FSU | RESEARCH COMPUTING CENTER
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

RCC eNEWSLETTER • FEBRUARY 2026

Coming soon to the HPC: AlmaLinux 9

We are planning a major upgrade to the High Performance Compute cluster. The upgrade is tentatively scheduled for early August but may occur as late as December. We will publish exact dates as soon as we are sure of them.

The upgrade will bring the cluster to AlmaLinux 9, which comes with new versions of Linux system tools (e.g., text editors, version control, etc.) along with a scheduler upgrade: Slurm 25.11 (or newer).

Read more details »

New and upgraded HPC software

We are happy to announce the general availability of several new and upgraded packages on the HPC:

- **New**: **OpenIFS v48r1** - numerical weather prediction model for research use
- **New**: **COOT v0.9.8** - GUI macromolecular modeling and simulation system
- **New**: **Phenix v2.0.5** - macromolecular structure determination using crystallographic and electron cryo-microscopy data
- **New**: **UCSF Chimera v1.19** - interactive molecular visualization and modeling program
- **New**: **UCSF ChimeraX v1.10** - macromolecular visualization and analysis

In case you missed the last newsletter, we also added and upgraded the following packages recently:

- ↑ **Updated: VisIt v3.4.2 -** Visualization tool to create scalable animations
- **New**: **RFDiffusion v1.1.0 -** Deep learning protein design for motif scaffolding

See all software packages »

GPU systems available in the HPC

GPU compute nodes are available for lease at 50% subsidized rates. The rate is currently **$6,000** for a **five-year dedicated lease**. Current models are **NVIDIA RTX 4500 Ada Generation** (2x per node) and **NVIDIA RTX A4000** (2x per node).

See our pricing page for details »

2026 Python Bootcamp

March 31, 2026 | 9 – 4pm

Our popular free, all-day, hands-on Python programming bootcamp is returning for 2026. It serves as an introductory course, and no previous programming experience is necessary. The day will be divided into four sessions: you'll learn basic programming in the morning and transition to more advanced topics in the afternoon.

There is an in-person limit of 50 attendees, so register now to guarantee your spot!

Details and registration »

Workshop: Intro to our HPC web portal - Open OnDemand

March 3, 2026 | 3 – 4:30pm

This workshop will cover the basics of using the High-Performance Compute cluster (HPC) to run computing jobs with a specific emphasis on our web portal, **Open OnDemand**. It is a great introduction for users new to the HPC or those who wish to brush up on current best practices and workflows for using the HPC at FSU.

Details and registration »

FSU AI Initiative

FSU encourages the responsible use of AI while highlighting the significant

security risks posed by free or personal-use tools, which often lack the data protection agreements necessary to safeguard sensitive research and intellectual property. To mitigate these risks, faculty, and researchers should exclusively use institutionally approved AI tools from providers, which are accessible via FSUID login and meet stringent university and federal privacy standards.

Please verify that any AI platform used for research, instruction, or administration is officially supported by visiting **ai.fsu.edu** to ensure compliance with data privacy laws. Utilizing these secure, licensed alternatives is essential for protecting the university's scholarly work and maintaining institutional data integrity.

See more about AI @ FSU »

Research Spotlight: Dr. Qian (Jackie) Zhang

Dr. Qian (Jackie) Zhang develops advanced machine learning and longitudinal modeling techniques to identify causal relationships and provide precision support within educational and clinical settings. She facilitates these complex studies by utilizing the RCC's HPC cluster, which is essential for the computationally intensive simulations and high-dimensional modeling that drive her findings. Her work aims to inform public policy and resource allocation to improve student academic success and personalize treatments for clinical conditions like depression.

Read the spotlight »

Neat and noteworthy: Dask for Python

Dask is a Python library for parallel and distributed computing that you can install in your home directory via uv/venv+pip or conda. It is a powerful parallel alternative for pandas and NumPy and makes it easier to process large tabular or array data efficiently with minimal changes to existing code.

Read the documentation »

Opportunity for students: NSF Trusted CI Scholars

The Trusted CI Scholars program offers students an unparalleled opportunity to engage in cybersecurity education, hands-on learning, and professional development within the NSF Cyberinfrastructure (CI) community. It consists of ten one-hour virtual workshops throughout the summer followed by a trip to the 2026 NSF Cybersecurity Summit in October (expenses covered). Both

undergraduates and graduates are welcome to apply. The deadline is **March 6, 2026**.

See more information and apply »

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Questions?
We are here to help. Contact the ITS Service Desk at 850-644-4357 or its.fsu.edu/help.

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