

User meeting about shared use computers (Sep. 25 2020) Q&A

Date: September 25, 2020, from 1 pm to 3 pm

Place: Video conference (Zoom)

1. Regular operation of HOKUSAI SalingShip

- It was mentioned that the kernel cannot be updated when using Lustre, is it possible to create a server without using Lustre?
 - You can create it by using the image with the "default" at the end of the image name. However, you can't use shared storage in that environment, so you need to use it in the local environment.
- Can you make the recordings and slides available to the public about the training session on September 29th? ?
 - The first half of the presentation will be about documents that have already been made public. The second half of the presentation will be discussed with the speaker and if it is acceptable to release it, it will be released. We will consider recording the training sessions.
- Is it possible to have the singularity container image of the bioinformatics mirrored in the APL region like the Supercomputer of National Institute of Genetics?
 - Basically, it is difficult. If the demand is high, we will consider whether we can do something to the possible extent.
- What happens to the VM content of the existing trial if the purchased resources for on-demand are reduced to zero in October?
 - You can use it even if the purchased resources for on-demand are reduced to zero, but you will have to purchase it afterward
 - as it will be negative.
- Can I place the human ethics data? (Can I list this as a place to store data in my human ethics plan?)
 - Please include the technical information about SS that we provide in your plan. It will be a matter of getting approval from the ethics committee based on that.
- Is the shared storage (/home) also shared between multiple VMs created in the project? If it is shared, what does it look like? If the NIS server is set up, can it be used as a shared home area for multiple users?
 - If you use an image with Lustre at the end of the image name, the shared storage will be mounted as "/home". In order to share with multiple VMs, the UIDs need to be identical.
- I couldn't apply to use larger than 100TB, are there any such restrictions?

- For large scale use, please email us first to discuss.

2. HOKUSAI usage fee

- Cold storage means something that users can't access online, right?
 - That is the direction we are heading in, but we will consider the specifics in the future.
- Can I use the indirect costs of KAKENHI?
 - Probably not a problem, but check with the responsible department.
- What do you mean by "assigned resources are not returned to the point", do you mean to specify a run time when the VM is created?
 - It means that once the points are allocated to computational resources or storage, they are not returned.
- What is the possibility of raising the SS fee?
 - It is difficult to say here as it is up to management and the upper committee to decide, but there are no plans to raise prices at this time. If we are going to raise prices, we believe that there would have to be a substantial reason to do so.
- I'd like to get even a rough feel for how much BW's usage fee will be for the next year and beyond.
 - BW's usage fees will remain at current prices for the duration of BW's existence.
- What is the prospect for the successor to BW?
 - During the fall and winter of this fiscal year, we plan to invite the directors of each center and others to a meeting of the IT strategic planning Committee, chaired by CIO Director Mino, to decide on policies.
- Does the on-demand type charge for instances on launch? Is it not charged when the instance is down? Also, what happens to the shared storage charges when the instance is down?
 - Basically, as long as the instance is running, you will be charged. However, there are several states of "down" that can be confusing, so please check the user guide to see which states it will be charged for.
 - Shared storage is charged for as long as the capacity is reserved, regardless of VM startup.
- What does "buy compute resources and storage for BW directly without any points in between" mean?
 - There are no points in BW, meaning that the purchase is processed directly (via a web form).
- Is it possible to use the pool type for 3 months only?
 - It is not possible. Basically, it will be used until the end of the fiscal year. However, in the case of special circumstances such as the end of the external funding period or when you leave RIKEN, please consult with us.
- Will the cap on paid use in BW this year be limited by the cap on existing project for this fiscal year?

- Basically, this is true. However, if you would like to paid use more than the maximum amount of existing project please contact us. We will consider this depending on the operational situation.。
- Will the data be saved for a certain period of time when the SS is renewed for the fiscal year?
 - At the end of the fiscal year, you will be asked if you want to continue, and if you do, your data will be saved. When you terminate the use of the service, the data is not guaranteed to be saved.
- With BW's priority execution, it's 90 JPY per core for 720 hours?
 - That's right.
- Can I change the budget number of a project in the middle of a project?
 - If it is not a frequent change, it is not a problem for the Information Systems Division. However, if it is an external fund, please check with the External Funding Office.
- Can payments be accepted from the external collaborator's budget?
 - It is not possible. All that is available is the budget of RIKEN.
- Can I share points between projects if the PIs are the same? Do I need to put in separate points for the on-demand and pool types?
 - Points cannot be shared between projects. On-demand and pool types are not allowed to be shared either. You must purchase points separately.。
- Is it possible to create projects by budget number?
 - No problem. Rather, when using more than one budget number for a project, check with the external funding office to make sure there is no problem.
- When can I start BW priority execution?
 - We will be able to start after October 19.
- How does priority control by fair share value in BW combine with priority execution for a fee?
 - Priority execution takes precedence over fair share.
- Does priority execution reduce the fair share value?
 - The fair share value decreases and affects the priority between priority executions. However, priority execution always takes precedence over normal projects.
- Does the entry of smaller priority jobs in BW prevent larger non-priority jobs from flowing indefinitely?
 - It is possible. However, it is just as possible that smaller jobs with higher fair share values could enter before larger jobs in previous operations.
- Do you have more information about the Sep. 29th training session? (language, time, content material, etc.)
 - See <http://i.riken.jp/en/news1/2020-09-25/>.
- Do you foresee a situation where all 440 nodes are pool type and the on-demand type cannot be interrupted? ?
 - The system is divided into 220 nodes, one pool and one on-demand type, so this does not happen.