

Fred Hutch Cluster 101

October 07, 2022

Contents

About this Course	7
Introduction	11
1 What is a Cluster	11
2 Account Setup	13
2.1 Check your HutchNet ID	13
2.2 Connect to a PI Account	14
Skip to Certification	15
Cluster 101	19
3 Terminal Setup	19
3.1 What is a terminal?	19
3.2 Windows Setup	20
3.3 Mac Setup	21
3.4 Linux Setup	22
4 Logging In	25
4.1 What is SSH?	25
4.2 Windows Login	26
4.3 Mac Login	27
4.4 Linux Login	28

5 Submit Your First Job	29
5.1 Download the Script	30
5.2 Confirm the Download	30
5.3 Inspect the Script	31
5.4 Submit the Script	32
5.5 Check the Output	32
6 File Upload and Download	35
6.1 Download Cyberduck	35
6.2 Create Connection	36
6.3 Download and Edit the Script	37
6.4 Upload the New Script	38
6.5 Run the New Script	39
7 Interactive Session	41
7.1 Starting the session	41
7.2 Running Interactive Commands	43
7.3 Using Pre-installed Software Modules	44
8 Getting Help	47
Send an Email	47
Visit the SciWiki	47
Find Community Support on Slack	48
9 Summary	49
9.1 Overview	49
9.2 Glossary	50
9.3 Commands (command line interface)	50
Appendix	53
10 Provide Feedback	53

CONTENTS	5
11 FAQ and Troubleshooting	55
11.1 FAQ	55
11.2 Troubleshooting	56
Get Your Certificate	59
About the Authors	61
References	63

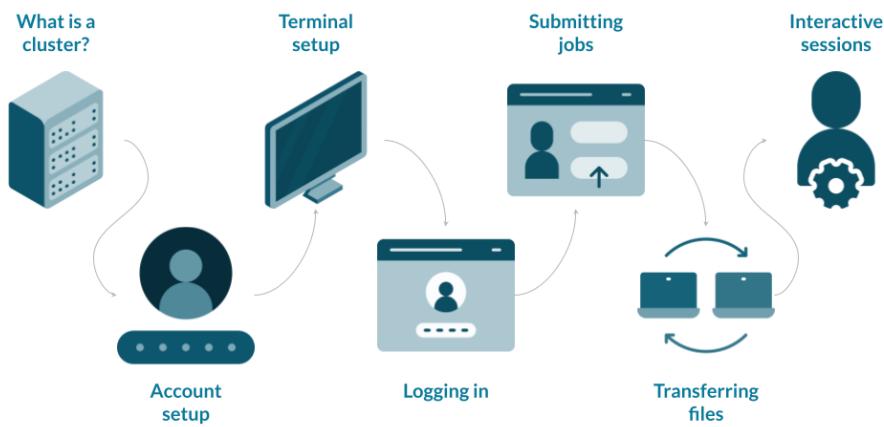
About this Course

Fred Hutch maintains a high performance computing cluster specifically to support research work that requires more intensive computing than your average desktop computer can handle.

Our goal for this course is to get you running on the Fred Hutch cluster **quickly and efficiently**. It is intended for everyone whether you're completely new to using a cluster, or who may have used a cluster at another institution but are new to Fred Hutch.

The Fred Hutch cluster is supported by a group in IT called Scientific Computing, and this course was developed by the Fred Hutch Data Science Lab in collaboration with them. Please see the author credits for more information.

We hope that the following modules will help you take advantage of the powerful resources the Fred Hutch has to offer! This course is available in Bookdown and Leanpub formats. If you want a certificate, you need to take the Leanpub version of the course. **The Leanpub course can be taken for free, but you still have to put the course in your cart and check out.**

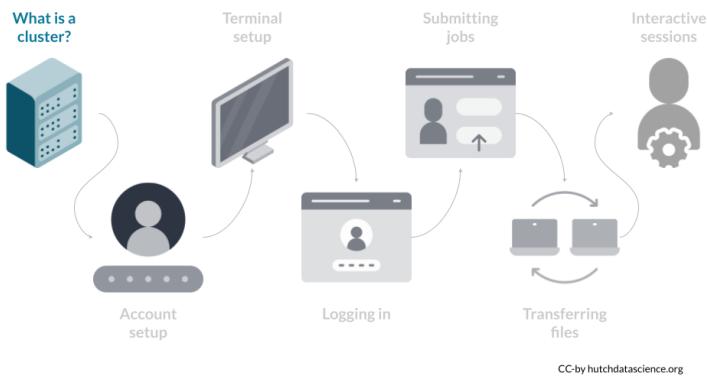


CC-by hutchdatascience.org

Introduction

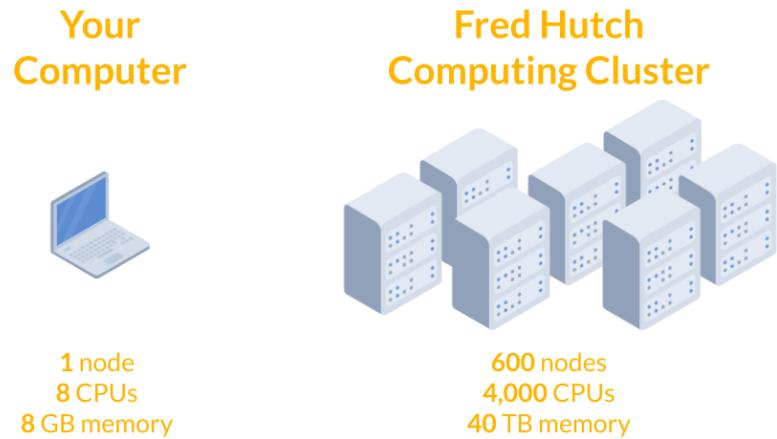
Chapter 1

What is a Cluster



A computing cluster is a set of many computers networked together. Because there are many computers working together, the network is able to handle computationally expensive tasks, like genome assemblies or advanced algorithms. Imagine you're building a house. It would take a long time by yourself! It's much better to have many builders working together.

Now that we have a team of workers, the next challenge is task management. A home construction team will need a manager to help delegate tasks. Similarly, the computing cluster uses management software to prioritize tasks, delegate workers (resources), and check on progress. The Fred Hutch cluster uses a common management and scheduling tool called Slurm.



CC-by hutchdatascience.org

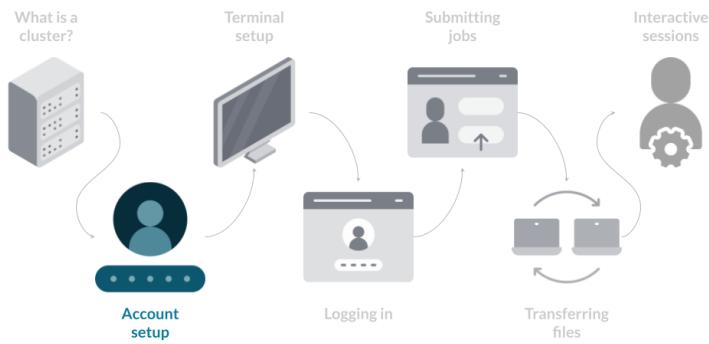
How is the cluster different from a laptop or desktop? First, on your laptop you most likely interact with it using an operating system like Windows or MacOS. The Fred Hutch cluster uses a Linux operating system. Second, because many people use the cluster for many tasks, there isn't a central screen and keyboard. You access the cluster remotely from your computer! We will talk more about how to connect to the cluster in a following chapter.

Computing cluster

A set of computers networked together to perform large tasks.

Chapter 2

Account Setup



CC-by hutchdatascience.org

You will need an account to log in to the cluster. This ensures that data stays protected and that computing resources are shared fairly.

2.1 Check your HutchNet ID

Your HutchNet ID is the standard login you receive when you start working at the Hutch or are an official affiliate. You can use it to login to most resources at Fred Hutch (Desktop Computer, Employee Self Service, VPN, Webmail) and our Scientific Computing systems.

