Ilifu Research Facility Policies

Version 1.0
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User Policy

Eligibility

Computational and storage resources at the ilifu facility are provided on a per research project basis. The ilifu facility supports research projects in the fields of astronomy and bioinformatics.

Any academic researcher from the following partner institutions may apply to the ilifu facility for a research project in the fields of astronomy or bioinformatics: University of Cape Town, University of the Western Cape, Sol Plaatje University, University of Stellenbosch, Cape Peninsula University of Technology and South African Radio Astronomy Observatory. Proposed research projects will be evaluated and successful proposals will become approved research projects supported by the ilifu facility.

Once a research project is approved, persons associated with the research project may apply for access to the ilifu facility.

Access

Each approved research project is led and managed by a principal investigator (PI). The PI is responsible for the use of the resource allocations provided by the ilifu facility and is responsible for the competency and behaviour of the users within their research project.

Every user must apply for an ilifu account through the ilifu access request form and provide all required details.

A user must be associated with one or more existing approved research projects. Approval for a user must be acquired from the PI(s) of the research project(s) before account creation.

A user must provide and keep up to date user contact information by notifying the ilifu facility at support@ilifu.ac.za. Current and valid information is critical for important system announcements and efficient incident response.

All users are expected to use their ilifu facility account, storage, compute resources and network in a responsible, ethical, lawful and professional manner.

A user account is active for 1 year. After a 1 year period the user's account must be renewed by a PI. The PI(s) will be notified of accounts that require renewal. Any user account that is not renewed within 30 days of the 1 year renewal period will be deactivated. A user will be notified in the event that their account is to be deactivated. The account and all associated data will be permanently removed 90 days after deactivation.

If a user is no longer a member of a research project, it is the responsibility of the PI(s) to notify the ilifu facility to revoke the user's access to the research project. A user who is not a member of any research project will have their account deactivated.

Security

A user must not allow any other individual to use their credentials to access the ilifu facility's resources. If additional persons require access to the ilifu facility's resources as part of their research, each individual must apply for an account, and obtain their own credentials.

Users must apply appropriate security best practices to secure their account, including changing their initial password provided at the time of account creation, and keeping their password secret.

Acknowledgment

Users are required to give acknowledgement to the ilifu facility in all publications or communications related to their use of the ilifu facility's resources as prescribed in the [ilifu facility's acknowledgment policy](#).

Data Storage Policy

Appropriate Use

All data stored on the ilifu facility must be directly related to an approved research project that a user is associated with and is currently supported by ilifu. If there is any doubt about what is or is not permitted, please contact support@ilifu.ac.za

Allocations & quotas

Researchers or projects with storage requirements greater than 10 TB must get approval from the ilifu support team. Prior approval for storage requirements greater than 100 TB must be granted by the relevant funding body and is considered on a case-by-case basis. Project storage allocation will be reviewed on an annual basis and an agreement must be in place between ilifu and the project group.

Archives

The ilifu facility does not provide an archive service. Data associated with a project group may be stored in the project's directory for the duration that the project is supported by ilifu.

Ownership of data

In the event of an issue related to the ownership of data associated with an ilifu project, ilifu will consult with the legal policies of the PI's institution as well as the institution hosting the ilifu equipment.

Backups

Backups of files and folders on ilifu is performed on a best effort basis. It is recommended that users backup their scripts and workflows contained in their home directories and work directories using a data repository service such as GitHub.

Retention of data

All data associated with a deactivated user account will be permanently deleted 90 days after deactivation. Extension of this period where necessary will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Data loss

ilifu makes no guarantees that any file can be recovered, regardless of where a file is stored, even in backed up volumes. Accidents happen, whether caused by human error, hardware or software errors, natural disasters, or other. It is the user's responsibility that the data is protected against possible risks, as appropriate to the value of the data. Best efforts will be made to ensure reliability for all project data. ilifu can give no guarantee regarding the security of data, although every effort is made to ensure data is not compromised.

Data Access

Access to files and folders is managed using linux file permissions. Read and/or write access to files and folders can be granted to a user and/or a group and/or all users on the system.

Default access for a user's folders is to restrict read and write access to that user only. Adjusting the default permissions on a user's folder is done at the user's own risk.

Users are assigned to a project group as a member upon account creation. Users can be added to additional project groups upon approval by the relevant PI(s).

Read and write access to project directories is limited to the members of the associated research project. By default, any new files or folders created within the project directory has read and write permission set for the owner, and read access for all users in the research project. If access to project folders needs to be managed in a non-default setup please contact support@ilifu.ac.za.

Computational Resources Policy

Appropriate Use

All computational processing on the ilifu facility must be directly related to an approved research project that a user is associated with and is currently supported by ilifu.

Allocations & quotas

Computing resources are allocated to supported academic research projects. Allocations are granted by the relevant funding body and are considered on a case-by-case basis. Project computing resource allocation will be reviewed on an annual basis.

It is the responsibility of the research project team and the associated PI(s) to manage the project allocation appropriately.

Where users belong to several research projects, it is the responsibility of the user to charge the computational processing to the correct project account.

Resource Scheduling

Fairshare principles are implemented to manage the ilifu facility's compute resources to ensure fair access to resources over time.