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Policies

Security Policies

Acceptable Use Statement

This document gives the requirements for use of the computing systems, resources and facilities located at and/or operated by the NASA Advanced Supercomputing (NAS) Division at NASA Ames Research Center.

As a user of the computing systems, resources and facilities located at and/or operated by the NASA Advanced Supercomputing (NAS) Division at NASA Ames Research Center, I agree to the following and understand that failure to abide by these provisions may constitute grounds for termination of access privileges, administrative action, and/or civil or criminal prosecution:

1. NAS accounts are to be used only for the purpose for which they are authorized and are not to be used for non-NASA related activities.
2. Unauthorized use of the computer accounts and computer resources to which I am granted access is a violation of Federal law; constitutes theft; and is punishable by law (Section 799, Title 18, U.S. Code). I understand that I am the only individual to access these accounts and will not knowingly permit access by others without written approval. I understand that sharing passwords with other people, even on the same project, is prohibited. I understand that my misuse of assigned accounts and my accessing others' accounts without authorization is not allowed. I understand that this/these system(s) and resources are subject to monitoring and recording and I will have no expectation of privacy in my use of these systems.
3. I am responsible for using the computing systems, resources and facilities in an efficient and effective manner. I understand that account deactivation will result after 60 days of non-use and data will be deleted after 90 days unless my project or I make arrangements with the NAS User Services to preserve my data.
4. I understand that these computing systems are unclassified systems. Therefore, processing and storing classified, or other information that requires safeguarding in the interest of National Security, is prohibited.
5. I understand that these computing systems are categorized as moderate according to FIPS 199, therefore processing and storing information that is categorized as high according to FIPS 199 and NIST SP 800-60 is prohibited.
6. I understand that I am responsible for protecting any information processed or stored in my accounts and will take appropriate precautions to protect Sensitive But Unclassified information (e.g., proprietary information or information subject to International Traffic in Arms Regulations or Export Control Regulations) which may include encrypting the data to provide protection that goes beyond the standard OS protection provided by the computing systems.
7. I understand that I shall not engage in activities that compromise or weaken the security of the NAS systems or have been identified as prohibited and high-risk practices by the NAS Security Team. These activities include but are not limited to

keeping unauthorized world-writable directories, running password cracking programs, downloading or introducing malicious software, running unauthorized P2P and VOIP software and copying or making available system and password configuration files to others.

8. I understand that I shall not make copies of copyrighted software, except as permitted by law or by the owner of the copyright.
9. I understand that I shall not attempt to access any data or programs contained on systems for which I do not have authorization or explicit consent from the owner of the data/program, the NAS Division Chief or the NAS Computer Security Official.
10. I understand that I am required to report any security weaknesses in the systems or any IT security incidents including misuse or violation of this agreement, to the NAS User Services, support@nas.nasa.gov, or to the NAS Security Team, security@nas.nasa.gov.
11. I understand that I am required to access the NAS computers only from remote systems that are safe from malicious programs and activity.
12. I understand that I will be required to complete the NASA mandatory Basic IT Security Training available at: <http://saturn.nasa.gov/>. (Note: Additional details are available from NAS User Services.)
13. If applicable, I further agree to abide by the provisions NASA NPD 2540.1G regulating privileges and responsibilities of NASA employees and contractors.

Account Policies

Users are responsible for being aware of the general account-related policies:

- Users and NAS staff requesting either a new or a renewed account must complete the Basic IT security training annually and fill out an Account Request form for the annual NOP (New Operational Period)
- Users shall not share their account(s) with anyone, including sharing the password to the account, providing access via an .rhost entry or other means of sharing
- Users are responsible for protecting any information used and/or stored on/in their accounts

Account Deactivation

Users who do not comply with the rules listed in the Acceptable Use Statement will have their accounts disabled either temporarily or permanently. Account deactivation will result after 90 days of non-use (by changing user's normal shell to noshell) and data may be archived after 120 days of non-use.

Two-Factor Authentication Policy

In the field of security, there are three general ways, called factors, for proving that you are who you claim to be.

- Something you have (such as an ID card)
- Something you know (such as a password)
- Something you are (such as your fingerprint).

Two-factor authentication refers to using any two of these factors to authenticate a person before access to systems is granted.

