University at Buffalo
Center for Computational Research

Dori Sajdak
Senior Systems Administrator
https://buffalo.edu/ccr

ABOUT US:

- Support research computing at UB (R1 institution) & business partners in the Buffalo-Niagara region

- *Staff:* 5 system administrators, 1 user support staff, 3 computational scientists, 1 viz specialist, 5 students

- *Resources:* 3 compute clusters (~1500 nodes & ~31k processors), 2 storage systems, high performance networking, on-premise OpenStack cloud, many research-specific servers for labs, & all the infrastructure to support this

- *User Base:* 1100+ active users (400+ faculty), across 12 decanal units

- *Annual Output:* 4.1 million jobs / 100 million CPU hours

- Provide open source software to community including Open XDMoD, ColdFront allocations management, Grendel HPC provisioning – https://github.com/ubccr

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BIGGEST CHALLENGES:
- Extremely heterogeneous cluster environment AND user base
- No official training in HPC administration or use
- (little to) no funding ☺
- Not enough time to manage the to-do list AND help users (new/existing/potential)

GOALS FOR THIS WEEK & BEYOND:
- We don't know what we don't know – get a better grasp on this from the perspective of my users
- Learn more about the applications being used in HPC esp. AI/ML & Python/Jupyter & using GPUs
- Practice time on comet to share in my role as XSEDE Campus Champion
- Network with others for potential info sharing and/or future collaborations

HOW MANY HATS ARE TOO MANY HATS?

I'M ASKING FOR A FRIEND.