Research *it*
Supporting your research
A newsletter from IT Services: Research IT

Welcome to issue #21, December 2014, in a **regular series** of updates on IT research support and facilities for postgraduates, researchers and academics of The University of Manchester.

Your main Faculty contact email addresses (for research computing support) are given below; emailing your research computing queries this way will also automatically raise a job for you in the *Remedy* tracking system.

Every day, routine work should continue to be submitted through the IT Service Desk on +44 (0) 161 306 5544 or via online submission at: www.manchester.ac.uk/servicedesk.

Humanities:
Hum-ITResearch@manchester.ac.uk.

Engineering and Physical Sciences:
EPS-ITResearch@manchester.ac.uk.

Medical and Human Sciences:
MHS-ITResearch@manchester.ac.uk.

Life Sciences:
FLS-ITResearch@manchester.ac.uk.

Web Page: Research IT
The web site for our support areas and all contact details is available here: www.its.manchester.ac.uk/research/.

Subject-specific Email Lists
Please note that these email lists are subject specific discussion forums, rather than a way of contacting IT. For the latter, please see the contact emails in the next section.

finite-elements@listserv.manchester.ac.uk

fortran@listserv.manchester.ac.uk

sciprogramming@listserv.manchester.ac.uk

university-gpuclub@listserv.manchester.ac.uk

New! Clickable Web Links
If you have received a printed copy of this newsletter and wish to follow the links, staff can download an electronic copy with clickable links at: http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/DocuInfo.aspx?DocID=23295

What does the IT Transformation mean for Research IT?
In the new structure, Research IT consists of 4 roles who will report to a Head of Research IT. The Head is still to be appointed. Other IT staff will be appointed to carry out duties in Research IT on an assignment by assignment basis. The new roles are:

Research IT External Services Manager
robin.pinning@manchester.ac.uk

Research IT Infrastructure Manager
simon.hood@manchester.ac.uk

Research IT Applications Manager
michael.bane@manchester.ac.uk

Research IT Software Engineering Manager
robert.haines@manchester.ac.uk

Services over Christmas
Everyone in Research IT would like to wish you all the best for the vacation. Although the University will be closed from 24 December-5 January, a number of services will still be available during this period:

Computational Shared Facility (CSF)	CSF news page
Condor Pool	Condor news page
N8 HPC Facility Polaris	N8 HPC website

Condor
We have just passed 2,400 years of accumulated processor core usage on Condor. Some EPS teaching clusters are not joining the pool at night currently, but we are working on getting the system back up to strength. A few of the clusters do have to remain "untouched" for the January online examination season.It would be helpful if anyone intending to run a large number of jobs over Christmas would let us know, as soon as possible, via email to eps-condor@manchester.ac.uk.

Self-Service Systems for Researchers
ZendTo is a simple system that lets you transmit large files (up to 20GB) to recipients who may be UoM staff or external collaborators. The latter can upload files to you too, assuming they know your email address. Think of it as "email attachments on steroids".

If you have a researcher visit you and they don't have eduroam, you can self-serve them with a 24 hour pass to our wifi system via an Academic Visitor Wifi Account. For academic visitors staying for some time, please contact the service desk.

PRACE Advanced Training Courses

The Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe (PRACE) offers a range of free courses at different HPC centres in Europe. Courses offered in January and February 2015 include:

19-20 January	C/C++ Programming	France
28-29 January	ARCHER Data Management	Edinburgh
27-29 January	Python in HPC	Finland
2-4 February	Porting and Tuning Workshop	Germany
3-5 February	HPC-Based Simulations	Spain
6 February	HPC-Based Simulations	Spain
9-13 February	Parallel Computing	Italy
11-12 February	Petaflop System Administration	Spain
19 February	Distributed Computing Platforms	Spain
19-20 February	Intro to Scientific Programming	Italy
23-27 February	VI-HPS Tuning Workshop	Germany
24-26 February	Advanced Threading & Optimization	Finland
25 February	HPC Industrial Services	Germany

Hartree Centre Training

The Hartree Centre will be hosting a training course on "Parallel Performance Evaluation Using the TAU Performance System" on Tuesday 6 January 2015. For more information, an agenda and the online registration form can be found here.

ARCHER Service

The UK National HPC Service ARCHER offers a range of free courses at various institutions around the UK. Courses offered in January-March 2015 include:

28-29 January	Data Management	Edinburgh
28-30 January	Programming with MPI	Sheffield
19 February	Fortran 95	London
24-26 March	Threaded Programming	Southampton

There are a number of calls open for researchers to request access to the system. Two have deadlines on 7 January 2015 and instant access for evaluation purposes is open any time. Conditions apply and details are given online. The 4th eCSE call will close at 4pm on Tuesday 13 January 2015. For further details, please see the ARCHER website.

ARCHER will be rolling out supercomputing driving tests in 2015. More information can be found online.

Digital Health Assembly 2015

Organised in partnership with The Farr Institute, the 2015 "Digital Health Assembly: Open Innovation Conference", runs from 10-12 February at the SWALEC Stadium in Cardiff.

Please click here for registration and further information.

Are you drowning in your data?

Working closely with the Library's Research Data Management (RDM) Service, IT Services is undertaking an archiving infrastructure pilot to help with our researchers' long term data storage needs, including enabling compliance with RDM policies. These policies may require research data to be kept for around 10 years after project completion, or even longer if the data is considered to have 'long term value'.

If you find yourself continuously balancing your storage, would like to take part, or wish to know more, contact Mary McDerby.

Multiphysics Modelling Workshop

A free workshop focusing on the simulation capabilities of COMSOL Multiphysics 5.0 is to be held on 27 January 2015.

ITS Research Seminar- Are you looking for an electronic lab notebook solution?

The next ITS Research lunchtime seminar will be a presentation by Research Space on their electronic lab notebook (ELN). RSpace enables the streamlining of record-keeping by replacing paper lab notebooks with a flexible, searchable, secure and easy to use ELN.

The seminar will take place on Thursday 15 January 2015 in Room 4.38 Simon Building. Lunch will be provided from 12.30pm, with the presentation beginning at 1pm.

For further details and to book a place please contact Ceri Lindsay

Systems-Net

Systems-NET is offering early career staff, post-docs and PhD students the opportunity to participate in an Immersive Secondments Scheme where a researcher can spend time in another university or industry to develop collaborations across both sectors in the area of systems engineering.

This scheme is open to all registered members of Systems-NET and offers a financial support of £3000 for successful applicants. If you are interested, or have a PhD student for whom this would be appropriate, please bring it to their attention.

Next edition

The next edition of this newsletter will be circulated at the end of January 2015.

If you have any news to contribute, please contact Lee Margetts: lee.margetts@manchester.ac.uk at any time.

Items received before Friday 23 January 2015 will be included in the next edition. News from academic colleagues and researchers are most welcome.