For example:

- my email is `jsmith3@fredhutch.org`.

- my HutchNet ID is `jsmith3`.

If one of your collaborators requires access to the Fred Hutch network you can submit a non-employee action form. Non-employee is a generic administrative term for affiliates, students, contractors, etc.

2.2 Connect to a PI Account

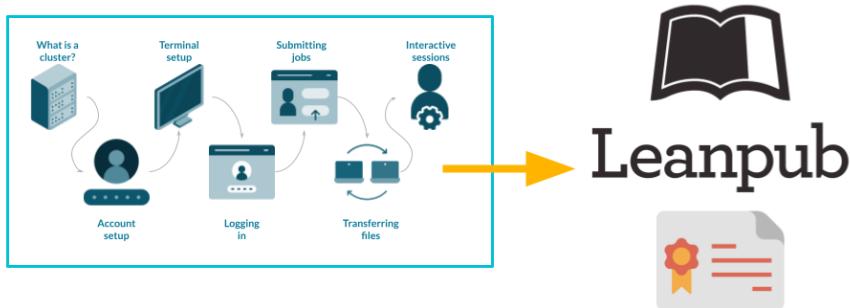
Your HutchNet ID must be associated with a PI cluster “account”. The Scientific Computing Team (SciComp) tries to set users up with a connection to a PI account before they need it, but this is not automatic! To ensure that you have been set up to use the cluster, please fill out this Account Setup Form and we will ensure you are set up correctly!

Now, let’s connect to the cluster using a terminal!

Skip to Certification

Are you an experienced user? You can jump straight to the 10-question quiz by clicking the link below. **This Leanpub quiz can be taken for free, but you still have to put the course in your cart and check out.**

Self-Test: Cluster 101

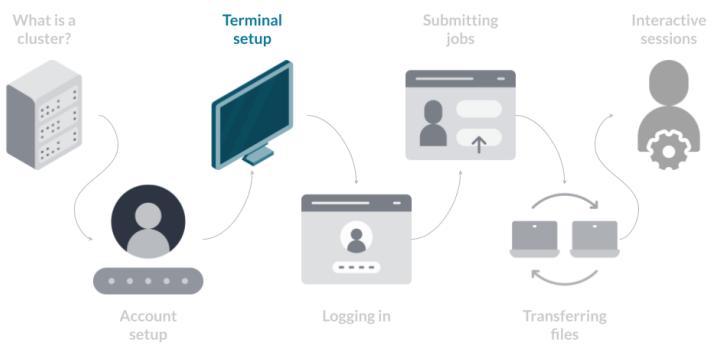


CC-by hutchdatascience.org

Cluster 101

Chapter 3

Terminal Setup



The next step is getting familiar with your Terminal. This is your portal to the cluster.

3.1 What is a terminal?

The Terminal is a command line interface. In other words, the Terminal is a software application that allows you to issue commands directly to your laptop or desktop computer. The Terminal is very useful because it allows you to run commands that don't have a graphical user interface (GUI). It can also connect you to computer networks, such as the Fred Hutch cluster! The Terminal setup is different depending on your operating system. Jump to the Windows, MacOS, or Linux sections below.

“Terminal” used to be synonymous with “computer”. With the creation of operating systems like Windows and MacOS, computers became much easier to

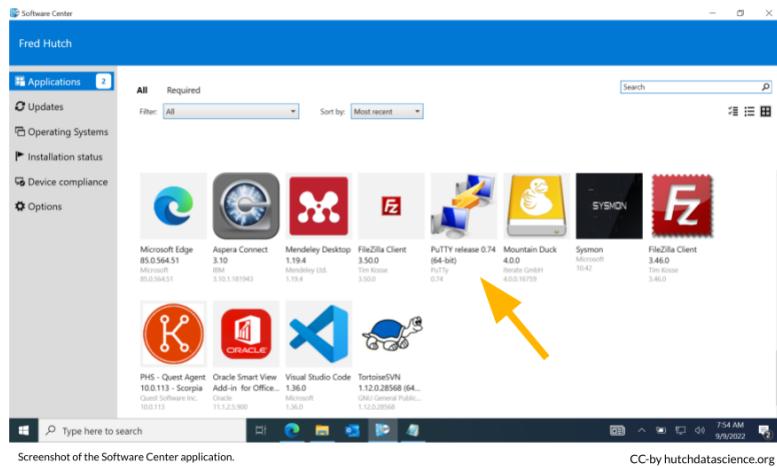
use and exploded in popularity! Your colleagues are almost always referring to the command line application when they say “Terminal”.

3.2 Windows Setup

Click to view steps

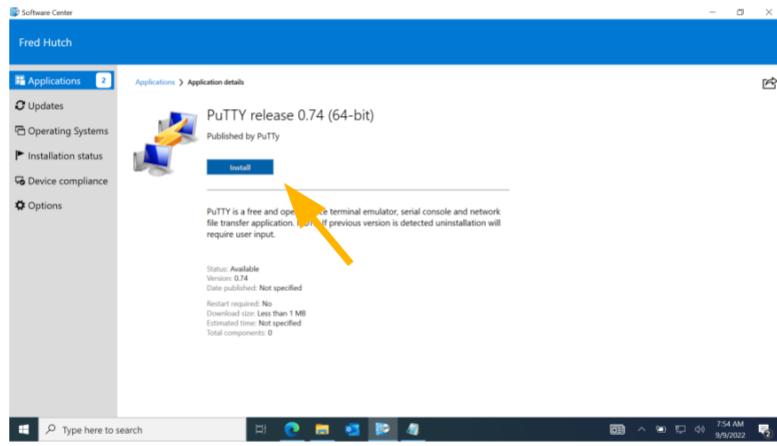
You will need to install a Terminal application called PuTTY to connect to the Fred Hutch Cluster.

1. You should then see PuTTY available in the Software Center. Click “Install” and go through the Setup Wizard.



Screenshot of the Software Center application.

CC-by hutchdatascience.org

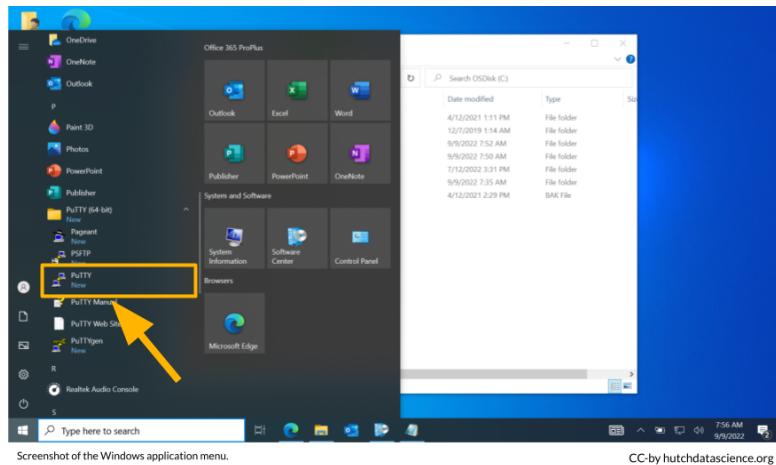


Screenshot of the Software Center PuTTY installation page.

CC-by hutchdatascience.org

You can also install PuTTY manually if you don't see it in the Software Center.

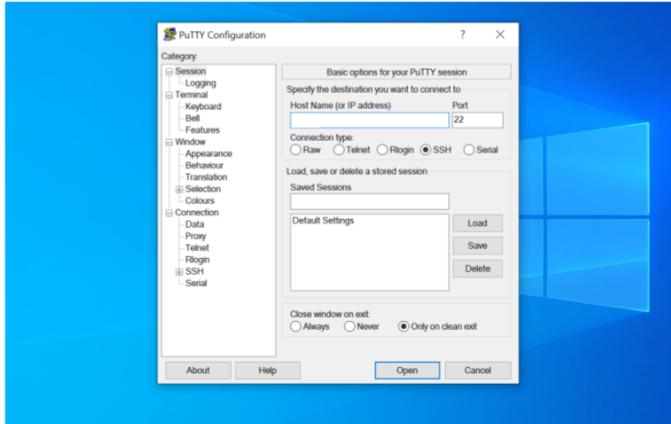
- PuTTY should now be available in your applications. Click on PuTTY to open.



