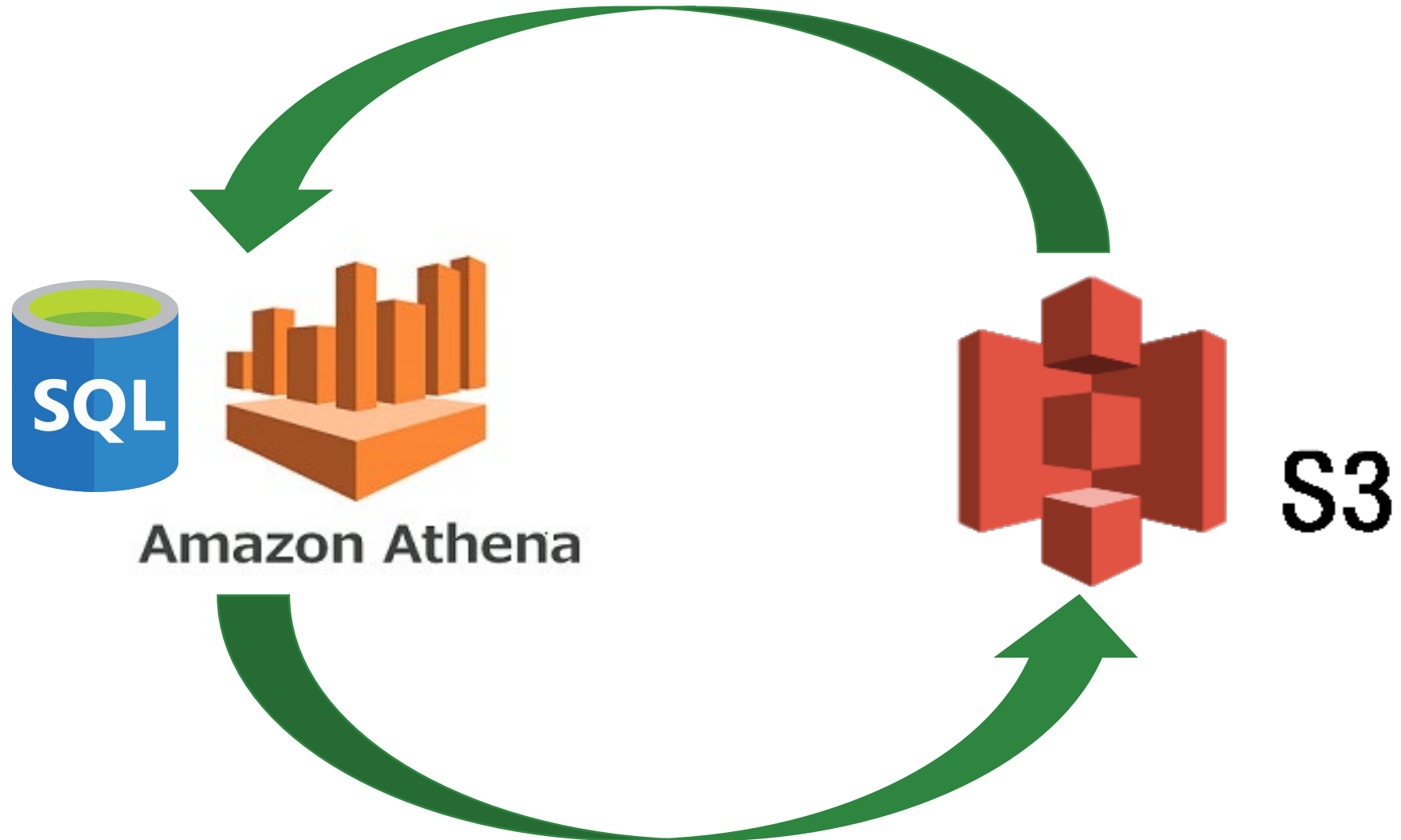
Amazon Athena

S3 Bucket (aka: “Storage”)

- S3 buckets are the “hard drive” of your cloud computer
- Designed for long term storage of files and easy sharing
- Pay for what you use
 - Price increases with storage size/duration and data transfer rates
 - Today’s S3 is **free!**



**Import results and mine
data in table format**



**Store data mining results
and save useful queries**

Objective 1 - Goals

Computational

- Create an S3 bucket to store results and files
- Use basic SQL commands to query Athena data tables
- Save query results to personal computer and an S3 bucket

Case Study

- Find sequence data associated with case study publication

S3 & Athena Walkthrough

POLL!

