

Introduction to PDC

Henric Zazzi

2025-05-05



Overview

- 1. General information about PDC
- 2. How to apply to PDC resources
- 3. Infrastructure at PDC
- 4. How to login
- 5. File systems, permissions and transfer
- 6. Modules
- 7. How to run jobs
- 8. How to compile
- 9. How to contact PDC support



General information about PDC



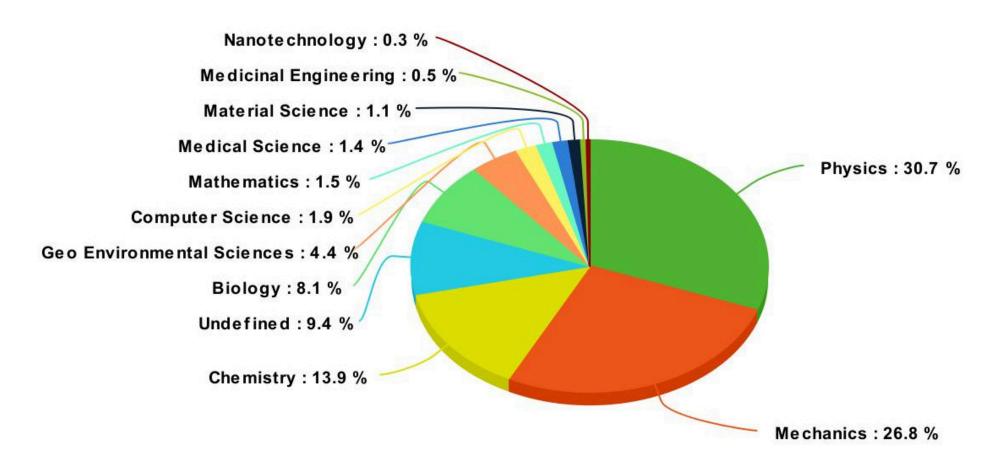
NAISS

The National Academic Infrastructure for Supercomputing in Sweden (NAISS) is a infrastructure organization for high-performance computing in Sweden. NAISS is hosted by Linköping University but acts independently with a national perspective and responsibility. NAISS main funding is provided by the Swedish Research council (VR) while the user support is built up in PDC Center for high performance Computing





Research areas at PDC



Usage of beskow, march 2017



PDC offers...

- HPC facilities
- Access to international HPC facilities
- Data storage facilities
- Research collaboration with academia and industry
- Expertise in HPC software enhancement
- Support for using PDC services
- Training



Courses



- Summer school/Introduction to HPC development
- Introduction to PDC
- Programming languages
- Advanced development
- Software specific courses



Groups at PDC

System administrators

- Hardware management
- Accounts
- Security
- Job scheduling

Scientific services

- Basic -> Advanced software support
- User driven software development

Software services

- Software development of flagship codes
- Optimization



User driven software development

- Software development targeting user needs
 - Parallelisation of existing software in collaboration with researchers
 - Optimization of existing software in collaboration with researchers
- Scientific area specific user support
- Installation of scientific software
- PDC expert development support is free for swedish academia
- The support is time limited
- Funded by KTH and NAISS
- Acknowledgement and/or co-authorship for PDC and supporting expert



Software services - Flagship codes at PDC

VeloxChem - quantum chemistry

- A modern code for quantum chemistry
- Applications for research and for teaching

Neko - computational fluid dynamics

- Simulations of the incompressible Navier-Stokes equations
- State-of-the art performance and scaling

GROMACS - molecular dynamics

- A leading code for molecular dynamics
- Engineered for extreme performance on multiple hardware architectures



How to apply for PDC resources



Can I use PDC resources?

- PDC resources are **free** for swedish academia
- Please acknowledge NAISS/PDC in your publications
 "The computations/data handling/[SIMILAR] were/was enabled by resources
 provided by the National Academic Infrastructure for Supercomputing in Sweden
 (NAISS) at [NAISS AFFILIATED SITE] partially funded by the Swedish Research
 Council through grant agreement no. 2022-06725"

https://www.naiss.se/policies/acknowledge/



How to access PDC resources

Time allocations

- A measure for how many jobs you can run per month (corehours/month)
- Which clusters you can access
 - Every user must belong to at least one time allocation
- Apply via a SUPR account at https://supr.naiss.se/

https://www.naiss.se/#section_allocations

User account (SUPR/PDC)

 For projects you must have a linked SUPR and PDC account https://supr.naiss.se/



Flavors of time allocations

Small allocation

Applicant can be a PhD student or higher Evaluated on a technical level only weekly

Medium allocation

Applicant must be a senior scientist in swedish academia Evaluated on a technical level only monthly

Large allocation

Applicant must be a senior scientist in swedish academia Evaluated on a technical and scientific level twice a year



