PSC – The Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center

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Description

The Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center (PSC), one of the national centers established by the National Science Foundation, provides advanced supercomputer resources to the scientific and engineering research communities. PSC provides computing resources and support facilities for work in many branches of science. To date, it has supported work by over 1900 researchers at 375 institutions in 49 states, and the District of Columbia, representing virtually all fields of scientific and engineering endeavor.

The Center currently offers:

- a Cray Y-MP/832 supercomputer which features eight processing units sharing common memory of 32 million 64-bit words
- a Solid-state Storage Device (SSD) which will hold 128 million words and can transfer data at 156 Mwords per second on each of two parallel channels
- an IBM 4381-P21 with 30GB of disk storage for CFS, an archiving system
- a Connection Machine CM-2, with 32,768 processors and one gigabyte of memory
- a DataVault with 10 gigabytes of high speed storage
- a Digital Equipment Corporation VAX, CMVAX, and two SUN 4470s, SUNA and SUNB, running Ultrix and Unix, as front ends to the CM-2
- two Digital Equipment Corporation VAXes running VMS as front ends to the Y-MP, CMVAX and SUNs
- two Digital Equipment Corporation VAXes running Ultrix as front ends to the Y-MP, CMVAX, and SUNs
- the Andrew File System, a distributed network file system, serving the Ultrix front ends and the CM front ends
- high-function engineering workstations, personal computers, and special-purpose graphics devices, such as a Silicon Graphics IRIS workstation, SUN Sparcstation, IBM RS6000, DECStation 5000, Canon CLC500 color copier/printer, and Postscript laser printers, and
- CGM-based animation system producing VHS tape and and videodisk animations, plus the ability to produce 35mm color slides using a Matrix Instruments SlideWriter.

The Center provides experienced user services and training in scientific research. Consultants are available to answer users' questions Monday through Saturday. The Center offers classes and workshops on different aspects of supercomputing, provides online and hardcopy documentation, produces a monthly newsletter and a technical bulletin, and annually publishes a booklet which highlights some of the scientific research done at the Center. The systems and software staff selects and installs new software and spearheads system development efforts.

Network Access

The center is on the Internet.

Who Can Use The Center

Requests for supercomputing services may be made directly to the PSC.