

Subject: MFCF Winter 2019 Newsletter

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From: MFCF Help

To: Lori Suess

MATH FACULTY COMPUTING FACILITY (MFCF)

MFCF's newsletter with updates on the Math Faculty computing environment Winter 2019...Linux and GPU computing, Self Service portal, Windows7 end-of-life, and digital displays!
[Information on other MFCF services](#)

New Linux CPU servers

Robyn Landers

Three new Linux CPU servers are available (and a fourth is on the way). They are much faster than the oldest biglinux and fastlinux servers. They are running a newer operating system and we manage them using a different configuration management system, so it's a big change from the traditional environment. For that reason we have not yet added them to the linux.math, biglinux.math, or fastlinux.math pools. You need to log into them directly by their own names: cpu141.math.private, cpu143.math.private, and cpu145.math.private. After a couple of terms for you to get acclimatized, we will add them to those pools and take out the oldest machines.

More details are available on the [Research and staff Linux servers](#) page on our web site.

Please report any missing software or other problems by creating a ticket using this [web form](#).

Redeployed clusters and GPU server

Robyn Landers

We have recently redeployed two older HPC clusters and a GPU server. The two clusters, formerly known as Rocks and COPS, have been updated with a new operating system. They, along with the GPU server, are now controlled by the Slurm workload manager.

These machines and the Slurm workload manager are described on the [Specialty research Linux servers](#) page on our web site.

Windows GPU server - mondo.math

MFCF Help Centre

We are happy to introduce the placement of a Windows GPU in the MFCF Help Centre in MC3017.

Mondo.math is a workstation with high end components that have been assembled to provide entry level experience for researchers who are interested in mathematical computation using techniques such as GPU processing. More details can be found on our [Windows GPU page](#).

Mac mini Self Service portal

MFCF Help Centre

MFCF will install the basic set of third party applications, including the latest Microsoft Office, on the newly deployed Mac minis. If you require any additional mathematical software, you can now download it through the Self Service portal from the Applications menu. You will need to authenticate with your WatIAM credentials.

The end is near for Windows 7

Chris Roth

As of January 14, 2020, Microsoft will no longer provide the following support for Windows 7:

- technical support
- software updates
- security updates and fixes

Windows 7 will continue to work but will be at greater risk for viruses and malware. There have already been issues with non-SP1 devices not being able to connect to the campus VPN. In addition:

- if there is a critical issue that Microsoft doesn't patch, IST Security will look for and actively remove vulnerable machines from the campus network
- compromised machines will be removed from the campus network

If you have a University-owned device that is running Windows 7, please contact MFCF to discuss how to proceed. Devices that are older than 5 years are not supported and should be replaced. It may be possible to upgrade newer hardware to Windows 10.

MFCF will contact users whose equipment is listed in our inventory database as running Windows 7.

Digital displays

Debbie Brown

Did you know you can advertise Faculty of Math related events, seminars and announcements on the digital displays in the MC and M3 buildings? Many students, faculty, staff, and visitors are viewing campaigns on a daily basis.

LOCATIONS: MC 3rd floor (between C&D and Comfy Lounge), MC 4th floor (outside MUO), M3 Atrium, DC screens are managed by CS – email: joe.petrik@uwaterloo.ca

HOW: create poster in .pdf .png or .jpg format, must be 3400 pixels wide by 1700 pixels high and email it to math.display@uwaterloo.ca

The university does not have design and/or content guidelines in place.

Replacement of www.math

Robyn Landers

As we move towards replacing the old machine that acts as www.math, there will be occasional live testing of the new system. This will affect any personal public_html web pages that run compiled code (CGI) -- you'll need to recompile on one of the Linux servers. Keep your previous Solaris/SPARC executable to make it quick to switch back and forth as needed. Static HTML pages should be unaffected unless you're using style sheets from old Math websites. Anything in the Drupal WCMS or OpenScholar is also unaffected.

Help us help you

Do you know a way we could make math computing better? Is there something you'd like to hear about in these newsletters? Do you want to write an article?

Email Lori Suess at lsuess@uwaterloo.ca or fill out a [Request](#). We'd love to hear what you have to say!

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