Screenshot of the Windows application menu.

CC-by hutchdatascience.org

- You should now see the PuTTY Configuration menu.



Screenshot of the PuTTY Configuration menu.

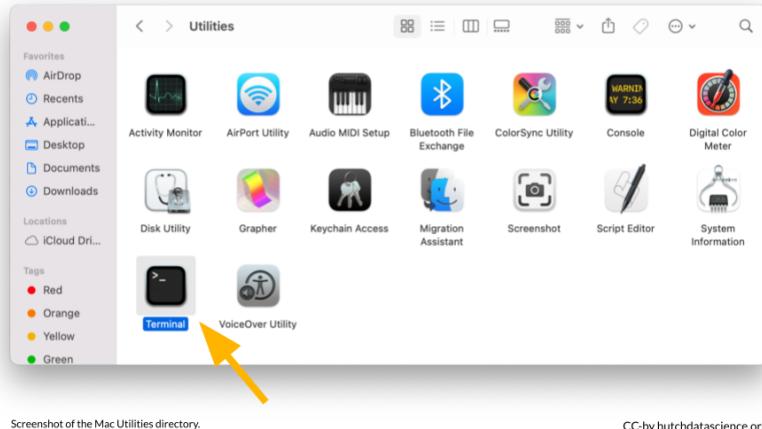
CC-by hutchdatascience.org

3.3 Mac Setup

Click to view steps

Mac machines come with a Terminal installed.

- Go to Finder > Applications > Utilities > Terminal and double-click.



Screenshot of the Mac Utilities directory.

CC-by hutchdatascience.org

2. Your Terminal should look like this:



Screenshot of the Mac Terminal.

CC-by hutchdatascience.org

3.4 Linux Setup

Click to view steps

The commonly used Linux distribution, Ubuntu, already comes with a Terminal installed.

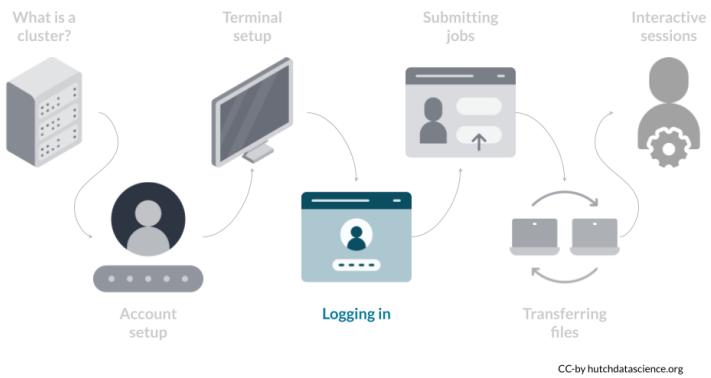
1. Press **ctrl + alt + T**. This should open a Terminal window.
2. Update the Terminal and prepare it for connecting to the cluster by running:

```
sudo apt install openssh-client
```

Enter your password and enter Y when prompted.

Chapter 4

Logging In



Now that you have your Terminal application ready, you want to connect to the cluster. You will do this using a method called SSH, which stands for “Secure SHell”.

4.1 What is SSH?

SSH is a secure way to remotely connect to another computer or network of computers. In other words, SSH helps us protect your data and the data on the Fred Hutch cluster through authentication.

Hostname

The hostname is the name, or label, assigned to a computer in a network. We are connecting to hostname `rhino.fhcrc.org` or `rhino` for short.

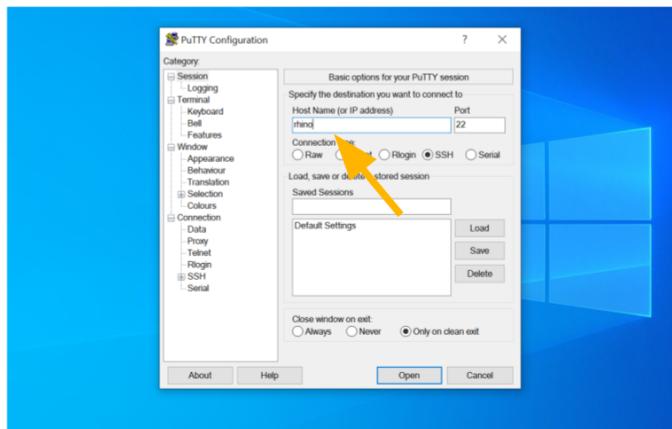
Before moving on, you will need to connect to the Fred Hutch wifi network, a networked ethernet jack, or the Fred Hutch VPN. This is the first layer of security.

The next set of steps are specific to your operating system.

4.2 Windows Login

Click to view steps

1. Go to the PuTTY Configuration menu. Under “Host Name” type **rhino** and click “Open”.



Screenshot of the PuTTY Configuration menu.

CC-by hutchdatascience.org

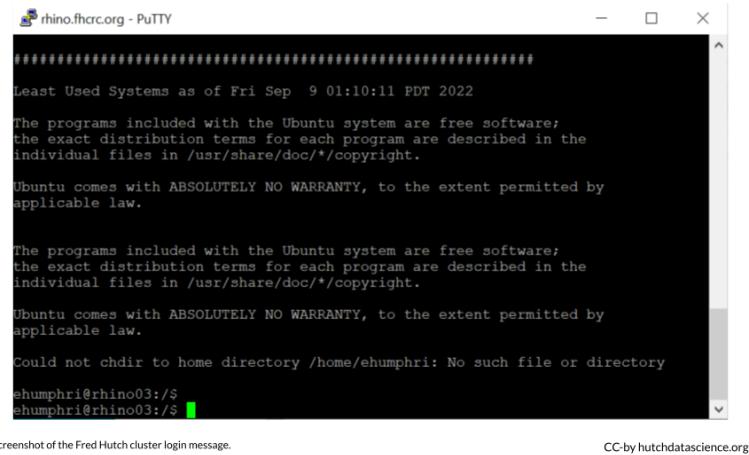
2. You will be prompted to login. Type in your HutchNetID (e.g., **jsmith3**).



Screenshot of the PuTTY login prompt for rhino.

CC-by hutchdatascience.org

3. Enter your password. No* or symbols will show up, so type it in carefully!
4. You are now logged in! There should be a login message, with your name at the bottom.



Screenshot of the Fred Hutch cluster login message.

CC-by hutchdatascience.org

Congratulations! You are now logged in to the Fred Hutch cluster!

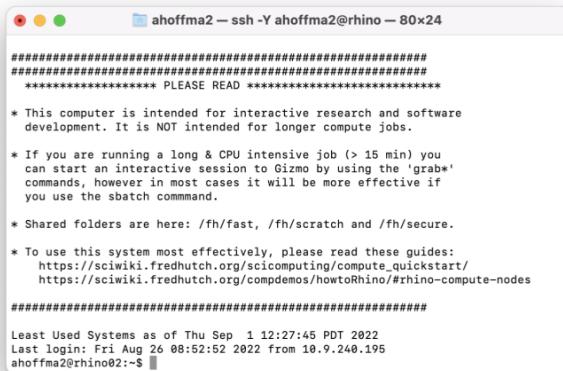
4.3 Mac Login

Click to view steps

1. Type the following commands, substituting in your HutchNet ID (no brackets):

```
ssh -Y [HutchID]@rhino
```

2. You will see a message that looks like The authenticity of host 'rhino (XXX.XXX.XX.XX)' can't be established. Type in yes and hit enter.
3. Enter your password. No* or symbols will show up, so type it in carefully!
4. You are now logged in! There should be a login message, with your name at the bottom.



Screenshot of the Fred Hutch cluster login message.

CC-by hutchdatascience.org

Congratulations! You are now logged in to the Fred Hutch cluster!