How familiar are you with SQL?

SQL programming language basics

SELECT

*

“Give me all of the
columns in the table back”

FROM

"sra"."metadata"

WHERE

assay_type = 'WGS'

LIMIT

50

Choose the table
columns you want to
see for each hit from
the table

Choose which table
of data you are
querying against

Choose the columns
you want to filter
the data by

Restrict the results
to a given number of
rows

Database

sra

Filter tables and views...

▼ **Tables (1)**

► metadata

Create table

SELECT *

FROM "sra"."metadata"

WHERE assay_type = 'WGS'

acc	assay_type	center_name	consent	experiment	sample_name	instrument	librarylayout	libraryselectic
1 ERR2867935	WGS	DFDONG	public	ERX2873895	SAMEA5065299	Illumina HiSeq 2000	SINGLE	RANDOM
2 ERR351333	RNA-Seq	IGA Technology Services	public	ERX324170	SAMEA2220074	Illumina HiSeq 2000	SINGLE	other
3 ERR2867821	WGS	DFDONG	public	ERX2873781	SAMEA5065185	Illumina HiSeq 2000	SINGLE	RANDOM
4 ERR1995299	WGS	BEIJING GENOME INSTITUTE	public	ERX2055168	SAMEA104062412	Illumina HiSeq 2000	SINGLE	other
5 ERR358180	RNA-Seq	Genomic Technolgies Core Facility, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Manchester	public	ERX330954	SAMEA2225912	AB SOLiD 4 System	SINGLE	cDNA
6 ERR2017761	WGS	BEIJING GENOME INSTITUTE	public	ERX2077343	SAMEA104142420	Illumina HiSeq 2000	PAIRED	other
7 ERR2017592	WGS	BEIJING GENOME INSTITUTE	public	ERX2077174	SAMEA104142099	Illumina HiSeq 2000	PAIRED	other
8 SRR8741520	RNA-Seq	LANZHOU UNIVERSITY	public	SRX5533654	Ppr-NaCl-24-2	Illumina HiSeq 2000	PAIRED	PolyA
9 ERR589275	RNA-Seq	Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma	public	ERX547266	SAMEA2735922	Illumina HiSeq 2000	SINGLE	RANDOM
10 SRR13123516	RNA-Seq	NANKAI UNIVERSITY	public	SRX9565550	EF_CL3	Illumina NovaSeq 6000	PAIRED	other

Athena Walkthrough

Objective 2 – Aligning sequence reads using AWS EC2 & MagicBLAST



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EC2 instance (aka: “Remote Computer”)