NAS Two-Factor Authentication Policy

At the NAS facility, the factors used are:

1. Your assigned RSA SecurID fob (sometimes called a key fob or a token)
2. Your password to the NAS systems or your public/private key pair

You are required to authenticate yourself with two of these factors before you can access NAS resources from outside the NAS high-end computing enclave. One of these two factors must be the possession of your SecurID fob. So, you can authenticate yourself with a combination of either SecurID + password, or SecurID + public/private key pair.

Two-factor authentication is required when accessing the following:

- The secure front-end systems, sfe[1-4], from your localhost
- The PFEs (pfe[20-27]), bridge[1-4], cfe2, or Lou[1-2] from your localhost using SSH Passthrough

Password Creation Rules

Your password is vulnerable to attack since it can be guessed. Follow the rules below when creating your NAS passwords:

1. Never use a password at NAS that has ever been used by you anywhere else, and never use the password that you create for NAS anywhere else, ever.
2. A password must contain a minimum of 12 characters. It must contain one character each from at least three of the following character sets: uppercase letters, lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters.
3. Use non-trivial passwords; examples of "trivial" passwords that you may not use include but are not limited to:
 - ◆ your user ID
 - ◆ a dictionary word of any language or a dictionary word with numbers appended or prepended to it
 - ◆ a password either wholly or predominately composed of the following: user ID, owner name, birthdate, Social Security Number, family member or pet's name, name spelled backwards, or other personal information
 - ◆ a contractor name
 - ◆ a division or branch name
 - ◆ repetitive or keyboard patterns (for example, "abc#ABC", "1234", "qwer", "mnbvc", "aaa#aaaa")
 - ◆ the name of any automobile or sport team
 - ◆ the name of any vendor product or nickname for a product
4. A new password can not be any one of your last 24 passwords.
5. Once you are successful in changing a password, you have to wait at least 1 day to change it again.
6. Passwords must be changed every 60 days.

Never share your password with anyone. For more information, read [Account Policies](#) and the [Acceptable Use Statement](#).

Password Information and Policies

This article outlines the processes and rules for getting your default password and changing your password.

Obtaining Your Password

If you are a new user and don't know your default installation password for the NAS high-performance computing systems, please call the NAS Control Room at (800) 331-USER (8737) or (650) 604-4444.

If you already have an account on a NAS system, and you are approved to get an account on another machine, your password on the new machine is your current "lou" password. If you do not remember this password, a Control Room analyst will provide you with a new default password.

Due to security requirements, you must provide the Control Room analysts with a) the correct answer to a security question that you have already submitted to NAS, or b) the analyst must be able to reach you at the phone number listed on your account request form. If your phone number has changed due to office moves or reorganizations, your PI must contact the Control Room stating the reason for the change via phone or FAX. The FAX number is (650) 604-1777. If your PI is unavailable, your branch chief or division chief may do this for you.

Once you have been given a default password, you will be prompted to change it once you log in to a NAS system.

Password Creation Rules

Your password is vulnerable to attack since it can be guessed. Follow the rules below when creating your NAS passwords:

1. Never use a password at NAS that has ever been used by you anywhere else, and never use the password that you create for NAS anywhere else
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 - ◆ a dictionary word of any language or a dictionary word with numbers appended or prepended to it
 - ◆ a password either wholly or predominately composed of the following: user ID, owner name, birthdate, Social Security Number, family member or pet's

- name, name spelled backwards, or other personal information
 - ◆ a contractor name
 - ◆ a division or branch name
 - ◆ repetitive or keyboard patterns (for example, "abc#ABC", "1234", "qwer", "mnbvc", "aaa#aaaa")
 - ◆ the name of any automobile or sport team
 - ◆ the name of any vendor product or nickname for a product
4. A new password cannot be any of your last 24 passwords
 5. Once you are successful in changing a password, you have to wait at least 1 day to change it again
 6. Passwords must be changed every 60 days

Never share your password with anyone. For more information, see [Account Policies](#) and the [Acceptable Use Statement](#).

ITAR/Export Control

The PI must, by law, manage, protect and control the export of the project's data in a way that complies with the security category of the data. There are five categories of data:

- Mission Information (MSN)
- Business and Restricted Technology Information (BRT)
- Scientific, Engineering, and Research Information (SER)
- Administrative Information (ADM)
- Public Access Information (PUB)

WARNING: Mission Information requires the most stringent security control and protection. Currently, the NAS Facility is not configured to provide services for MSN data. For Business and Restricted Technology Information (which includes ITAR/Export Control Data), no world access (write/read/execute) is allowed.