4.4 Linux Login

Click to view steps

1. Type the following commands, substituting in your HutchNet ID (no brackets):

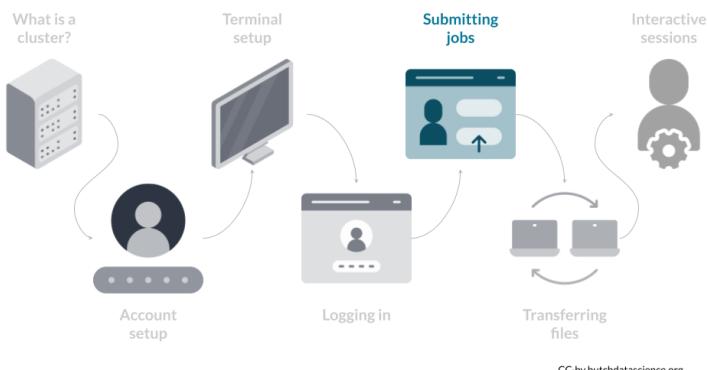
`ssh [HutchID]@rhino`

2. Enter your password. No* or symbols will show up, so type it in carefully!
3. You are now logged in! There should be a login message, with your name at the bottom.

Congratulations! You are now logged in to the Fred Hutch cluster!

Chapter 5

Submit Your First Job



The strength of a computing cluster is the ability to do many jobs in parallel or on computers with more computing power than you have on your local computer. The best way to use the cluster is to create short snippets of instructions (a script) that a computer can perform without human input. Your script tells the computers to execute the instructions as individual jobs.

Now that you've logged into rhino you will be able to send scripts to the networked computers in the cluster. The Fred Hutch cluster uses Slurm to organize and prioritize jobs. Based on the instructions in your script, Slurm will find a computer to run your job along with all the other requests from other users.

The part of the cluster where you log in is called **rhino**. The part of the cluster where jobs are run is called **gizmo**.

5.1 Download the Script

We can use the `wget` command to download a script from GitHub. This means we don't have to write the script from scratch. Copy and paste the following into the terminal, and hit return:

```
wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/FredHutch/slurm-examples/master/introduction/1-hello-world/01.sh
```

```
ahoffma2 — ssh -Y ahoffma2@rhino — 80x24
[ahoffma2@rhino03:~$ wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/FredHutch/slurm-examples/master/introduction/1-hello-world/01.sh
--2022-09-21 10:01:03-- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/FredHutch/slurm-examples/master/introduction/1-hello-world/01.sh
Resolving raw.githubusercontent.com (raw.githubusercontent.com)... 185.199.108.1
33, 185.199.111.133, 185.199.110.133, ...
Connecting to raw.githubusercontent.com (raw.githubusercontent.com)|185.199.108.133|:443... connected.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 200 OK
Length: 33 [text/plain]
Saving to: '01.sh'

01.sh      100%[=====]      33  --.-KB/s   in 0s
2022-09-21 10:01:03 (908 KB/s) - '01.sh' saved [33/33]
ahoffma2@rhino03:~$ ]
```

Screenshot of wget command output.

CC-by hutchdatascience.org

5.2 Confirm the Download

Let's confirm that we can see the file we just downloaded. We can use the `ls` (list files) command for this. Type `ls` and hit return. You should see the file `01.sh` in your home directory. The `.sh` ending means this is a script meant to run from the command line.

```
ls
```



```
ahoffma2@rhino03:~$ ls
01.sh
ahoffma2@rhino03:~$
```

Screenshot of ls command output.

CC-by hutchdatascience.org

5.3 Inspect the Script

Let's next inspect the script. The `cat` command, followed by a file name, lists the entire contents of a specific file.

```
cat 01.sh
```



```
ahoffma2@rhino03:~$ cat 01.sh
#!/bin/bash
echo "Hello, World"
ahoffma2@rhino03:~$
```

Screenshot of cat command output, the contents of the script.

CC-by hutchdatascience.org

- The first line of the script, `#!/bin/bash`, indicates that this is a command line or “bash” script.

- The second line is empty, and the third line, `echo "Hello, World"` means that the computer will “echo”, or print out, “Hello, World”.

5.4 Submit the Script

We use the `sbatch` command to submit a script and start running a job on the cluster. Copy the following and hit return. You should see a message like “Submitted batch job 12345678”. Your number will vary because this is a unique job identifier.

```
sbatch 01.sh
```

5.5 Check the Output

Type `ls` again. You should now see a log file like `slurm-12345678.out` listed alongside your script `01.sh`. Let’s use `cat` to inspect the output in the log file. Make sure you replace `[your-number-here]` with the number in your actual file. We should see our message has been printed!

```
cat slurm-[your-number-here].out
```



A screenshot of a terminal window titled "ahoffma2 — ssh -Y ahoffma2@rhino — 80x24". The window shows the following command sequence:

```
ahoffma2@rhino03:~$ ls
01.sh  slurm-65739499.out
ahoffma2@rhino03:~$ cat slurm-65739499.out
Hello, World
ahoffma2@rhino03:~$
```

Screenshot of cat command output, the contents of the log file.

CC-by hutchdatascience.org

`ls`

This command lists the files in the current directory.

`cat filename`

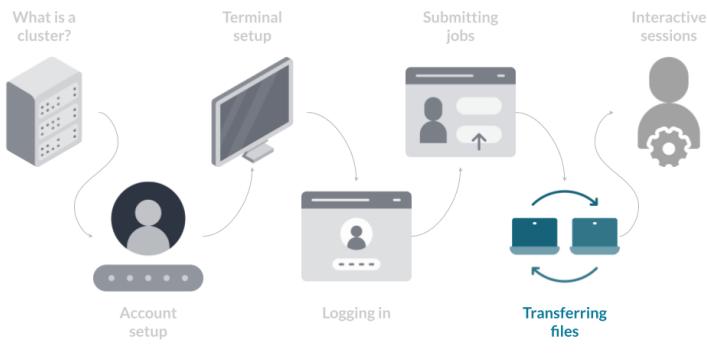
This command prints the contents of a specific file .

sbatch *filename.sh*

This command submits a job to the cluster with instructions specified in .sh

Chapter 6

File Upload and Download



CC-by hutchdatascience.org

Exchanging files with the cluster is very important. You can imagine scenarios where:

- You want to download log files or output files
- You want to upload a custom .sh script file that you wrote on your laptop
- You want to upload other files

In this course, upload and download of files is performed using Cyberduck. Cyberduck is a tool that lets us connect to the cluster securely, browse files, and transfer files securely.

6.1 Download Cyberduck

Download the latest version of Cyberduck here.

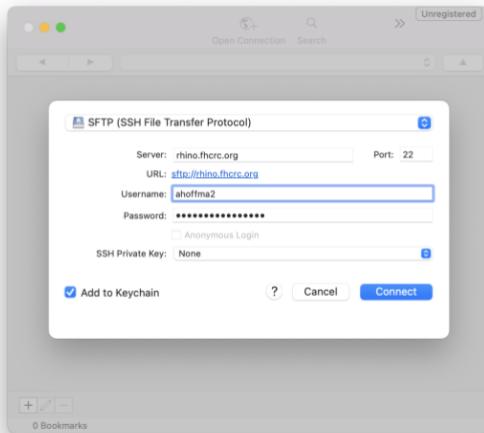
Note that the version of Cyberduck in the Software Center or Self Service might not be current, causing compatibility issues with some operating systems.

6.2 Create Connection

Launch Cyberduck and click on “Open Connection”.