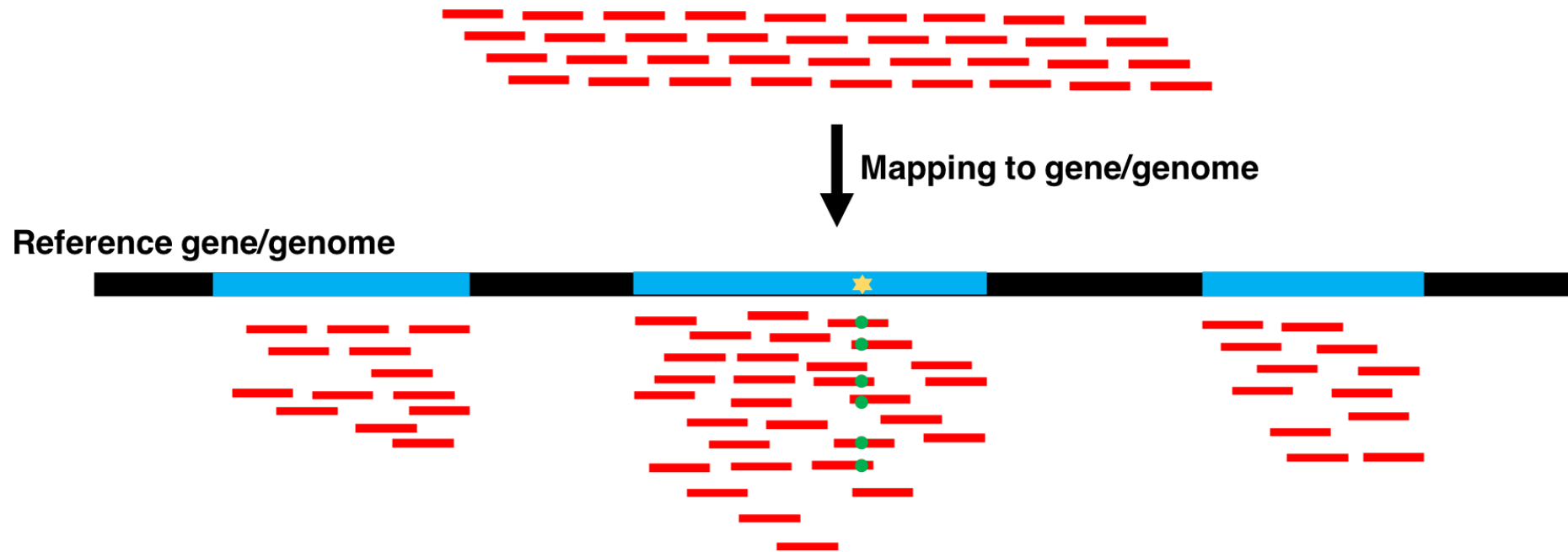
- EC2 instances basically “remote computers”
 - Install software, perform data analyses, manage other AWS services using AWS CLI
- Lots of different customization options including OS, hard drive space, and memory
- Pay for what you use
 - Price increases with larger hardware needs and longer runtime
 - Today’s EC2 is roughly **\$0.20/hour/person**
 - Turn it off when not in use!



EC2 Walkthrough

MagicBLAST

- A “flavor” of BLAST which aligns next-generation RNA or DNA sequencing reads against BLAST databases
 - Can use user-created custom databases OR NCBI maintained ones



Supporting Software

- Samtools
 - <http://www.htslib.org/doc/>
 - Manipulate MagicBLAST files into formats usable by Genome Data Viewer
- A mazon Web Service Command Line Interface
 - <https://docs.aws.amazon.com/cli/index.html>
 - Moving data between EC2 and S3