Detailed descriptions of each data categories are as follows:

Mission Information (MSN)

If the information, software applications, or computer systems in this category are altered, destroyed, or unavailable, the impact on NASA could be catastrophic. The result could be the loss of major or unique assets, a threat to human life, or prevention of NASA from preparing or training for a critical Agency mission. Examples in this category are those that control or directly support one of the following:

1. Human space flight
2. Wide Area Networks
3. Development of the data or software used to control human flight
4. Training simulation vehicles
5. Wind tunnel operations
6. Launch operations
7. Space vehicle operations

Business and Restricted Technology Information (BRT)

This category consists of information that NASA is required by law to protect. It includes information, software applications, or computer systems that support the Agency's business and technological needs. In general, if information in this category should be disclosed inappropriately, the disclosure could result in damage to our employees, in loss of business for our partners and customer businesses, in contract protest, or the illegal export of technology. This category includes systems containing technological information that is restricted from general public disclosure because of public laws. Examples in this category are those that are related to the following kinds of information:

1. Financial
2. Legal
3. Payroll
4. Personnel
5. Procurement
6. Source selection
7. Proprietary information entrusted to the Government
8. Export controlled technical information (includes disclosure to foreign nationals)

Scientific, Engineering, and Research Information (SER)

All official NASA information held by NASA employees may be released publicly only in accordance with NASA regulations; however, systems in this category do not contain information for which the release is otherwise governed by law. This category consists of information that supports basic research, engineering, and technology development but is less restricted against public disclosure.

1. Alteration, destruction, unauthorized disclosure, or unavailability of the systems, application, or information would have an adverse or severe impact on individual projects, scientists, or engineers; however, recovery would not impede the Agency in accomplishing a primary mission.
2. Integrity is the driving concern in this category followed by availability. Confidentiality is important and should be considered in a risk assessment insofar as it protects individual researchers from such things as premature disclosure of their work by another party. The impact, however, is primarily on an individual rather than on the Agency.

Administrative Information (ADM)

Administrative Information includes, but is not limited to electronic correspondence, briefing information, project/program status, infrastructure design details, predecisional notes, vulnerability descriptions, passwords, and internet protocol addresses. Organizations run various applications-from problem reports to configuration management tools-on administrative IT systems.

1. This category includes systems, applications, and information that support NASA's daily activities, such as electronic mail, forms processing, networking, and management reporting.
2. Integrity and availability are the driving IT security concerns. The impact is primarily managerial in nature, which would require time and resources to correct. Confidentiality may be of concern in certain specific administrative information. In such instances, additional security controls must be imposed as a risk analysis dictates.

Public Access Information (PUB)

This category includes information, software applications, and computer systems specifically intended for public use or disclosure, such as a public web site or hands-on demonstrations. The loss, alteration, or unavailability of information in this category would have little direct impact on NASA's missions but might expose the Agency to embarrassment, loss of credibility, or public ridicule.

1. Information posted for public access which could expose NASA missions to risk if compromised should be afforded additional protective measures. In these cases, the baseline requirements for ADM information should be implemented. (For example, contractors may submit proposals based on information from NASA web sites. Loss, alteration, or unavailability of data at the site could result in protests, thereby impacting procurement cycle time and ultimately NASA missions.)
2. Integrity and availability are the driving concerns. IT security controls are selected to protect the resources themselves and are not intended to protect the confidentiality of the information.

SUID/SGID Scripts

Users are prohibited from creating and using privileged SUID and/or SGID scripts under their home, scratch, `/nobackup`, and `/tmp` filesystems.

SUID scripts (that is, with permission `u+s`) and SGID scripts (with permission `g+s`) could allow someone (other than the owner) to gain unauthorized access to users' files, posing a security hazard.

WARNING: The high end computing systems at the NAS facility are configured to disable the execution of any SUID/SGID shell scripts.

Computing Policies

Pleiades Front-End Usage Guidelines

Summary: Use the Pleiades front-end systems (PFEs) and the bridge nodes for file editing, compiling, short debugging/testing sessions, and batch job submissions.

The PFEs and the bridge nodes are the front-end systems to Pleiades. They provide an environment that allows you to get quick turnaround while performing file editing, file transferring, compiling, short debugging/testing sessions, and batch job submission via PBS to a subset of the Pleiades compute nodes.

