

MATH FACULTY COMPUTING FACILITY (MFCF)

MFCF's newsletter with updates on the Math Faculty computing environment.

Fall 2022...Staff changes; GPU loaner laptop; @math mail, Windows 11; MATLAB licences; and more

MFCF staff changes

Returning to the role of Director, Associate Dean, Computing and MFCF Director is Marek Stastna. Welcome back, Marek!

In April, we welcomed new staff member Chris Aziz to our Client Services team. Chris is new to the University and brings an enthusiastic attitude along with his previous experience in all aspects of customer support computing.

We are happy to announce that as of September, the MFCF Help Centre has hired a permanent staff member, Jessica King. Jessica comes to us from Optometry and Centre for Extended Learning (CEL). Please drop by the Help Centre in MC3017 and say Hi to Jessica.

GPU Windows laptop for lending

MFCF has procured a Dell G15 gaming laptop with Windows 11. It can be signed out for a short period to faculty interested in exploring GPU computing before purchasing their own expensive workstation. The laptop has an NVIDIA GeForce RTX 3070 Ti Laptop GPU that can be used with the NVIDIA CUDA libraries for computing.

The CUDA libraries can be used with mathematical applications such as Python (Anaconda), R, and MATLAB. The Windows Subsystem for Linux is also installed for those who prefer a Linux environment.

Please read the terms and conditions and fill out the [form](#) to get started.

@math mail delivery

At the end of December, MFCF's service that handles email sent to recipients @math.uwaterloo.ca will be shut down. The handling of email addressed to @math will move to IST. This service merely redirects such email to @uwaterloo.ca. The redirection of @math will continue for accounts that exist now, but will not be supported for new accounts created after this time. For those with long userids, both the full length userid and the eight character truncation will continue to work. By now, everybody should have already adopted an @uwaterloo.ca address. If you still use an @math email address anywhere, please change it to @uwaterloo.ca.

Software updates - Windows 11 is rolling out!

Windows 11 is the next client operating system from Microsoft and includes many improvements over Windows 10.

MFCF continues to stay current with operating systems and applications so we had started deploying Windows 11 to managed machines in August and September. Many systems have already been upgraded and we encourage people to complete the upgrade as soon as possible. We have been contacting people whose machines are unable to upgrade to resolve the conflict(s) and allow the upgrade to proceed.

If your Nexus-joined Windows machine is not upgrading and we haven't contacted you, please submit a [request](#) so we can assist you with the upgrade.

Full details can be found on our [News](#) page.

Mathematical Applications

In the Spring 2022 term, MFCF had hired graduate student Spencer McConville to prepare a [reference document](#) demonstrating common data science operations in both R and Python. Each example shows how to create similar results in both languages. Whether you know one of these languages and want to compare it to the other, or are new to both and want to see how they work, you may find this document useful.

The documents are on our web site in PDF form. They're also [published in Github](#) as interactive Jupyter notebooks.

Campus IT system changes

UW has arranged a site license for Adobe Acrobat Pro. The software is free for permanent full-time faculty and staff. For Math Faculty managed machines, please read our [news item](#). For all others, please see the [details](#) on IST's website for login instructions and download information.

UW's site license for MATLAB will continue on an ongoing basis. [Details](#) on how to access MATLAB are published on IST's web site.

If you have questions about these projects, contact the IST Service Desk at helpdesk@uwaterloo.ca, ext. 44357

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 Lori Suess at icsuess@uwaterloo.ca or fill out a request at <https://rt.uwaterloo.ca/SelfService/Forms/MFCF/>. We'd love to hear what you have to say!



MFCF Webpage



MFCF Help