Objective 2 - Goals

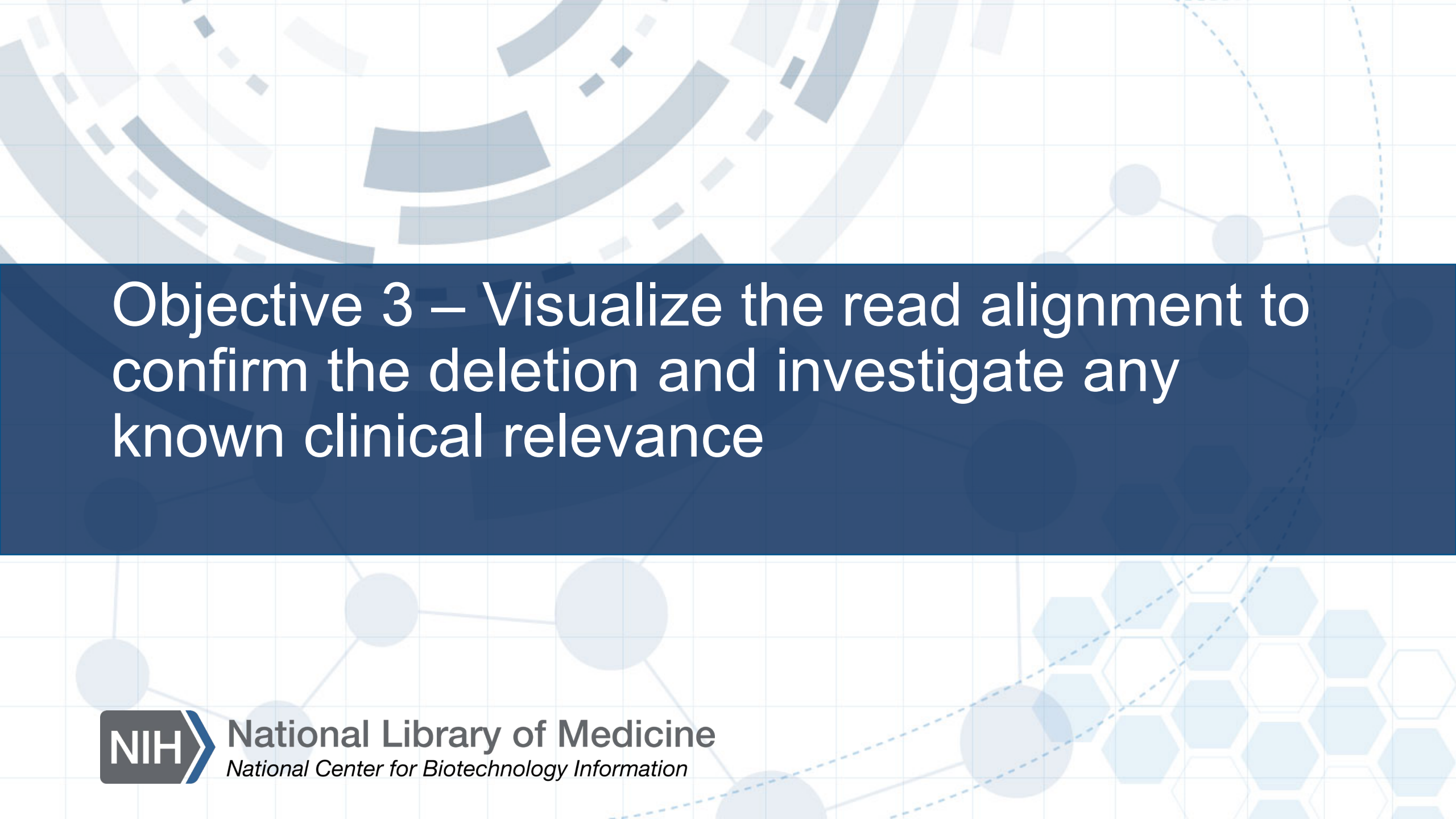
Computational:

- Create, customize, and manage an EC2 instance
- Run MagicBLAST and format output files with Samtools
- Upload files from your remote instance to your S3 bucket

Case Study:

- Align child's DNA to human reference genome for compare against "expected" sequence

magicBLAST Walkthrough





Objective 3 – Visualize the read alignment to confirm the deletion and investigate any known clinical relevance



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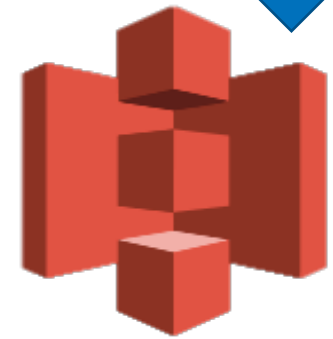
Case Study - Using the sequences

