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PBS Environment Variables

Several environment variables are provided to PBS jobs. Some are taken from the user's environment and carried with a job, and others are created by PBS. There are also some environment variables that you can explicitly create for exclusive use by PBS jobs.

All PBS-provided environment variable names start with the characters "PBS_". Some start with "PBS_O_", which indicates that the variable is taken from the job's originating environment (that is, the user's environment).

A few useful PBS environment variables are described in the following list:

- **PBS_O_WORKDIR**: Contains the name of the directory from which the user submitted the PBS job.
- **PBS_O_PATH**: Value of PATH from submission environment.
- **PBS_JOBID**: Contains the PBS job identifier.
- **PBS_JOBDIR**: Pathname of job-specific staging and execution directory.
- **PBS_NODEFILE**: Contains a list of vnodes assigned to the job.
- **TMPDIR**: The job-specific temporary directory for this job. Defaults to /tmp/pbs.job_id on the vnodes.
Default Variables Set by PBS

You can use the `env` command--either in a PBS script or on the command line of a PBS interactive session--to find out what environment variables are set within a PBS job. In addition to the `PBS_X` environment variables, the following variables are useful to know:

**NCPUS**
Defaults to number of CPUs that you requested for the node.

**OMP_NUM_THREADS**
Defaults to 1 unless you explicitly set it to a different number. If your PBS job runs an OpenMP or MPI/OpenMP application, this variable sets the number of threads in the parallel region.

**FORT_BUFFERED**
Defaults to 1. Setting this variable to 1 enables records to be accumulated in the buffer and flushed to disk later.