- From the dropdown menu, select “SFTP (SSH File Transfer Protocol)”
- For Server, type “rhino.fhcrc.org”
- Fill in your HutchNetID for Username and fill in your password

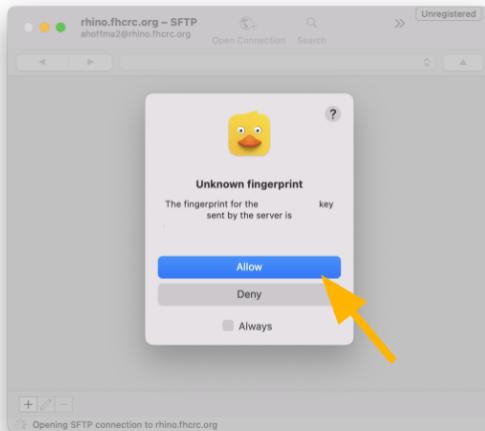
Click “Connect”



Screenshot of the Cyberduck “Open Connection” configuration.

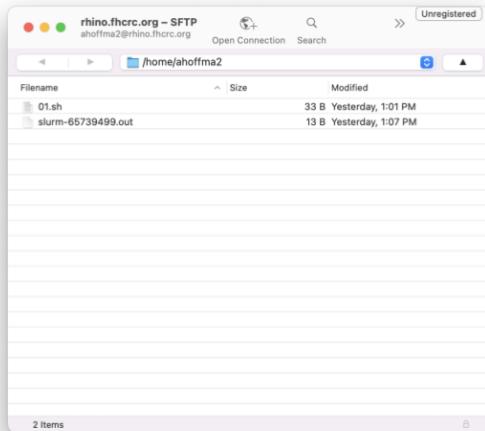
CC-by hutchdatascience.org

Click “Allow”. You can also check the box to indicate “Always”.



CC-by hutchdatascience.org

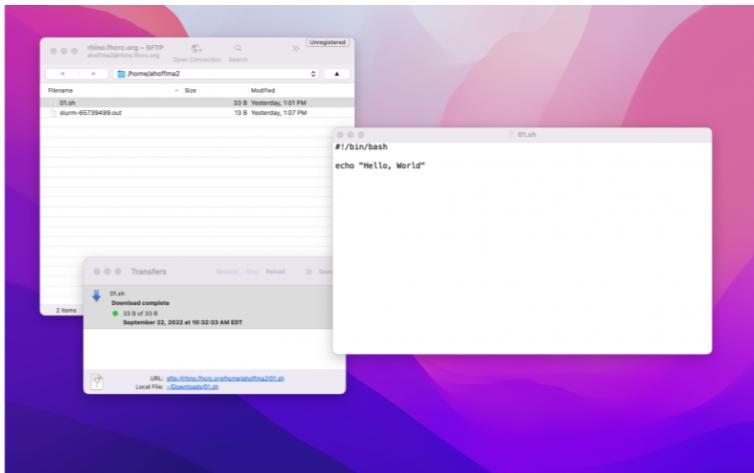
You should see your script file “01.sh” and the log file.



CC-by hutchdatascience.org

6.3 Download and Edit the Script

- Right click on “01.sh” and select “Download”
- You will see a “Transfers” prompt open, and the 01.sh file should now appear in your Downloads folder
- Open the 01.sh file



Screenshot of files, Transfers window, and the downloaded script.

CC-by hutchdatascience.org

Edit the message to include your name and save the file. Rename the file **01-name.sh**

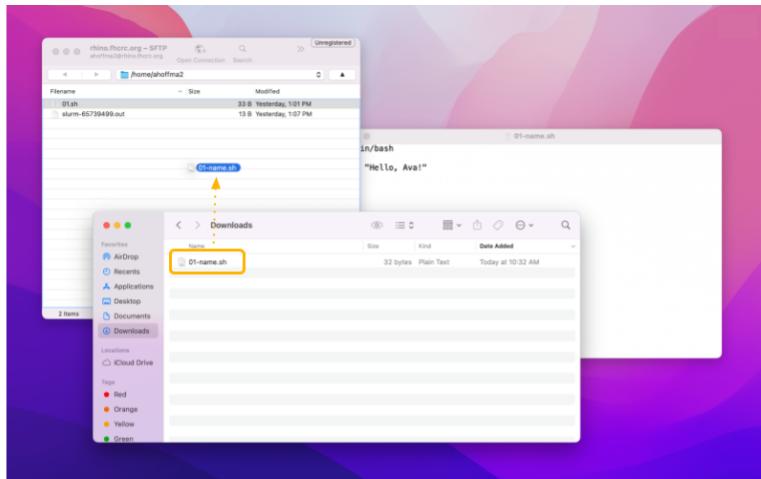
A screenshot of a terminal window titled '01-name.sh'. It contains the code '#!/bin/bash' and 'echo "Hello, Ava!"'. A yellow arrow points to the word 'Ava!' in the echo command.

Screenshot of the script, edited with a name.

CC-by hutchdatascience.org

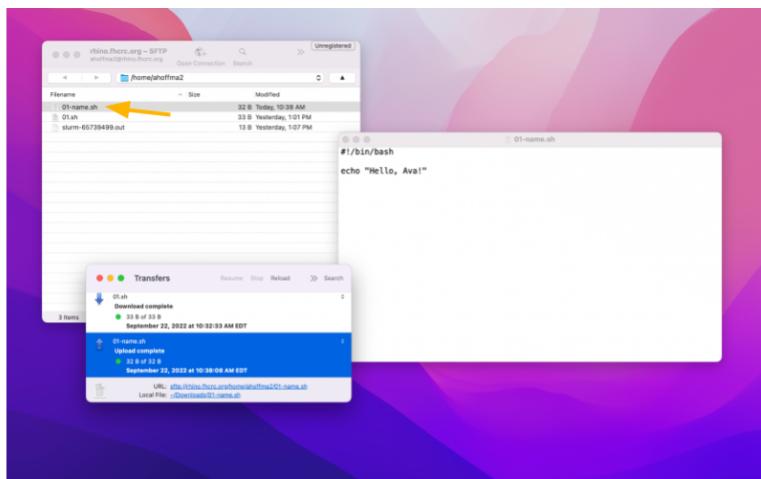
6.4 Upload the New Script

From your Downloads folder, simply drag the file to Cyberduck.



CC-by hutchdatascience.org

You should now see the new script among your cluster files.



Screenshot of edited script among cluster files visible on Cyberduck.

CC-by hutchdatascience.org

6.5 Run the New Script

Return to your Terminal. Submit a job with your new script by running the following. When you type `ls` you should see a new log file!

```
sbatch 01-name.sh
```



```
ahoffma2 -Y ahoffma2@rhino - 80x24
ahoffma2@rhino03:~$ sbatch 01-name.sh
Submitted batch job 65772757
ahoffma2@rhino03:~$ ls
01-name.sh 01.sh slurm-65739499.out slurm-65772757.out
ahoffma2@rhino03:~$
```

Screenshot showing new log file present on the cluster.

CC-by hutchdatascience.org

The job numbers included in log file names generally increase in number. The greater the number, the more recently the job was run.

Use the `cat` command to inspect the log. Make sure you replace `[your-number-here]` to match your file. The message should show the new text that you added!

```
cat slurm-[your-number-here].out
```



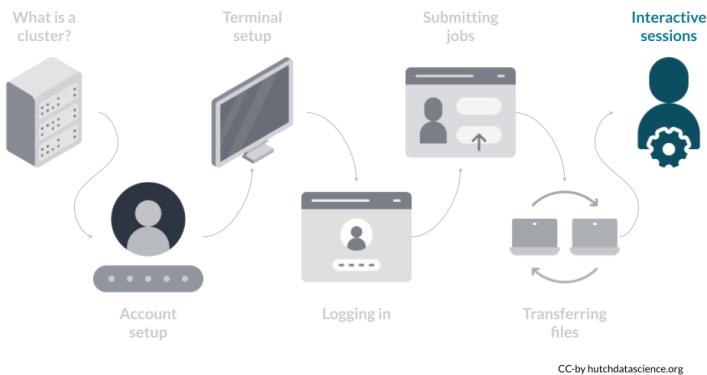
```
ahoffma2 -Y ahoffma2@rhino - 80x24
ahoffma2@rhino03:~$ sbatch 01-name.sh
Submitted batch job 65772757
ahoffma2@rhino03:~$ ls
01-name.sh 01.sh slurm-65739499.out slurm-65772757.out
ahoffma2@rhino03:~$ cat slurm-65772757.out
Hello, Ava!
ahoffma2@rhino03:~$
```

Screenshot of edited script message output using 'cat' command.

