BuTinah is Alive!

...and has entered the pilot phase

BuTinah is quickly approaching operational readiness with most of the configurations and settings done. Most of the shared applications (see Software on page 2) are in place as well as the account creation system. BuTinah is currently in the pilot phase (see Pilot Phase on page 2) and we will continue to work our way to full operational status as we build and grow our user support and system administrator capabilities (see Staffing on page 2). In the meantime we continue to develop our procedures and policies within our governance model (see Governance on page 3). Finally, we are very excited that we have our first user (see Our First User on page 3).
Pilot Phase

As of the beginning of October Butinah has entered the pilot phase. This phase allows us to test the queues and applications as well as fine tuning the configuration to optimize installed application performances. A few researchers have volunteered to be part of the pilot. If you are interested in taking part in the pilot, please make a request through email to butinahadmins@nyu.edu. Please note that there would be minimal support during this phase.

Software

Most of the applications we set out to buy have been bought and installed with the exception of MATLAB, which we hope will be finalized soon. Among the software we have available includes the commercial products: Intel compilers, Mathematica, Gaussian, Amber, Wien2k and the Intel compilers. Also installed are the various freely available applications and libraries such as OpenMPI, R and many more.

Staffing

We are continuing to build a ‘high performing’ HPC support team. Simon Johny joined us in June as the HP System Administrator; Wissam Ali will be joining us in November as a permanent NYUAD HPC System Administrator and the recruitment process for the second permanent System Administrator candidate is currently underway. Candidates for the HPC User Support Specialists role are at various stages of the hiring process.
HPC Center Governance

The HPC Steering Committee has held its first meeting of the year on October 21st. The meeting was chaired by NYUAD Institute managing director David McGlennon, other members of the committee are Yousif Asfour, NYUAD CIO, Joseph Gelfand (Physics) as the faculty representative, Carl Gladish (Global Sea Level Forecasting Project) as the institute representative and Muataz Al-Barwani, HPC manager. The committee approved the proposed storage quotas (5 GB for Home, 2 TB for Archive and 5 TB for Scratch per user) and software purchase policies. Further details can be found by clicking the link at the bottom of the page.

Our First User

Georges Djoumna became the first user of Butinah on the 4th of October when he successfully compiled and ran MITgcm (MIT General Circulation Model). MITgcm is a numerical model designed for study of the atmosphere, ocean, and climate. Georges works for the David Holland group projecting global sea level change funded by the NYUAD Institute.

All Photos are courtesy of Muataz Al-Barwani

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