

Getting started with the scientific cluster Preparation

Samuel Fux, Nadia Marounina
High Performance Computing Group
Scientific IT Services, ETH Zurich



Outline

- Basic Bash and Linux
- Accessing the cluster

Preparation > Linux terminal > Bash

On the Euler cluster we run **Linux** as operating system

To interact with the cluster, you can use the **Linux command line** which is a text interface referred to as a Linux terminal shell, console, prompts or other names.

In Linux and MacOS, a terminal or a console is provided. In Windows, you can use the third party application, e.g., MobaXterm (<https://mobaxterm.mobatek.net/>) which provides Local shell.

The following examples present useful basic command lines which are preceded with the dollar sign \$ and the lines below the command without the dollar sign are the screen output.

- Check your current directory

```
$ pwd  
/home/sfux
```

- Create a directory

```
$ mkdir cluster-workshop
```

Preparation > Linux terminal > Bash

- Change directory

```
$ cd cluster-workshop
```

```
$ pwd
```

```
/home/jarunanp/cluster-workshop
```

cd commands

cd	Change to the home directory
cd ~	Change to the home directory
cd ..	Change to the parent directory
cd -	Change to the previous directory
cd dir1	Change to <code>dir1</code> directory

Preparation > Linux terminal > Bash

- List files and folders in the current directory

```
$ ls  
cluster-workshop
```

```
$ ls -l  
drwxrwxr-x 3 jarunanp jarunanp 4096 Okt 26 08:26 cluster-workshop
```

ls commands

ls	Display of files and folders
ls -l	Display Unix files types, permissions number, number of hard links, owner, group, size, last modified, date and filename
ls -a	Display all files, also the one starting with “.”
ls -la	Combine options

Preparation > Linux terminal > Bash

- Display a string to the standard output or redirect it to a file

```
$ echo hello
```

```
hello
```

```
$ echo hello > output
```

- Display the content of a file

```
$ cat output.log
```

```
hello
```

- More command to display content of a file

```
$ less file
```

```
$ more file
```

```
$ head file
```

```
$ tail file
```

Preparation > Linux terminal > Bash

- Copy a file

```
$ cp file1 file2
```

- Copy a directory

```
$ cp -r dir1 dir2
```

- Rename or move a file or a directory

```
$ mv file1 file2
```

- Delete a file

```
$ rm file1
```

- Delete a directory (it has to be empty)

```
$ rmdir dir1
```

Preparation > Linux terminal > Shortcuts which help reduce typing

- **TAB:** Type the first letter or first few letters of a filename or a directory name then press TAB to auto complete the filename or directory name
- Reuse a recently used command line by using a ! , e.g., the command started with `python`
`$!python`
- Find commands in history
`$ history`
- Press `Ctrl + r` then type first few letters of a command to search for previous commands

Preparation > Linux terminal > Globing

- * stands for **zero to more** characters. For example, there are 5 images in a folder called `Image.png`, `Image0.png`, `Image1.png`, `Image10.png` and `Image11.png`. To display all files with the extension `.png`, the command reads:

```
$ ls *.png
```

```
Image.png Image0.png Image1.png Image10.png Image11.png
```

- ? stands for **any single** character. For example, to display all files which start with `Image`, followed with only one number and ended with the extension `.png`

```
$ ls Image?.png
```

```
Image0.png Image1.png
```

Preparation > Linux terminal > Basic commands

Command	Explanation
<code>ls</code>	Directory listing
<code>cd</code>	Change directory
<code>pwd</code>	Print working directory
<code>echo</code>	Print to standard output
<code>less, cat, more, head, tail</code>	Display content of a file to standard output
<code>cp, mv</code>	Copy/move a file or directory
<code>rm, rmdir</code>	Remove a file or directory
<code>mkdir</code>	Create a directory
<code>vi, nano, emacs</code>	Command line text editor
<code>man</code>	Show manual for a command in terminal
<code>grep</code>	Search for a pattern in a string or file