WARNING: The new Pleiades front-ends (pfe[20-27]) use the Intel Sandy Bridge processors. If you use a PGI compiler to build your executable, be aware that by default the executable is optimized for Sandy Bridge and will not necessarily execute on Harpertown, Nehalem-EP, or Westmere processors. To generate a single executable that will work on all Pleiades processor types, use the option

`-tp=penryn-64,nehalem-64,sandybridge-64` during compilation with PGI compilers. See [PGI Compilers and Tools](#) for more information.

You cannot "ssh" to the compute nodes except for the subset of nodes your PBS job is running on.

The bridge nodes are recommended for the following functions:

Pre- and/or Post-Processing

The large amount of memory on the bridge nodes allows pre- and post-processing applications such as [Tecplot](#), [IDL](#), and [Matlab](#) to run faster than on the PFEs. Note that the bridge nodes have the same software as the PFEs. For a list of available applications, run the command `module avail`.

File Transfers Between Pleiades and Columbia

Both the Pleiades Lustre filesystems `/nobackup` and the Columbia CXFS filesystems `/nobackup` are mounted on the bridge nodes. To copy files between the Pleiades Lustre and Columbia CXFS filesystems, log into a bridge node and use the `cp`, `mcp`, or `shifto` command to perform the transfer.

File Transfers to Mass Storage

The Pleiades /nobackup filesystems are mounted on Lou2. Thus, the easiest way to transfer files between Pleiades and Lou2 is to initiate a command such as **cp**, **mcp**, **tar**, or **shifc** on Lou2. For example:

```
lou% mcp /nobackup/username/foo $HOME
```

If you initiate the transfer on Pleiades, the commands **scp**, **bbftp**, **bbscp**, and **shifc** are available to do the transfers between a Pleiades front-end or bridge node and Lou. Since **bbscp** uses almost the same syntax as **scp**, but performs faster than **scp**, we recommend using **bbscp** in cases where you do not require the data to be encrypted. For very large file transfers, we recommend the Shift utility, developed at NAS.

See also [File Transfer Overview](#), and [File Transfer Commands](#).

File transfers from the Pleiades compute nodes to Lou must go through one of the PFEs or bridge nodes first. See [Streamlining File Transfers from the Pleiades Compute Nodes to Lou](#) for more information.

When sending data to Lou, keep your largest individual file size under 1 TB, as large files will occupy all of the tape drives, preventing other file restores and backups.

Additional Restrictions on Front-end Systems

- No MPI (Message Passing Interface) jobs are allowed to run on the PFEs or the bridge nodes
- A job on bridge[1-2] should not use more than 56 GB; when it does, a courtesy email is sent to the owner of the job
- A job on bridge[3-4] should not use more than 192 GB; when it does, a courtesy email is sent to the owner of the job

Before starting a large-memory session, it is a good idea to check to make sure there is enough memory available. You can run the command **top**, hit "M", and check under the "RES" column for other large memory applications that may be running.

Columbia Front-End Usage Guidelines

The front-end system, cfe2, provide an environment that allows users to get quick turnaround while performing the following: file editing, file management, short debugging and testing sessions, and batch job submission to the compute systems.

Running long and/or large (in terms of memory and/or number of processors) debugging or production jobs interactively or in the background of cfe2 is considered to be inconsiderate behavior to the rest of the user community. If you need help submitting such jobs to the batch systems, please contact a the Control Room at (650) 604-4444 or (800) 331-USER or send e-mail to: support@nas.nasa.gov

Jobs that cause significant impact on the system load of the Columbia front-end machine (cfe2) are candidates for removal in order to bring the front-end systems back to a normal and smooth environment for all users. A cron job regularly monitors the system load and determines if job removal is necessary. The criteria for job removal are described below. Owners of any removed jobs will receive a notification e-mail.

1. To be eligible for removal, the number of processors a front-end interactive job uses can be one (1) or more. Exceptions to this are those programs, utilities, etc. common to users and/or NASA missions that are listed in an "exception file". Examples of these would be: **bash**, **cp**, **cs**, **em**, **gz**, **rs**, **sc**, **sf**, **sh**, **ss**, **ta**, and **tc**. Users can submit program names to be added to this exception file by mailing requests to: support@nas.nasa.gov.
2. For qualifying processes, the CPU time usage of each process in a job has, on the average, exceeded a threshold defined as: (20 min x 8 / number of processes for the job). That is, a baseline for removal is a job with 8 processors running for more than 20 minutes. The maximum amount of time allowed for each processor in a job is scaled using the formula: 20 min x 8 cpu / number-of-processes. Therefore, the following variations are possible:
 - ◆ 160 minutes = (20 * 8) / 1 cpu
 - ◆ 80 minutes = (20 * 8) / 2 cpu
 - ◆ 40 minutes = (20 * 8) / 4 cpu
 - ◆ 20 minutes = (20 * 8) / 8 cpu
 - ◆ 10 minutes = (20 * 8) / 16 cpu
 - ◆ 5 minutes = (20 * 8) / 32 cpu
 - ◆ 2.5 minutes = (20 * 8) / 64 cpu