CC-by hutchdatascience.org

Chapter 7

Interactive Session



While using the cluster, you might need to build and test scripts interactively before running them. Luckily, you can work directly on the cluster by creating an interactive session. When you launch an interactive session, the cluster assigns you a portion of the networked computers called a “node”. This node (or part of one) is dedicated to you for a period of time rather than using the Slurm job submission system. Because an interactive session takes up resources directly on the cluster whether you’re actively using it or not, it’s best to use interactive sessions only when a task cannot be done by submitting a script.

7.1 Starting the session

When starting an interactive session, you’re going to need to think about what you are testing and what resources you might need on the node you are requesting to use. You can always start an interactive session using the default values if you aren’t sure what you need yet.

Start an interactive session on a node by running the command:

```
grabnode
```

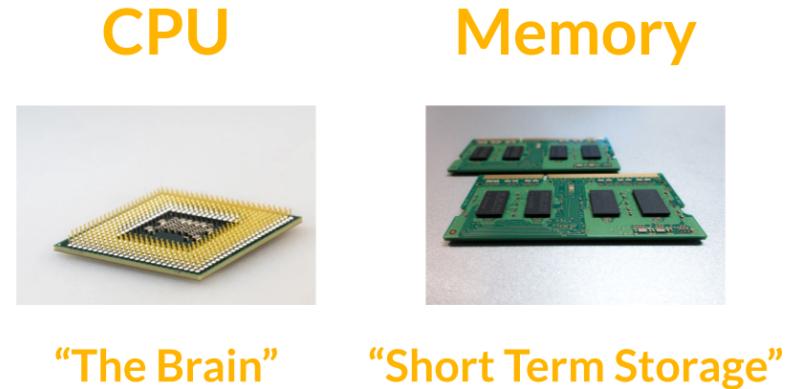
You will be prompted with several questions about the type of resources on the node you want. We don't need anything fancy, so we will set up the session to use minimal resources. You can enter the following:

- *How many CPUs/cores would you like to grab on the node? 1*
- *How much memory (GB) would you like to grab? 20*
- *Please enter the max number of days you would like to grab this node: 1*
- *Do you need a GPU? N*
- When prompted, enter your password

The CPU, or Central Processing Unit, is the brain of the computer that performs and orchestrates computational tasks. Modern computers often perform multiple tasks at once, ranging from 4 tasks on a typical laptop to 48 tasks or more on higher end servers.

RAM, or Random Access Memory, is often simply referred to as memory. This short term memory holds the information that the CPU needs to perform calculations. One distinctive feature of memory is that it is short term. In other words, when the electricity is shut off, the data stored in memory disappears. To save the CPU's work, you usually save files to your computer. Running highly complicated analyses or algorithms can often require additional memory resources.

The GPU, or Graphics Processing Unit, is similar to the CPU. The GPU was originally designed to quickly render graphics (such as for video games), but today can be used to run complex artificial intelligence applications or computationally intensive jobs.



CC-by hutchdatascience.org

You will see that you are now logged on to “gizmo” instead of “rhino”. Remember that the part of the cluster where you log in is called **rhino**. The part of the cluster where jobs are run is called **gizmo**.

A screenshot of a terminal window titled "ahoffma2 - ssh -Y ahoffma2@rhino - 80x24". The window shows a series of configuration prompts:

```

ahoffma2@rhino02:~$ grabnode
How many CPUs/cores would you like to grab on the node? [1-36] 1
How much memory (GB) would you like to grab? [28]
Please enter the max number of days you would like to grab this node: [1-7] 1
Do you need a GPU ? [y/N]n

You have requested 1 CPUs on this node/server for 1 days or until you type exit.

Warning: If you exit this shell before your jobs are finished, your jobs
on this node/server will be terminated. Please use sbatch for larger jobs.

Shared PI folders can be found in: /fh/fast, /fh/scratch and /fh/secure.

Requesting Queue: campus-new cores: 1 memory: 28 gpu: NONE
srun: job 65908564 queued and waiting for resources
srun: job 65908564 has been allocated resources
Password for ahoffma2@FHCR.C.ORG:
ahoffma2@gizmok132:~$ 
```

An orange arrow points from the bottom left towards the bottom of the terminal window.

Screenshot of configuration prompts for an interactive node.

CC-by hutchdatascience.org

7.2 Running Interactive Commands

You can start working on the node by running a similar command as we used in the job we submitted via script. Echo a message by running:

```
echo "Hello, again!"
```

A screenshot of a terminal window titled "ahoffma2 — ssh -Y ahoffma2@rhino — 80x24". The window shows a single line of text: "ahoffma2@gizmok132:~\$ echo \"Hello, again!\" Hello, again! ahoffma2@gizmok132:~\$". The terminal has a standard OS X-style title bar with red, yellow, and green buttons.

Screenshot of an echo message on an interactive node.

CC-by hutchdatascience.org

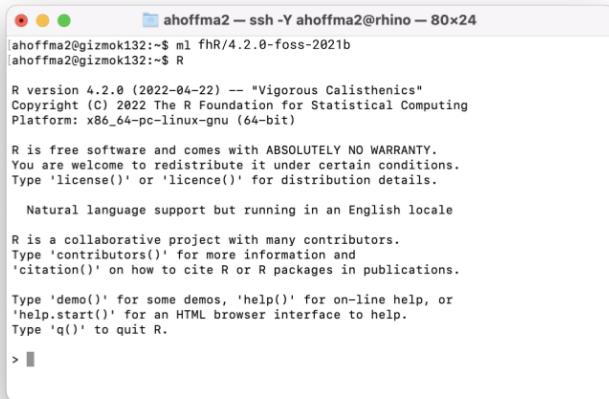
7.3 Using Pre-installed Software Modules

Let's get a bit more advanced. We can load a preconfigured software bundle called a module. This is very convenient because it means we don't need to install anything manually! In this example, we will load a module containing R version 4.2.0. You can learn more about what modules are available and how to request new ones for the Fred Hutch cluster [here](#).

```
ml fhR/4.2.0-foss-2021b
```

Next, launch R:

R



```
ahoffma2@gizmok132:~$ m1 fhR/4.2.0-foss-2021b
ahoffma2@gizmok132:~$ R
R version 4.2.0 (2022-04-22) -- "Vigorous Calisthenics"
Copyright (C) 2022 The R Foundation for Statistical Computing
Platform: x86_64-pc-linux-gnu (64-bit)

R is free software and comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY.
You are welcome to redistribute it under certain conditions.
Type 'license()' or 'licence()' for distribution details.

Natural language support but running in an English locale

R is a collaborative project with many contributors.
Type 'contributors()' for more information and
'citation()' on how to cite R or R packages in publications.

Type 'demo()' for some demos, 'help()' for on-line help, or
'help.start()' for an HTML browser interface to help.
Type 'q()' to quit R.

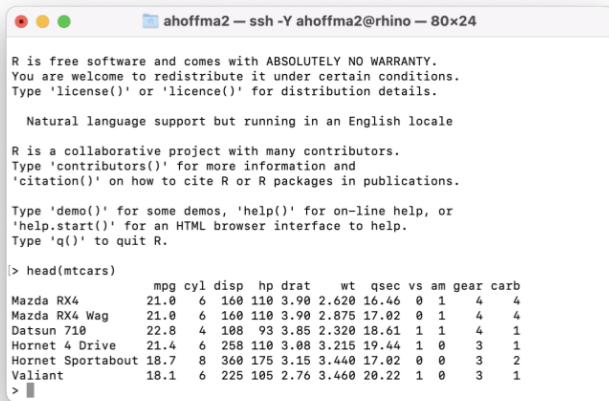
> 
```

Screenshot of R session launched on an interactive node.