Preparation > Linux terminal > Basic commands

Command	Explanation
<code>exit</code>	Terminate and exit the current terminal
<code>sort</code>	Sort a file line by line
<code>sed</code>	String manipulation
<code>awk</code>	Programming language for text processing
<code>find</code>	Search for files
<code>du</code>	Show disk space used in a directory
<code>tar</code>	Create a tar archive with files/directories
<code>gzip</code>	Compress files/directories
<code>top</code>	Real time view of processes in a computer
<code>chmod</code>	Change permissions of file/directory

https://scicomp.ethz.ch/wiki/Linux_command_line

Preparation > Linux permissions

- In Linux, access to files and directories is handled via permissions
 - Read permission (r) - grants permission to read a file or directory
 - Write permission (w) - grants permission to write a file or directory
 - Execute permission (x) - grants permission to execute a file or directory
- There are 3 permission groups
 - **User (u)** - permissions for the user account that owns the file
 - **Group (g)** - permissions for the user group that owns the file
 - **Other (o)** - permissions for all other users except the user account and the user group

```
[sfux@eu-login-29 ~]$ ls -l gurobi.log
-rw-r--r-- 1 sfux sfux-group 800 Sep 17 10:29 gurobi.log
[sfux@eu-login-29 ~]$ ls -ld data
drwxr-xr-x 2 sfux sfux-group 4096 Jan  9 2017 data
```

https://scicomp.ethz.ch/wiki/Linux_permissions

Preparation > Linux permissions

- Another method for representing Unix permissions is an octal (base 8) notation
 - The read bit adds 4 to its total (in binary 100),
 - The write bit adds 2 to its total (in binary 010), and
 - The execute bit adds 1 to its total (in binary 001).
 - Example: $r-x \longrightarrow 101 \longrightarrow 4+0+1=5$
 - (u), (g) and (o) are then combined (755 represents $rw\!-\!xr\!-\!xr\!-\!x$)
- Permissions can be changed with the `chmod` command
 - String representation:

```
$ chmod ugo+rx filename
```
 - Number representation:

```
$ chmod 750 filename
```

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File-system_permissions#Numeric_notation

Preparation > Paths > Linux/Mac OS X vs. Windows

- There are differences how operating systems are representing file paths
- Paths on Windows: `C:\Users\Samfux\test`
 - Use backslashes
 - File and directory names are not case sensitive
 - Different drives (`C:`, `D:`, etc.)
- Paths on Linux/Mac OS X: `/cluster/home/sfux/test`
 - Use forward slashes
 - Everything is case sensitive
 - Everything is under the root file system (`/`), no drives

Preparation > Edit a text file with vim

- Vim is a command line text editor that can be started with the command `vi`. This text editor is useful to edit input files and write scripts directly on the cluster without copying forth and back files
- 2 modes (insert mode, command mode)
 - Type `i` to switch from command mode to insert mode
 - Type `esc` to switch from insert mode to command mode
- Insert mode: You can insert text into a text document
- Command mode: You can type commands after typing `:` (colon) and execute it with the enter key
 - To save a file, type `:w`
 - To close a file, type `:q`
 - To save and close a file, type `:wq`

<https://www.tutorialspoint.com/unix/unix-vi-editor.htm>

Preparation > Exercise (local shell)

1. Print the current working directory
2. Create a new directory called **test**
3. Change to the new directory
4. Create a text file **my_first_bash_script.sh** with vim with the following content

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
pwd
```

```
hostname
```

```
echo "Good morning $USER"
```

5. Change the permission of the file to **755**
6. Do a directory listing of the **test** directory
7. Execute the file that you have created with the command `./my_first_bash_script.sh`
8. Use the command `grep` to search for the word **morning** in `my_first_bash_script.sh` file
9. Sort the lines in the text file alphabetically
10. Exit the shell

Preparation > Exercise solution

Tasks	Commands
Print the current working directory	<code>pwd</code>
Create a new directory called test	<code>mkdir test</code>
Change to the new directory	<code>cd test</code>
Create a text file my_first_bash_script.sh with vim with the following content	<code>vi my_first_bash_script.sh</code>
Change the permission of the file to 755	<code>chmod 755 my_first_bash_script.sh</code>
Do a directory listing of the test directory	<code>ls test</code>
Execute the file that you have created with the command <code>./my_first_bash_script.sh</code>	<code>./my_first_bash_script.sh</code>
Use the command <code>grep</code> to search for the word morning in <code>my_first_bash_script.sh</code> file	<code>grep "morning" my_first_bash_script.sh</code>
Sort the lines in the text file alphabetically	<code>sort my_first_bash_script.sh</code>
Exit the shell	<code>exit</code>

Outline

- Basic Bash and Linux
- Accessing the cluster

Access > Prerequisites

- A valid ETH account
- Local computer with an SSH client
 - Linux and macOS contain SSH client as part of the operating system
 - Windows users need to install a third party SSH client
 - MobaXterm (<https://mobaxterm.mobatek.net/>) is a free open source SSH client that we recommend
- An X11 server for graphical user interface (optional)
 - Linux (<https://www.xorg.com>)
 - macOS (<https://xquartz.org>)
 - Windows (included in MobaXterm)

Access > How to access the clusters

1. Start your SSH client
2. Use `ssh` command to connect to the login node of Euler