The conditions of removal are subject to change, when necessary.

Data Storage Policies

Quota Policy on Disk Space and Files

Filesystems on Pleiades, Columbia, and Lou have quotas: limits on the total disk space occupied by your files, and limits on how many files (represented by inodes) you can store, irrespective of size. For quota purposes, directories count as files.

Quota Hard and Soft Limits

There are hard limits and soft limits on quotas. Hard limits can never be exceeded. Any attempt to use more than your hard limit will be refused with an error. Soft limits can be exceeded temporarily, for a grace period of 14 days. If you remain over your soft limit for more than 14 days, the soft limit is enforced as a hard limit, in which case you will not be able to add or extend files until you get back under the soft limit. Usually, this means deleting unneeded files or copying important files elsewhere (such as [the Lou mass storage system](#)) and then removing them locally.

Table of Quotas on Columbia, Pleiades, and Lou

Default Quotas on Disk Space and Files			
	Columbia	Pleiades	Lou
\$HOME	NFS	NFS	XFS
Space: soft	4 GB	8 GB	none
Space: hard	5 GB	10 GB	none
Inode: soft	none	none	250,000
Inode: hard	none	none	300,000
/nobackup	CXFS /nobackup1[e-h] /nobackup2[a-j]	Lustre /nobackupp[1-6]	N/A
Space: soft	200 GB	500 GB	N/A
Space: hard	400 GB	1 TB	N/A
Inode: soft	25,000	75,000	N/A
Inode: hard	50,000	100,000	N/A

Email Warnings and Consequences

It is expected that you will exceed your soft limits as needed. When you exceed your soft limit you will begin getting daily emails to inform you of your current disk space and how

much of your grace period remains. During the grace period, these emails are intended to be informative and not a demand to immediately remove files. However, if you are still over your soft limit on Columbia and/or Pleiades after 14 days, your batch queue access will be disabled. On Lou, after 14 days of exceeding your soft limit, you will be unable to archive files until you have reduced your use to below the soft limit.

Disabled Batch Access on Pleiades/Columbia

If an account no longer has batch access to Columbia and/or Pleiades, all data from that system should be moved off within 7 days (or sooner if the other projects need the space).

If an account has been disabled for more than 14 days, its Columbia and/or Pleiades data will be moved to the archive host, Lou, and kept there for 6 months before removal, unless the project lead requests having the data moved to another account.

Disk File Quotas on Lou

There is no quota for file space on *Lou1* or *Lou2* because data that does not fit on disk is written to tape. There is a quota on the number of files you can store. Currently there is a soft limit of 250,000 files and a hard limit of 300,000 files.

The maximum size of a file moved to Lou should not exceed 30% of the size of your home filesystem on Lou. If you need to archive files larger than this, please contact the NAS Control Room at support@nas.nasa.gov for assistance.

Changing Your Quotas

If an account needs larger quota limits, send an email justification to support@nas.nasa.gov. This will be reviewed by the HECC Deputy Project Manager, Bill Thigpen, for approval.

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8. I understand that I shall not make copies of copyrighted software, except as permitted by law or by the owner of the copyright.
9. I understand that I shall not attempt to access any data or programs contained on systems for which I do not have authorization or explicit consent from the owner of the data/program, the NAS Division Chief or the NAS Computer Security Official.
10. I understand that I am required to report any security weaknesses in the systems or any IT security incidents including misuse or violation of this agreement, to the NAS User Services, support@nas.nasa.gov, or to the NAS Security Team, security@nas.nasa.gov.
11. I understand that I am required to access the NAS computers only from remote systems that are safe from malicious programs and activity.
12. I understand that I will be required to complete the NASA mandatory Basic IT Security Training available at: <http://saturn.nasa.gov/>. (Note: Additional details are available from NAS User Services.)
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