Limits time allocations

Small allocation

Compute: <10000 corehours/month

Storage: <5 TBytes, 5M files

Medium allocation

Compute: 10000-400000 corehours/month

Storage: 5-100 TBytes, 10M files

Large allocation

Compute: >400000 corehours/month

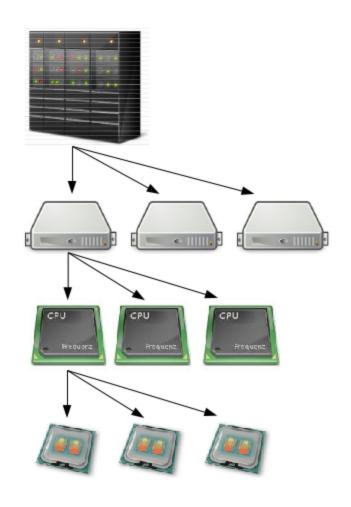
Storage: >100 TBytes, >10M files



Infrastructure at PDC



What is a cluster



Cluster

Nodes

CPUs

Cores



Dardel



Nodes: 1278

Cores: 163584

Peak performance: 5,055 PFLOPS

Node configuration

- 2xAMD EPYC™ 2.25 GHz CPU with 64 cores each
- RAM
 - o 256 GB
 - 512 GB RAM
 - 1024 GB RAM
 - 2048 GB RAM
- 4xAMD Instinct™ MI250X GPUs

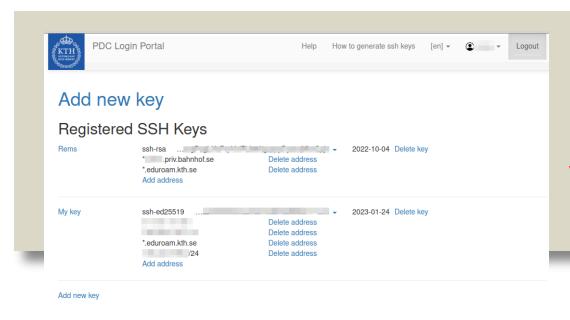


How to login

Login problems: See our https://support.pdc.kth.se/doc/faq/faq/



Login with SSH pairs



Only available if your PDC account is linked to a SUPR account

You must be a member of an allocation in SUPR



Generate SSH keys

- Generate a private and a public key
- Supported SSH key types are...
 - ed25519 (EdDSA Elliptic Curve, recommended)
 - o rsa

https://support.pdc.kth.se/doc/support-docs/login/ssh_keys/



Login portal

- Goto https://loginportal.pdc.kth.se/
- log in to SUPR to verify your account
- In SUPR Press **Prove my identity to PDC**
- Back in *PDC login* Press **Add new key** and set...
 - Name
 - IP adress/range (example 127.0.0.1, or *.kth.se)
 - When the key expires

By default PIs, staff and administrators will be asked to authenticate themselves with a second factor in SUPR, a Time-based One-time Password (TOTP)

www.pdc.kth.se



Logging in with SSH keys

 Once your SSH public key is properly registered, you can login from a terminal, or by using Putty.

https://support.pdc.kth.se/doc/support-docs/login/ssh_login/



Kerberos

- authentication protocol originally developed at MIT
- PDC uses kerberos together with SSH for login

Ticket

- Proof of users identity
- Users use password to obtain tickets
- Tickets are cached on users computer for a specified duration
- As long as tickets are valid there is no need to enter password

Tickets should always be created on your local computer

www.pdc.kth.se



Kerberos login from any OS

- You can reach PDC from any computer or network
- The kerberos implementation heimdal can be installed on most operating systems
 - Linux: heimdal, openssh-client
 - Windows: Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL), Network Identity
 Manager, PuTTY
 - Mac: homebrew/openssh
 - KTH Computers: pdc-[kerberos command]