Align Sequences

Reference 
Child 



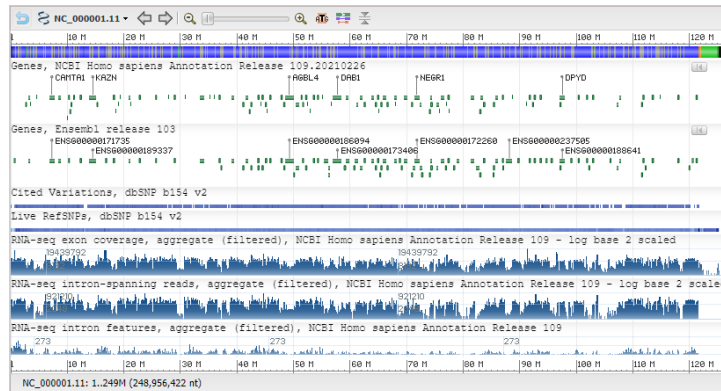
NCBI Magic-BLAST RNA-seq mapping tool



S3

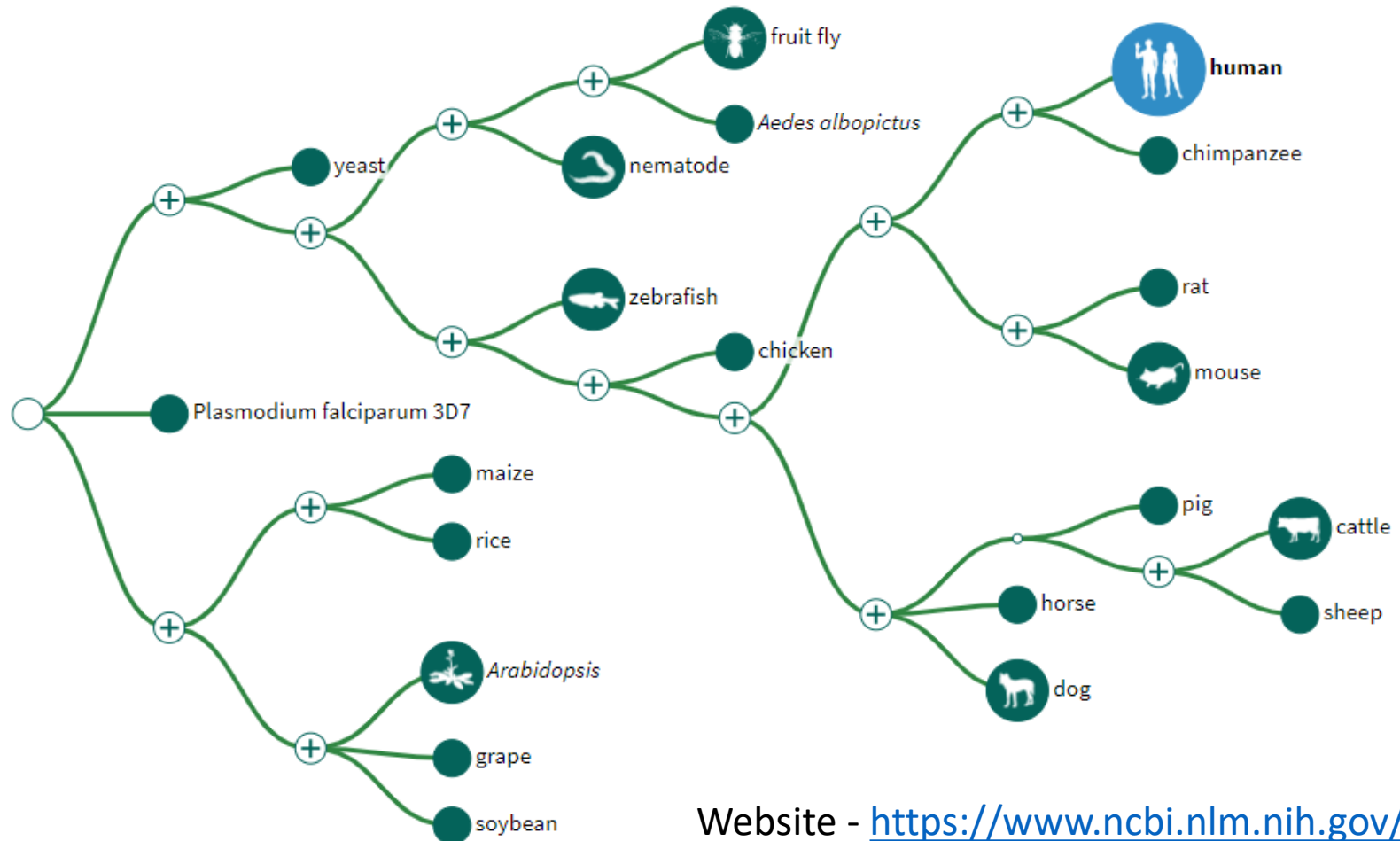
Visualize Alignment

**Genome
Data
Viewer**



Genome Data Viewer

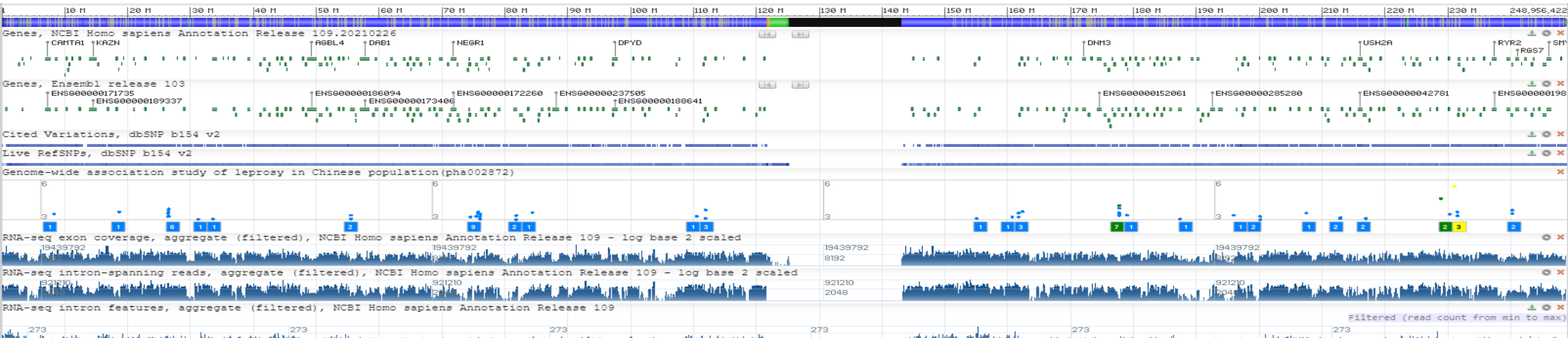
GDV is a genome “browser” which supports the visualization of genetic data mapped against >1000 NCBI curated/annotated eukaryotic reference genomes



Genome Data Viewer

Data is visualized in “tracks”

- Can include gene/feature annotations, sequence coverage, GWAS data, and more!
- Users can mix/match between their own tracks and access NCBI/partner provided ones



Objective 3 - Goals

Computational:

- Access and navigate Genome Data Viewer
- Upload custom data tracks to GDV
- Parse biological meaning from alignment results
- Use NCBI track data to find known clinical relevance

Case Study:

- Identify structural changes between patient DNA and reference sequence to identify possible deletions in BBS related gene
- Use NCBI dbVar data to match results to known structural variants

GDV Walkthrough

Billing

- The most important question in cloud computing...

“How Much Will This Cost Me?”



Amazon Athena