CC-by hutchdatascience.org

You can play around with R here. For example, you might run:

```
head(mtcars)
```



```
R is free software and comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY.
You are welcome to redistribute it under certain conditions.
Type 'license()' or 'licence()' for distribution details.

Natural language support but running in an English locale

R is a collaborative project with many contributors.
Type 'contributors()' for more information and
'citation()' on how to cite R or R packages in publications.

Type 'demo()' for some demos, 'help()' for on-line help, or
'help.start()' for an HTML browser interface to help.
Type 'q()' to quit R.

> head(mtcars)
      mpg cyl disp hp drat wt qsec vs am gear carb
Mazda RX4     21.0   6 160 110 3.98 2.620 16.46  0  1  4   4
Mazda RX4 Wag 21.0   6 160 110 3.98 2.875 17.02  0  1  4   4
Datsun 710    22.8   4 108  93 3.85 2.320 18.61  1  1  4   1
Hornet 4 Drive 21.4   6 258 110 3.08 3.215 19.44  1  0  3   1
Hornet Sportabout 18.7   8 360 175 3.15 3.440 17.02  0  0  3   2
Valiant      18.1   6 225 105 2.76 3.460 20.22  1  0  3   1
> 
```

Screenshot of R commands on an interactive node.

CC-by hutchdatascience.org

Close the R session by typing:

```
q()
```

Close the interactive node by typing:

```
exit
```

```

Natural language support but running in an English locale
R is a collaborative project with many contributors.
Type 'contributors()' for more information and
'citation()' on how to cite R or R packages in publications.

Type 'demo()' for some demos, 'help()' for on-line help, or
'help.start()' for an HTML browser interface to help.
Type 'q()' to quit R.

> head(mtcars)
   mpg cyl disp  hp drat    wt  qsec vs am gear carb
Mazda RX4     21.0   6 160 100 3.98 2.620 16.46  0  1  4   4
Mazda RX4 Wag 21.0   6 160 100 3.98 2.875 17.02  0  1  4   4
Datsun 710    22.8   4 108  93 3.85 2.320 18.61  1  1  4   1
Hornet 4 Drive 21.4   6 258 110 3.08 3.215 19.44  1  0   3   1
Hornet Sportabout 18.7   8 360 175 3.15 3.440 17.02  0  0   3   2
Valiant      18.1   6 225 105 2.76 3.460 20.22  1  0   3   1
> q()
Save workspace image? [y/n/c]: n
ahoffma2@gizmok132:~$ exit
logout
ahoffma2@rhino02:~$ 
```

Screenshot exiting the interactive node.

CC-by hutchdatascience.org

grabnode

This command starts an interactive session on the cluster.

Node One of the networked computers in the cluster.

CPU

A computer component that performs and orchestrates computational tasks.

Memory

A computer component that stores calculations and information in the short term.

Chapter 8

Getting Help

The Scientific Computing group in IT manages the cluster, provides support with software, advises on data storage, and holds office hours specifically to help users. Here are some ways you can get help for your work on the cluster.

Send an Email

The primary way you can request help for a problem is to send SciComp an email, so a ticket will be created in their tracking system. This allows the details of the problem you're having to be sent to them so they can better help you. Submitting a good email ticket helps the SciComp Team address your needs quickly and efficiently. We suggest you submit the following information:

1. A brief overview of what the problem is.
2. Some specifics about the problem, such as the full text (it's ok if it's long) of any error message or terminal command, or a screen shot of the interface you were using when you had the problem.
3. A description of what you wanted to have happen or what your overall goal is (in case perhaps there is another strategy that might work better).

Visit the SciWiki

The SciWiki Scientific Computing page is full of useful tips and guides. Remember when using the search that the login “nodes” to the Fred Hutch cluster are called rhino and the cluster “nodes” are called gizmo.

Find Community Support on Slack

Peer-to-peer support can be very valuable in learning and troubleshooting your work. The Fred Hutch Data Slack workspace is open to all with a fredhutch.org, uw.edu, seattlechildrens.org, or related institution email addresses (whi.org, scharp.org, etc). You can ask questions, find out about office hours, and discover other live support and training events that can help you learn more about how to leverage resources at Fred Hutch to advance your science.

Chapter 9

Summary

Let's review the key information from the previous sections.

9.1 Overview

A computing cluster is a set of computers networked together to perform large tasks. We usually connect to the cluster using a command-line interface called a Terminal. The Terminal application varies based on your operating system. We connect to the cluster using a secure method called SSH. Exact SSH commands vary depending on your operating system.

Before using the Fred Hutch cluster, it's a good idea to contact the SciComp team to ensure your account is set up correctly. You must be connected to the campus wifi network, plugged into a networked ethernet jack, or connected to the Fred Hutch VPN to connect to the Fred Hutch cluster.

Computer tasks are typically performed via job submission, where you tell the cluster what to do inside a script file. The Fred Hutch cluster uses Slurm to organize jobs submitted by different users. When building, testing, and debugging jobs, you might want to launch an interactive session on the cluster. You will be asked several questions about resources before your session starts.

You can use the application Cyberduck to transfer smaller files between your local computer and the cluster via SFTP (SSH File Transfer Protocol).

Don't be afraid to ask for help! Check out the SciWiki, join the Slack workspace, or contact the SciComp team if you get stuck.

9.2 Glossary

- **computing cluster** - A set of computers networked together to perform large tasks.
- **CPU** - A computer component that performs and orchestrates computational tasks.
- **Cyberduck** - Third-party software which transfers files between your local machine and the cluster.
- **hostname** - The hostname is the name, or label, assigned to a computer in a network. We connect to hostname `rhino.fhcrc.org` or `rhino` for short.
- **memory** - A computer component that stores calculations and information in the short term.
- **node** - A part of the cluster; a computer in the network.
- **SSH** - A secure method for remotely connecting to another computer or network of computers; stands for “Secure SHell”.
- **terminal** - A command line interface; a software application that allows you to issue commands directly to a computer.

9.3 Commands (command line interface)

Command	Description	Usage
<code>cat</code>	displays all contents of a file	<code>cat [filename]</code>
<code>exit</code>	terminates an interactive session	<code>exit</code>
<code>grabnode</code>	launches an interactive session	<code>grabnode</code>
<code>ls</code>	lists files in the current folder	<code>ls</code>
<code>sbatch</code>	submits a script containing job instructions	<code>sbatch [scriptname.sh]</code>
<code>wget</code>	downloads a file from the internet	<code>wget [url]</code>

Appendix

Chapter 10

Provide Feedback

Please submit an issue about this course at our GitHub repository. You can also click the edit button on the top of the page in question.

Chapter 11

FAQ and Troubleshooting

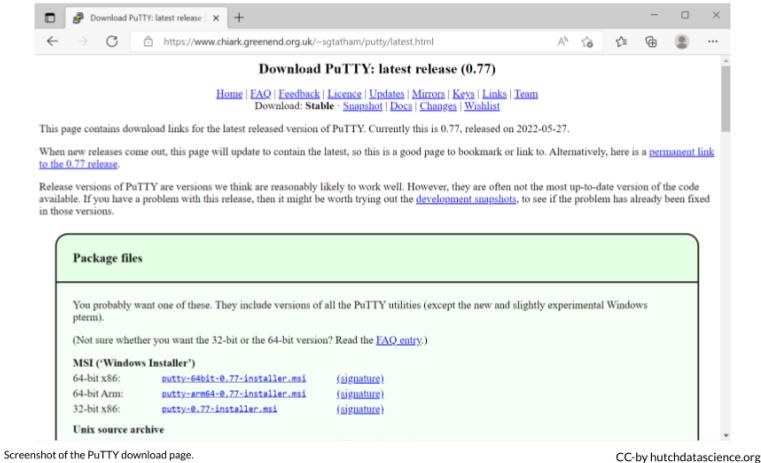
11.1 FAQ

Here are some questions you might have.

