SDSC – San Diego Supercomputer Center

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Description

The San Diego Supercomputer Center (SDSC) is one of five national supercomputer centers funded primarily by the National Science Foundation. Its mission is to provide supercomputer time to scientists and researchers around the country. SDSC is located on the campus of the University of California at San Diego and is administered by General Atomics. Major policy guidance comes from a steering committee representing the 25 SDSC consortium institutions, which include major California universities and all campuses of the University of California and the California State University.

Computer resources. SDSC offers access to

- A CRAY X-MP/48 supercomputer (peak speed 840 MFLOPS), running the Cray Time-Sharing System (CTSS) operating system and 120 UNIX utilities, with 8 million words of memory and 13.2 GBytes of local disk storage.
- An SCS-40 minisupercomputer (peak speed 44 MFLOPS), running CTSS, with 16 million words of memory, 16 million words of extended memory, and 4 GBytes of local disk storage.
- A Supertek S-1 minisupercomputer (peak speed 25 MFLOPS), running CTSS, with four million words of memory and 2.4 GBytes of local disk storage. (This machine is being used for system development and testing but will be made available to users at some point in the future.)
- A long-term file storage system (CFS) consisting of 60 Gbytes of disk storage and essentially infinite tape cartridge storage.

These systems are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except during scheduled maintenance and system development. In 1988, these systems were available nearly 97% of the time.

Two printed manuals (An Introductory User Guide and Summaries) are mailed to all new users. Two-day introductory workshops are held approximately once per month on-site but are also available at your location with confirmed attendance of at least 20. Other sources of information include SDSC's monthly newsletter, Gather/Scatter, an annual report of science highlights, more than 130 online documents, and 40 electronic bulletin boards.

SDSC offers telephone and E-mail consulting 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Pacific time) M-F at (619)534-5100.

Network Access

SDSC is on the Internet. It is also attached to SPAN, HEPnet, MFEnet and CSUnet.

Who Can Use The Center

How to apply for time. 31,000 CPU hours each year are available for academic and industrial use. Most of the time is allocated at no charge to researchers on the basis of peer review by the SDSC Allocation Committee or by the SDSC consortium institutions. Allocations by the committee are made independent of institutional affiliation or funding source. The projects must be non-proprietary. Applications are accepted four times per year (for 12-month allocations) for time beginning 1 January, 1 April, 1 July, or 1 October. Applications must be received at least 45 days prior to the quarter in which you request your allocation to begin (e.g., the deadline is 15 February for time beginning 1 April). For more information, contact the SDSC consultants at (619)534-5100 and request the Overview brochure (which contains the application form).

A small fraction of time for allocation is available on a non-peer-reviewed basis to industrial cost-sharing participants. Such projects may be proprietary but must be unclassified. For more information, contact Bob Randall at (619)534-5060.