Information Systems Division

User meeting about shared use computers (Jun. 1 2020) Q&A

Date: June 1, 2020, from 11 am to 12 am
Place: Video conference (Zoom)

1. Q&A

About project management

- Is there a cap on the number of projects per PI during the trial operation?
  - Currently, there is no limit.
- Does buying points mean paying the usage fee in advance? Or do you mean that you set a payment limit and are charged for what you use actually?
  - Basically, points purchases are paid for in advance.
- Does the project stop once it changes from trial operation to regular operation? Or will the project suddenly start to be charged a usage fee from that day?
  - Basically, the project is going to be used on a continuous basis. However, it does not automatically start charging for projects, before that budget numbers and PI approval will be required.
- What happens if the points remain at the end of fiscal year? Carry over to the next fiscal year or disappear?
  - The unused points will disappear at the end of the fiscal year.
- If I reach the limit of 1,000,000 JPY during the trial operation, can I buy additional points?
  - If that happens, please mail us about it.
- Can I register multiple budget numbers? Or can I change the budget number if it run out of money in the middle of the project?
  - Multiple budget numbers will be considered in the future. This should be discussed with the External Funding Office and will be explained at the user meeting prior to the regular operation.
- It is impossible to buy the points exactly in advance, so I would like to be able to pay for them later, like paying a bill.
  - We will consider it.
- Is there a time limit for on-demand type?
  - It is limited by the point purchases. However, this may change depending on operational conditions.
- Can the labs check the purchase history of the points in a list or other way? ?
  - You can check with Online Submission System (hss-desk).
- I didn't understand the difference of the usage fee between pool and on-demand types.

- In principle, there is no difference in price per CPU or storage unit. In terms of usage, the advantage of the on-demand type is the efficient resource use. The advantage of the pool type is that it ensures that resources are available.

- Can I change the disk space allocated to the VMs later?
  - The capacity of the shared disk can be changed at any time with Online Submission System (hss-desk).
- If I want to add a storage area subject to a usage fee, the area will be mounted separately from /home? Or can /home be expanded?
  - To use of shared disk area (lustre area), which is a storage area subject to a usage fee, you need to use *-Lustre or *-Application image. In that case, the /home area becomes a shared disk area. /home cannot be extended.
- In the slide of the storage usage fee in the meeting material appendix, it is stated that /home is not subject to a usage fee. In what cases is a user fee applied?
  - It is /home of HOKUSAI BW that is not subject to the usage fee. In the HOKUSAI SS, the shared disk area is sometimes used as /home, it is subject to a usage fee.
- Is there an English version of today's meeting material?
  - You can find out the English page below.
    http://i.riken.jp/en/news1/2020-05-27/
- If there are non-residents, permission review about security export control are to be conducted. How should I follow the procedure? ?
  - The permission review of security export control is currently being coordinated. We will let you know as soon as we decide.

About VM

- How does the on-demand type behave when there are no computational resources available? Does the program stop at 0% CPU utilization until the CPU is free? Or is it impossible to create a new VM?
  - Basically, you cannot use it when there are no resources available. When there are not enough resources, the image creation can be done, but the instance starting process fails.
- Is API open that allow users to create, start, and exit VMs from commands?
  - Openstack command and REST API for hssa.riken.jp / hssb.riken.jp are available.
- Do users need to have a backup?
  - The storage has redundancy like current supercomputer, but it's not perfect. Thus you should back up your important data.
- How should I exchange data with the HOKUSAI BW?
  - It is possible to scp and rsync to HOKUSAI login nodes from a VM with FroatingIP configured.
- For pool type, is it okay to have a constant VPN connection to the lab VLAN? Is there another way to do it?
  - It is possible to set up software routers in pool type tenants and tunnel them. However, please do not connect directly to outside of RIKEN.

- Is the network bandwidth of the VMs allocated in a way that is proportional to the number of cores? Will the available network bandwidth be affected by other users?
  - The bandwidth is not controlled in proportion to the number of cores. The maximum (46 cores) flavor can be used to occupy a node to occupy the network bandwidth of a node.
- Can users monitor the overall system utilization on an on-demand type? I think it would be helpful to consider moving to a pool type.
  - Users can only see the resource status of own project in the management console. Users cannot check the overall system utilization.
- Do you have a fixed floating IP address or is there a mechanism like DDNS?
  - Allocated floating IPs are fixed unless they are deleted. Therefore, our system does not provide a mechanism like DDNS.
- When the on-demand type gets too crowded, is there a waiting list for an appointment?
  - It just fails to start VM.
- Can we add project members from other labs in RIKEN?
  - It doesn't matter if the payment representative approves.
- Can someone outside of RIKEN become a VM user?
  - We cannot know who uses the VMs. Please use it with security measures.
- Can I use RIKEN's Shibboleth authentication from a Linux instance?
  - Please consult with us individually.
- For the time being, do you envision offering VMs instead of containers?
  - You can use docker right away by installing it on VM. It is also possible to provide guide for building Kubernetes environment.。
- Is it possible to put Singularity images in the application area like the Supercomputer National Institute of Genetics?
  - We will consider providing in the application area.