https://support.pdc.kth.se/doc/support-docs/login/kerberos_login/



Login using kerberos ticket

1. Get a 7 days forwardable ticket on your local system

```
$ kinit -f -l 7d [username]@NADA.KTH.SE
```

2. Forward your ticket via ssh and login

```
$ ssh [username]@dardel.pdc.kth.se
```



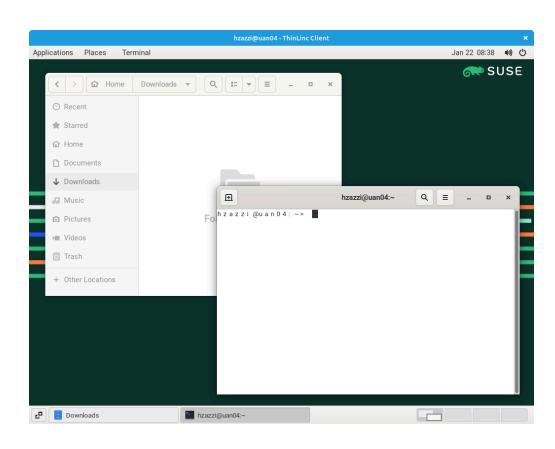
Kerberos commands

| Command | Description | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|--|
| kinit | proves your identity | |
| klist | List of your kerberos tickets | |
| kdestroy | destroy your kerberos ticket file | |
| kpasswd | change your kerberos password | |

```
$ kinit -f [username]@NADA.KTH.SE
$ klist -T
Principal: [username]@NADA.KTH.SE
Issued Expires Flags Principal
Mar 25 09:45 Mar 25 19:45 FI krbtgt/NADA.KTH.SE@NADA.KTH.SE
```



Thinling



- Remote desktop environment
- Graphical user interface for many software
- Interactive job launcher

https://support.pdc.kth.se/doc/sup port-docs/login/interactive_hpc/



File systems, permissions and transfer



File systems at PDC

Lustre file system

- 1. Distributed
- 2. High performance
- 3. No backup

\$HOME

Quota: 25 GB

/cfs/klemming/home/[u]/[username]

Scratch

Data deleted after 30 days

/cfs/klemming/scratch/[u]/[username]

Projects



File transfer

Files can be transfered to PDC clusters using scp

From my laptop to \$HOME at dardel

scp file.txt [username]@dardel.pdc.kth.se:~

From my laptop to scratch on dardel

scp file.txt [username]@dardel.pdc.kth.se:/cfs/klemming/scratch/[u]/[username]

https://support.pdc.kth.se/doc/support-docs/data_management/data_management/



Environment variables

| Name | Value | Needed for |
|------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| \$NAISS_BACKUP | /cfs/klemming/home/u/user | point to HOME folder |
| \$NAISS_TMP | /cfs/klemming/scratch/u/user | Temporary storage |
| \$NAISS_SITE | pdc | What centre the cluster is at |
| \$NAISS_RESOURCE | dardel | The name of the cluster |

Also available as *PDC_[XXX]*



Databases

- 1. Available using path **\$BLASTDB**
- 2. Copied/Synced from UPPMAX



Modules

Used to load a specific software, and versions, into your environment

```
$ module show R/4.0.0
/pdc/modules/system/base/R/4.0.0:
module-whatis
                 GNU R
module-whatis
module
                 add gcc/7.2.0
                 add jdk/1.8.0_45
module
                 PATH /pdc/vol/R/4.0.0/bin
prepend-path
prepend-path
                 MANPATH /pdc/vol/R/4.0.0/share/man
prepend-path
                 LD_LIBRARY_PATH /pdc/vol/R/4.0.0/lib64/
```



Module commands

| Command | Abbreviation | Description |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| module load [s]/[v] | ml [s]/[v] | Loads software/version |
| module avail [s]/[v] | ml av [s]/[v] | List available software |
| module show [s]/[v] | ml show [s]/[v] | Show info about software |
| module list | ml | List currently loaded software |
| ml spider [s] | | searches for software |

[s]: Software. Optional for *avail* command

[v]: Version. Optional. Latest by default



Accessing the Cray Programming Environment

- Simple softwares are available directly
- Optimized softwares are available under PDC module

```
$ ml av PDC
---- /pdc/software/modules ------
PDC/23.03 PDC/23.12 (L,D)
```

- Every PDC module relate to a specific version of CPE
- To access parallel software you need to first...

```
$ ml PDC/[VERSION]
```

Omitting the [version] you will load the latest stable CPE



Singularity/AppTainer: Containers for the HPC environment

singularityCE (Community Edition): Installed on Dardel: 4.1.1

AppTainer: Installed on Dardel: 1.2.5

- Container software aka lightweight VM to your liking
- Can be built on docker containers
- Use same container in different NAISS clusters
- Limits user's privileges, better security
- No need for most modules
- Negligable performance decrease



How to build from a recipe on Dardel

Create sylabs token

- 1. Login into sylabs https://cloud.sylabs.io/builder
- 2. Press USERNAME -> Access tokens
- 3. Enter a name for your token and press Create Access Token
- 4. Copy or download the token.

```
ml PDC singularity singularity remote login
```

The first time you run this command on the cluster, it will save your access token to your profile.

singularity build --remote --sandbox <sandbox name> <recipe name>



Singularity/Apptainer information

- Docs: https://support.pdc.kth.se/doc/applications/singularity/
- Recipes: https://github.com/PDC-support/PDC-SoftwareStack/tree/master/other/singularity



How to run jobs



SLURM workload manager

Allocates exclusive and/or non-exclusive access to resources (computer nodes) to users for some duration of time so they can perform work.