```
ssh username@euler.ethz.ch
```

3. Use your ETH credentials to login
4. First login
 - On first login a verification code is sent to your email address (username@ethz.ch)
 - By entering the verification code, your account is created automatically
 - New users must accept the cluster's usage rules

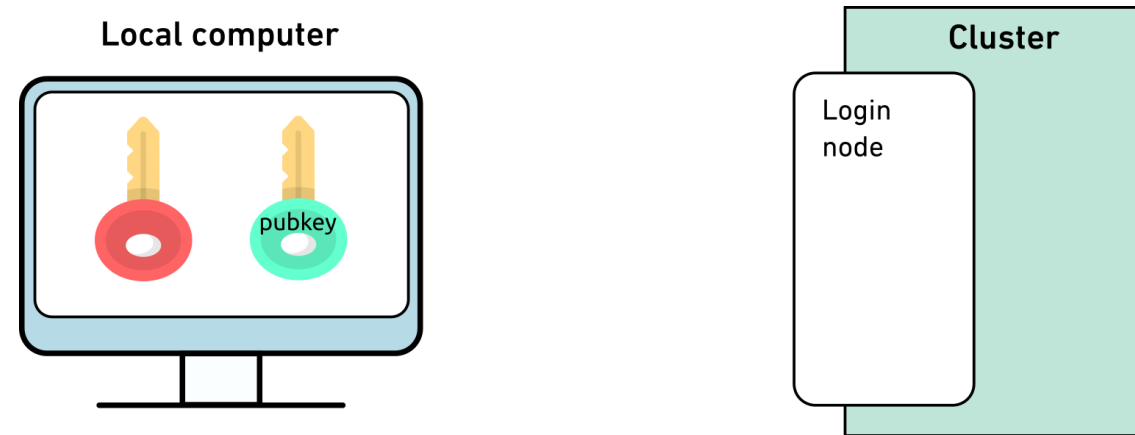
https://scicomp.ethz.ch/wiki/New_account_request_process_for_HPC_clusters

Access > SSH keys (Optional)

It is not compulsory to create and use SSH keys to participate the cluster workshop.

- SSH keys allows passwordless login
 - Useful for file transfers and automated tasks
 - When used properly, SSH keys are much safer than passwords
- SSH keys always come in pairs
 - A **private** key, stored on your local workstation (and nowhere else!)
 - A **public** key, stored on the computer(s) you want to connect to
- You can generate as many pairs as you like, e.g., one for each computer you intend to connect to
- Keys should be protected with a passphrase
- SSH key management tools such as `ssh-agent` and `keychain` help unlock SSH keys

Access > SSH keys > Step 1: Create your keys

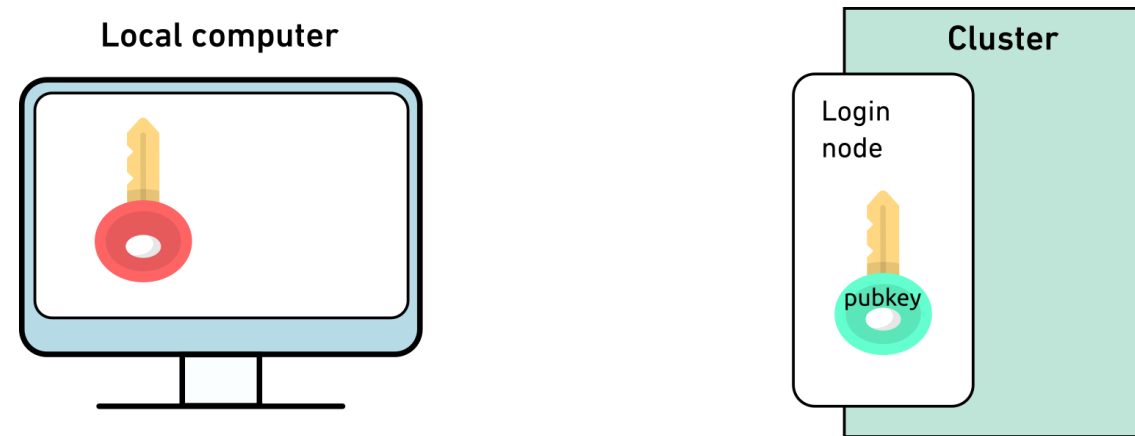


- Verify whether logging in with password works
- Generate a key pair with the ed25519 algorithm for each computer you want to connect to

