

MATH FACULTY COMPUTING FACILITY (MFCF)

**MFCF's newsletter with updates on the Math Faculty computing environment
Spring 2026**

Upcoming Changes to IT Support in Mathematics

The University has been undertaking a broad review of information technology services through the IT Functional Review Implementation Team (FRIT). The FRIT recommended that Mathematics consolidate its IT people and services into a unified reporting structure. As of September 1, 2026, the Mathematics Faculty Computing Facility (MFCF) and the Computer Science Computing Facility (CSCF) will be consolidated into a single unit, the Academic Computing Group (ACG). The head of the ACG will be the Director of Infrastructure in the School of Computer Science, who reports to the Director of the School of Computer Science, with in turn reports to the Dean. IT support is not going away, and you should not experience any disruption or degradation of service.

The Director of Infrastructure will be advised by the Faculty of Mathematics [Computing Advisory Committee](#) (CAC) on procedures and priorities for the use of computing resources within the faculty. The CAC will participate in continuous long-term planning for the renewal of computing resources in the faculty, and the relationship with central university computing resources.

MFCF Research Computing - Now with "100% more ARM"

MFCF will be adding an AmpereOne ARM (aarch64-architecture) server to our 'specialty' research computing region to the new research slurm partition 'armcpu_pr1'. The ARM architecture is known to be an accelerant of high-memory bandwidth workloads and may result in speed-ups relative to more traditional x64 architectures depending on your specific use-case. If you are interested in using this new specialty computing server, please send in a [request](#) or email mfcfhelp@uwaterloo.ca and we will help you get started with your Slurm script configuration!



Supermicro ARS-211ME-FNR Compute Server with AmpereOne ARM Processor

Additionally, MFCF will soon be adding 2 'Dell Pro Max GB10' (Grace Blackwell) ARM/GPU-hybrid servers to our specialty research computing region. These 'little boxes' pack a 'powerful punch' since the CPU and GPU share access to the same pool of memory resources, limiting 'copy overhead' due to data buffer-transfers between the host machine and the GPU device. Please get in touch if you would like early access to these machines via Slurm.



Dell ProMax GB10 "AI" Workstation

New software available in Software Center

MFCF does not force the installation of mathematical software. This saves disk space but risks people using older versions longer than they need to. New versions of R, Anaconda (Python), and PyCharm Community Edition are available now. Check Software Center for new versions of your favourite software.

If we don't provide software you want to use, let us know in a [request ticket](#) and we can investigate packaging it.

Learning Microsoft Power Platform

MFCF can help people learning to use the Microsoft Power Platform to improve their workflows. We can assist with deciding how to store data and build flows and apps for stability and performance.

We can't advise on all the capabilities and features of the Power Platform tools; there are just too many.

Read our [service description](#) for more information.

Windows 11 update

The recent Windows 11 upgrade to release 25H2 went well. Thanks to everyone who applied the update in a timely fashion. We are contacting the remaining few people who need to install the upgrade. Please work with us to keep your machine up to date for the latest features and security updates.

GPU laptops and External GPU enclosure for borrowing

MFCF has several GPU-equipped laptops for short-term borrowing. We also have a GPU in an external enclosure that you can use with your laptop or desktop PC. This may help you get acquainted with GPU computing before moving up to larger servers. Read about them at <https://uwaterloo.ca/math-faculty-computing-facility/services/gpu-loaner-laptops>.

Send in a [request](#) if you would like to sign out one of our GPUs.

Help us help you

Questions or problems to report? 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 Krista Denny at kdenny@uwaterloo.ca or fill out a [request](#). We'd love to hear what you have to say!



[MFCF Webpage](#)



[MFCF Help](#)
