Account and Allocation Management

Le Yan
HPC Consultant
User Services @ LONI
Account and Allocation Web Interface

- **LONI**: allocations.loni.org
- **LSU HPC**: accounts.hpc.lsu.edu

This is where you
- Request accounts
- Request and manage allocations
- Update contact information
- Reset password

Similar interfaces
- Managed by the same software
- We will focus on the LONI one
Who Is Eligible for A LONI account

- Faculty or research staff members from one of the LONI's member institutions
- Students working with a faculty or research staff member from one of the LONI's member institutions
- Researchers who collaborate with a faculty or research staff member from one of the LONI's member institutions
- Faculty members from other Louisiana universities may apply for an account as well
  - Needs approval from the LONI executive director
Who Is Eligible for A LSU HPC account

- Faculty or research staff members from LSU
- Students working with a faculty or research staff member from LSU
- Researchers who collaborate with a faculty or research staff member from LSU
Account Application Procedure

- Go to the allocation web site and click on “request login”
- Type in your email address and the image code
  - The email needs to be an institutional one
  - The likes of hotmail and gmail will not be accepted
- You will receive an email with a link to the real form
- Fill out the form and submit
  - “LONI Contact/Collaborator”: this is your adviser if you are a student, or yourself if you are a faculty member
- Your account will be activated after your information is confirmed
  - May take up to a week
Account Policy

- No account sharing is allowed
  - An account is for one user only
  - Every person who will use the cluster needs to apply for their own account
- Your account is subject to deletion once your affiliation with LONI member institutions terminates
- Penalties
  - Account suspension
  - Loss of allocation
Password Reset Procedure

• Go to the allocation website and click on “forgot your password?”
• Type in the image code and your email address
  • The email address must be the one you used to apply for the account
• You will receive an email with a link to the reset form
• Type the new password and submit
• A system administrator will approve your password reset
  • May take a short while
Changing Login Shell

- "Profile" menu item
- Supported shells
  - bash
  - tcsh
  - csh
  - ksh
  - sh
- "chsh" and "ypchsh" do not work
Allocation

- An allocation is some finite number of service unit (SUs) that allow you to run jobs on a cluster
  - One SU is one cpu-hour
  - Example
    - 40 SUs will be charged for a job that runs 10 hours on 4 cores
- Enforced on all LONI clusters
- Currently NOT enforced on LSU HPC clusters
Types of Allocations

- **Startup**
  - Less than or equal to 50k SUs
  - Applications reviewed by local allocation committee member
  - Decision will be made within two weeks after submission
  - Good for one year

- **Large**
  - Greater than 50k SUs
  - Applications reviewed by LONI allocation committee during the quarterly meeting
  - Decision will be made on January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 of each year
  - Good for one year
Requesting A New Allocation

- The principal investigator must be a faculty or research staff member from one of the LONI member institutes

- Procedure
  - Click on “request allocation”
  - Click on “new allocation”
  - Fill out the form and submit
    - You must submit a proposal along with a large allocation request
    - Need to specify how many SUs are needed on each platform
      - IBM AIX clusters
      - Dell Linux clusters
Joining An Existing Allocation

- Any user can join an existing allocation

Procedure

- Click on “request allocation”
- Click on “join allocation”
- Enter the name, email address or user name of the allocation PI to search for the allocation you want to join
- Click on the "Join Projects" button
- The allocation PI will receive an email regarding to your request and you can use the allocation after the PI approves the request
Manage An Allocation

- “Manage membership” menu item
  - Add a user to allocation
  - Remove a member from allocation
  - Make a current member allocation administrator
- “Manage donation” menu item
  - Donate the remaining time on any allocation you administer to any other allocation that you are currently able to use
When An Allocation Expires

- Allocations are NOT extensible
  - Donate the time if necessary
- When submitting a new allocation request
  - The content can be copied from the previous requests
    - “My allocations” -> “Clone/edit”
  - The committee is likely to ask for a brief report, especially if it is not the first request for the project
    - “My allocations” -> “Report”
  - If you use up a couple of startup allocations in a short period of time, be prepared to apply for a large one
    - Plan ahead as large allocations are reviewed quarterly
Checking Allocation Balance

- Use the allocation web interface
  - The “Balances” menu item lists the balances of all allocations of which you are currently a member
- Use the “balance” command on a cluster

```
[lyan1@painter2 packages]$ balance
======================= Allocation information for lyan1 ========================
    Proj. Name| Alloc| Balance| Deposited| %Used| Days Left|     End
-------------------|------|---------|-----------|------|----------|--------
loni_loniadmin1| loni_loniadmin1 | 37320.35| 100000.00| 62.68| 21|2009-10-01
loni_train09| loni_train09 on @Dell_Cluster| 39658.21| 40000.00| 0.85| 113|2010-01-01

Note: Balance and Deposit are measured in CPU-hours
```
When Issues Arise

- User's Guide
  - HPC: http://www.hpc.lsu.edu/help
  - LONI: https://docs.loni.org/wiki/Main_Page

- Contact us
  - Email ticket system: syshelp@loni.org
  - Telephone Help Desk: 225-578-0900
  - Walk-in consulting session at Middleton Library
    - Tuesdays and Thursdays only
  - Instant Messenger (AIM, Yahoo Messenger, Google Talk)
    - Add “lsuhpchelp”
What's Next

• Job management
  • Date: Feb 11, 2009
  • Time: 1:30pm
  • Location: 307 Frey Computing Services Building