```
ssh-keygen -t ed25519 -f $HOME/.ssh/id_ed25519_euler
```

- Enter a passphrase to protect your SSH keys

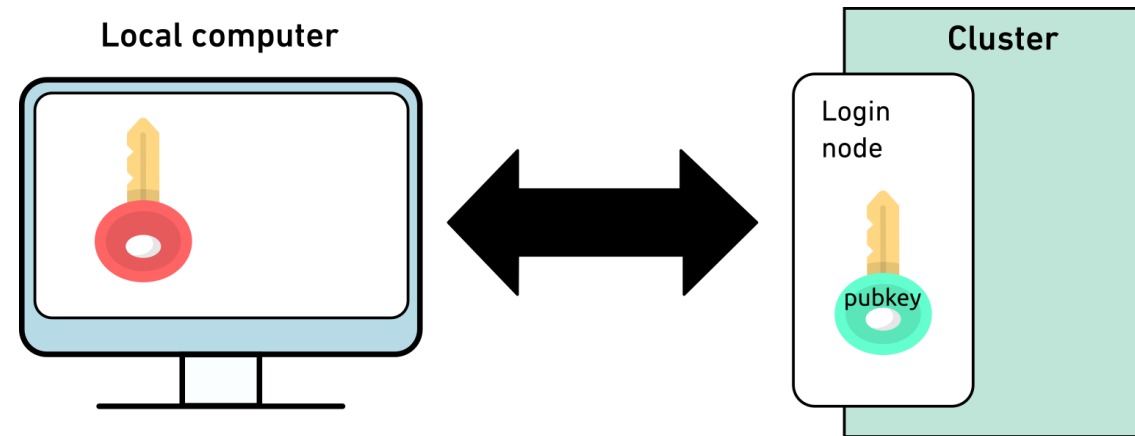
Access > SSH keys > Step 2: Copy the public key to the cluster



```
ssh-copy-id -i $HOME/.ssh/id_ed25519_euler.pub username@euler.ethz.ch
```

https://scicomp.ethz.ch/wiki/Accessing_the_clusters#SSH_keys

Access > SSH keys > Step 3: Use keys with non-default names



```
ssh -i $HOME/.ssh/id_ed25519_euler username@euler.ethz.ch
```

[https://scicomp.ethz.ch/wiki/Accessing_the_clusters#How to use keys with non-default names](https://scicomp.ethz.ch/wiki/Accessing_the_clusters#How_to_use_keys_with_non-default_names)

Access > SSH keys > Step 3: Use keys with non-default names

- SSH clients can use this option automatically by adding the option `IdentityFile` in your `~/.ssh/config` file, e.g.:

```
Host euler
HostName euler.ethz.ch
User username
IdentityFile ~/.ssh/id_ed25519_euler
```

- Next time you login, you can type

```
$ ssh euler
```

https://scicomp.ethz.ch/wiki/Accessing_the_clusters#How_to_use_keys_with_non-default_names

Access > SSH Key Management > SSH Agent

As we have to enter the passphrase to unlock the keys, it takes away the convenience of passwordless login. We can use an SSH agent (`ssh-agent`) to unlock the SSH keys per terminal.

```
$ eval `ssh-agent`
```

```
Agent pid 17906
```

```
$ ssh-add -l
```

```
The agent has no identities.
```

```
$ ssh-add $HOME/.ssh/id_ed25519_euler
```

```
Enter passphrase for id_ed25519_euler:
```

```
Identity added: id_ed15519_euler (username@localcomputer)
```

For any questions, please contact us

cluster-support@id.ethz.ch