11.1.1 How can I manually install PuTTY?

Click to view steps

1. Click here to install the latest version of PuTTY. You will choose the 64-bit x86 installation with few exceptions.



2. Click through to install via the Setup Wizard.

11.2 Troubleshooting

Here are some issues you might encounter.

ssh: Could not resolve hostname rhino: nodename nor servname provided, or not known

[Click to view steps](#)

This error means that your computer is having trouble connecting to rhino. Ensure one of the following is true:

1. You are connected to the Fred Hutch wifi network on campus.
2. You are connected to the Fred Hutch VPN
3. You are plugged into an ethernet cable on campus that taps into the Fred Hutch network. Note that not all ethernet wall jacks have this capability, so try another jack if you are having trouble. Please email the IT helpdesk and include your office number and the number on the jack if you find a jack that isn't working.

ssh: connect to host rhino port 22: Undefined error: 0

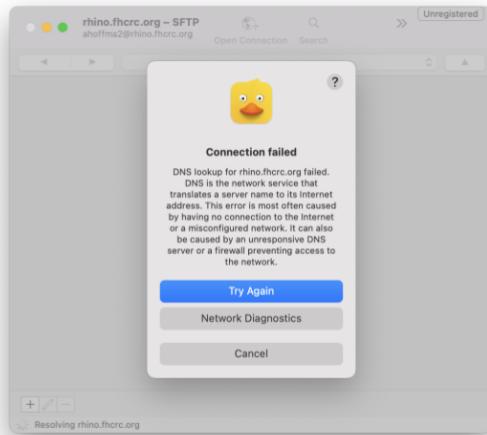
[Click to view steps](#)

This likely indicates a disruption to your internet connection and/or VPN. Ensure you are connected to the internet and connected to the Fred Hutch network on campus or the VPN.

Connection failed message in Cyberduck

[Click to view steps](#)

This likely indicates a disruption to your internet connection and/or VPN. Ensure you are connected to the internet and connected to the Fred Hutch network on campus or the VPN.



Screenshot of the Cyberduck "Connection failed" message.

CC-by hutchdatascience.org

Invalid account or account/partition when logging in

Errors similar to this typically indicate that the account hasn't been set up by SciComp. This is a quick fix if you use the form mentioned in the course.

Get Your Certificate

You must complete the quiz - Self-Test: Cluster 101 - with all questions correctly answered to earn your certificate for this course. Once complete:

1. Go to the course homepage
2. Click on “Complete Course”

Fred Hutch Cluster 101

The screenshot shows the course homepage for "Fred Hutch Cluster 101". At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for "Home", "About", "Contact", and "Logout". Below the navigation, there's a large banner with the course title and a "Start Learning" button. The main content area features a circular diagram with nodes like "What is a cluster?", "Terminal setup", "Submitting jobs", "Interactive sessions", "Transferring files", "Logging in", and "Account setup", connected by arrows. To the right of the diagram, a message says "You have completed 1 of 1 quiz" with two buttons: "Continue the Course" and "Complete Course". The "Complete Course" button is highlighted with a yellow border. Below this, it says "Current Mark: 100.00%" and "View Results". At the bottom of the page, there's a note about the instructor publishing 100% of the course, a brief description of the course goals, and a copyright notice: "CC-by hutchdatascience.org".

3. Click on “Generate Certificate”

Fred Hutch Cluster 101

Status	Mark	Points Earned	Grade
Passed	100.00%	10 of 10	Passed

Self-Test: Cluster 101 - Result: 100.00% - You have used 1 of 10 attempts

Attempt 1 - 10.0 out of 10.0 points - [View Results](#)

You have completed this course

[View Course](#)

[Generate Certificate](#)

CC-by hutchdatascience.org

About the Authors

These credits are based on our course contributors table guidelines.

Please note that this course is under development and these credits are subject to change!

Credits	Names
Pedagogy	
Lead Content Instructor	Ava Hoffman
Content Authors	The Fred Hutch SciComp Team
Content Editors	Amy Paguirigan
Content Consultants	The Fred Hutch SciComp Team
Technical	
Course Publishing Engineer	Ava Hoffman
Template Publishing Engineers	Candace Savonen, Carrie Wright
Publishing Maintenance Engineer	Candace Savonen
Technical Publishing Stylists	Carrie Wright, Candace Savonen
Package Developers (ottrpal)	Candace Savonen, John Muschelli, Carrie Wright

```
## - Session info -----
## setting value
## version R version 4.0.2 (2020-06-22)
## os      Ubuntu 20.04.3 LTS
## system x86_64, linux-gnu
## ui      X11
## language (EN)
## collate en_US.UTF-8
```

```

##  ctype    en_US.UTF-8
##  tz       Etc/UTC
##  date    2022-10-07
##
## - Packages -----
## # package * version   date     lib source
## # assertthat 0.2.1    2019-03-21 [1] RSPM (R 4.0.3)
## # bookdown  0.24     2022-02-15 [1] Github (rstudio/bookdown@88bc4ea)
## # callr     3.4.4    2020-09-07 [1] RSPM (R 4.0.2)
## # cli       2.0.2    2020-02-28 [1] RSPM (R 4.0.0)
## # crayon    1.3.4    2017-09-16 [1] RSPM (R 4.0.0)
## # desc      1.2.0    2018-05-01 [1] RSPM (R 4.0.3)
## # devtools  2.3.2    2020-09-18 [1] RSPM (R 4.0.3)
## # digest    0.6.25   2020-02-23 [1] RSPM (R 4.0.0)
## # ellipsis  0.3.1    2020-05-15 [1] RSPM (R 4.0.3)
## # evaluate  0.14     2019-05-28 [1] RSPM (R 4.0.3)
## # fansi     0.4.1    2020-01-08 [1] RSPM (R 4.0.0)
## # fs        1.5.0    2020-07-31 [1] RSPM (R 4.0.3)
## # glue      1.6.1    2022-01-22 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
## # htmltools 0.5.0    2020-06-16 [1] RSPM (R 4.0.1)
## # knitr     1.33     2022-02-15 [1] Github (yihui/knitr@a1052d1)
## # lifecycle 1.0.0    2021-02-15 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
## # magrittr   2.0.2    2022-01-26 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
## # memoise   1.1.0    2017-04-21 [1] RSPM (R 4.0.0)
## # pkgbuild  1.1.0    2020-07-13 [1] RSPM (R 4.0.2)
## # pkgload   1.1.0    2020-05-29 [1] RSPM (R 4.0.3)
## # prettyunits 1.1.1    2020-01-24 [1] RSPM (R 4.0.3)
## # processx  3.4.4    2020-09-03 [1] RSPM (R 4.0.2)
## # ps         1.3.4    2020-08-11 [1] RSPM (R 4.0.2)
## # purrr     0.3.4    2020-04-17 [1] RSPM (R 4.0.3)
## # R6         2.4.1    2019-11-12 [1] RSPM (R 4.0.0)
## # remotes   2.2.0    2020-07-21 [1] RSPM (R 4.0.3)
## # rlang      0.4.10   2022-02-15 [1] Github (r-lib/rlang@f0c9be5)
## # rmarkdown  2.10     2022-02-15 [1] Github (rstudio/rmarkdown@02d3c25)
## # rprojroot  2.0.2    2020-11-15 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
## # sessioninfo 1.1.1    2018-11-05 [1] RSPM (R 4.0.3)
## # stringi    1.5.3    2020-09-09 [1] RSPM (R 4.0.3)
## # stringr    1.4.0    2019-02-10 [1] RSPM (R 4.0.3)
## # testthat   3.0.1    2022-02-15 [1] Github (R-lib/testthat@e99155a)
## # usethis    2.1.5.9000 2022-02-15 [1] Github (r-lib/usethis@57b109a)
## # withr     2.3.0    2020-09-22 [1] RSPM (R 4.0.2)
## # xfun       0.32     2022-08-10 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)
## # yaml       2.2.1    2020-02-01 [1] RSPM (R 4.0.3)
##
## [1] /usr/local/lib/R/site-library
## [2] /usr/local/lib/R/library

```

References