Provides a framework for starting, executing, and monitoring work (typically a parallel job) on a set of allocated nodes.

Arbitrates contention for resources by managing a queue of pending work

Installed by default, no need to load module



Which allocation I am a member of

projinfo

```
$ projinfo -h
Usage: projinfo [-u <username>] [-c <clustername>] [-a] [-o] [-m] [-c <cluster>] [-d] [-p <DNR>] [-h]
-u [user] : print information about specific user
-o : print information about all (old) projects, not just current
-m : print usage of all months of the project
-c [cluster] : only print allocations on specific cluster
-a : Only print membership in projects
-d : Usage by all project members
-p [DNR] : only print information about this project
-h : prints this help
```

Shows information about membership, allocation use, storage paths, and stored quota

Usage statistics for every allocation are also available at...

https://support.pdc.kth.se/doc/stats



Partitions

Main

Exclusive node access

Time limit: 24h

Long

Exclusive node access

Time limit: 7 days

GPU

4xGPUs Exclusive node access

Time limit: 24h

Memory

512+ Gb RAM Exclusive node access

Time limit: 7 days

Shared

Shared node access

Time limit: 7 days

Partition is a mandatory entry for running jobs on Dardel



Running interactively

One-time execution with srun

```
$ salloc -t <min> -N <nodes> -A <allocation> -p <partition> srun -n <ntasks> ./MyPrgm
```

To book and execute on a dedicated node

```
$ salloc -t <min> -N <nodes> -A <allocation> -p <partition>
$ ml [modulename]
$ srun -n <ntasks> <executable>
$ srun -n <ntasks> <executable>
$ exit
```

www.pdc.kth.se



Working with shared nodes

```
$ salloc -t <min> -N <nodes> -A <allocation> -p shared ...
```

When using a shared node you must specify the number of cores

| Parameter | Description |
|--------------------------|--|
| -n [tasks] | Allocates n tasks |
| -c/cpus-per-task [cores] | Allocates cores=ntasks*cpus-per-task |
| | (Default cpus-per-task=1) |
| mem=[RAM in Mbytes] | The max amount of RAM allocated for your job |



RAM will be allocated proportionally to the number of cores

Shared node

CPU: 128 cores

RAM: 256 GBytes

RAM/CPU: 2 GBytes/core

| Flag | cores | RAM (MBytes) |
|--------------------|-------|-----------------|
| -n 10 | 10 | 20000 |
| -n 10 mem=40000 | 20 | 40000 |



Other SLURM flags

| Command | Description |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| reservation=[reservation] | Reserved nodes |
| mem=1000000 | At least 1TB RAM |

If the cluster does not have enough nodes of that type then the request will fail with an error message.



Using sbatch scripts

Create a file

```
#!/bin/bash -l
# Name of job
#SBATCH -J <myjob>
#SBATCH -A <allocation ID>
# Reservation if needed
#SBATCH --reservation=<reservation ID>
#SBATCH -t <min>
#SBATCH --nodes=<nodes>
#SBATCH -p <partition>
#SBATCH -n <ntasks>
# load modules and run
ml PDC/22.06
srun -n <ntasks> ./MyPrgm
```

Run

\$ sbatch <myfile>



Other SLURM commands

Show my running jobs

```
$ squeue [-u <username>]
```

To remove a submitted job

```
$ scancel [jobID]
```



How to compile on Dardel

Dardel uses compiler wrappers

- Always use the wrappers
 - cc C code
 - ∘ CC C++ code
 - **ftn** Fortran code
- Wrappers automatically link with math libraries if their modules are loaded

```
$ ml cray-fftw
```

Other libraries are lapack, blas scalapack, blacs,...



PrgEnv modules

| Module | Compiler |
|-------------|----------|
| PrgEnv-cray | CRAY |
| PrgEnv-gnu | GNU |
| PrgEnv-aocc | AMD |

- By default **PrgEnv-cray** is loaded
- Swap it by using command...

```
$ ml PrgEnv-<other>
```

www.pdc.kth.se



Compiling for AMD GPUs

Load the rocm module

```
$ ml rocm
$ ml craype-accel-amd-gfx90a
```

Use the hipcc compiler for AMD GPUs

```
$ hipcc --offload-arch=gfx90a MyPrgm.cpp -o MyPrgm
```

https://support.pdc.kth.se/doc/support-docs/software_development/development_gpu/

www.pdc.kth.se



PDC Support

- 1. A lot of question can be answered via our web https://support.pdc.kth.se/doc
- 2. The best way to contact us is via our ticketing system https://support.pdc.kth.se/doc/support-docs/contact/contact_support/
- 3. The support request will be tracked
- 4. Use a descriptive subject
- 5. Provide your PDC user name.
- 6. Provide all necessary information to reproduce the problem.
- 7. For follow ups always reply to our emails