Amazon Glue



S3



Amazon EC2

POLL!

How much do you think today's workshop
cost per person?

Billing

- The most important question in cloud computing...

“How Much Will This Cost Me?”

Everything you did in this workshop cost ~\$0.50



Amazon Athena



Amazon Glue



S3



Amazon EC2

Billing

- AWS strives to be transparent about costs
 - <https://calculator.aws/#/estimate> - Build a price estimate based on anticipated service usage
 - <https://aws.amazon.com/free/> - View free-tier uses on most AWS services
- Several tools such as Cost Explorer can help you break down usage across a group

Thank you!

Cooper Park, PhD

Alexa Salsbury, PhD

Wayne Matten, PhD

Rana Morris, PhD

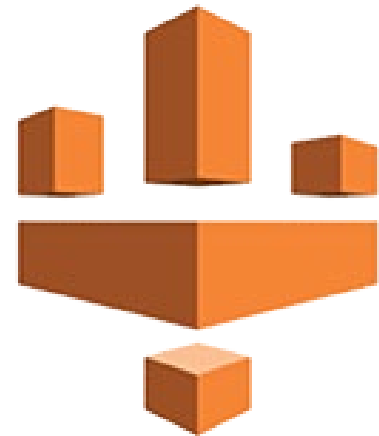
Adelaide Rhodes, PhD

Dan Rice, PhD

Peter Cooper, PhD

Accessing data tables with AWS Glue

- Athena is just a tool to analyze tables. Therefore, we still need a way to import the tables we want into Athena.
- AWS Glue creates “crawlers” which automatically parse a data table into Athena.
- Benefits include:
 - Automatically identify file format of table file
 - Can add multiple tables at once
 - Automatically update table on regular interval



Amazon Glue