Center of Excellence in High Performance Computing (CEHPC)

King Abdulaziz University

Aziz Supercomputer Terms and Usage Policy

1. Introduction

The Center of Excellence for High Performance Center (CEHPC) reserves the right to amend this usage policy without prior notice to ensure the availability, security, and fair use of the services provided.

1. These Terms of Use (the "Terms") govern your use of CEHPC HPC services.
2. Access to and use of the Aziz Supercomputer are subject to these Terms.

Please read these Terms carefully before using Aziz Supercomputer. By accessing and continuing to use Aziz Supercomputer, you agree to abide by these Terms. If you do not agree to these Terms, you should stop using Aziz Supercomputer services and request for deactivating your account through the CEHPC email (hpc@kau.edu.sa)

2. Usage Guidelines

- **Job Execution**: Jobs must not be run on the login nodes. All jobs must be executed on the compute nodes through the queueing system.
- **Unauthorized Jobs**: Jobs running on the login nodes will be terminated without prior notice.
- **Repeated Violations**: Users who repeatedly run jobs on the login nodes may have their accounts suspended for a period determined by the CEHPC Executive Committee.
- **Login Node Usage**: Login nodes are reserved for code editing, job script preparation, code compilation, data movement, and job submission.
- **Resource Allocation:** Job submissions must request only the resources required. Inefficiently scheduled jobs that waste cluster resources may be held or deleted.
- **Resource Utilization:** Jobs must use only the resources allocated by the scheduler. Use of additional resources may result in automatic or manual job deletion.
- **Permitted Use:** The cluster is intended solely for academic and administrative purposes related to work or study at King Abdulaziz University, or with confirmed agreement with CEHPC.
- **Cluster Impact:** Jobs or processes adversely affecting the cluster may be deleted, killed, or held by CEHPC without prior notification.
- **Linux and the Command Line Interface (CLI):** You will need to understand how to use a Command Line Interface (CLI) to work on Aziz Supercomputer. If you are new to Linux, we recommend you attend short online Linux tutorial and Introduction to Linux Command Line Interface training courses to help you work on Aziz Supercomputer.

- **Orientation Requirement**: All new Aziz Supercomputer users must complete the HPC Orientation session before submitting jobs.
- **Cybersecurity Policies Compliance**: all Aziz Supercomputer users must adhere to KAU cybersecurity policies and controls for acceptable use of KAU information systems.
- **Data Policies Compliance**: all Aziz Supercomputer must adhere to CEHPC Data Privacy, Sharing, and Retention policies published on CEHPC website.

Users violating these guidelines will be reported to the CEHPC Executive Committee, which will decide on potential suspension of Aziz Supercomputer access and will be denied access to the resources. Reinstatement of suspended users is at the discretion of CEHPC. Requests for reinstatement must come from the user's supervisor, department head, or faculty dean.

3. Personal Laptops/Workstation Security Requirements

All Aziz Supercomputer users must meet the following security requirements on their personal laptops or workstation to ensure secure access to the resources:

Operating System	Users accessing Aziz Supercomputer from personal computers must install major service releases for their operating systems as soon as they become available like Windows Updates. Using automated delivery solutions to manage updates is highly recommended.
Software Upgrades	Aziz users are encouraged to keep all local software up-to-date.
Antivirus Requirements	Aziz users must install and run an antivirus program on their laptops or workstations meeting the following criteria: 1. The antivirus client should be configured to check for updated virus signatures at least daily. 2. The antivirus program must: a. Detect and block virus activities in real-time. b. Perform periodic scans to detect and remove viruses stored on the workstation. c. Check for virus signature updates at least daily. d. Be a fully licensed product.

Firewall Requirements	Aziz users must install and run a firewall client on their laptops or workstations meeting the following criteria: 1. Detected networks should be treated as unknown and not trusted. 2. The firewall should alert users to new programs requesting network access. 3. The firewall should deny access from unauthorized systems. 4. The firewall software must be kept up-to-date with the latest updates available. 5. The firewall must be a fully licensed product.

4. Training Requirements

All new Aziz users must complete a mandatory HPC Orientation session before accessing their Aziz Supercomputer account.

This training covers essential topics, including:

- The latest cluster configuration
- Compliance to Cybersecurity requirements
- Procedures for connecting to and transferring data to/from the cluster
- Job submission processes
- Adherence to operational guidelines
- Common mistakes (e.g., running jobs on the login node) and how to avoid them

The HPC Orientation session will be available to all new users. Also, users must attend an HPC Orientation session once announced to stay updated on Aziz Supercomputer services.

5. Aziz Supercomputer Citation

If you have utilized Aziz Supercomputer resources in your research, you must acknowledge this with your published paper, as it is essential for service continuity.

An example of a statement for possible use: "Computation for the work presented in this paper was supported by Aziz Supercomputer operated by The Center of Excellence in High Performance Computing (http://hpc.kau.edu.sa)".

Upon request, you are required to submit the details of the published papers to the CEHPC for inclusion on the website and in the CEHPC annual report. Failure to respond to these requests may result in the suspension of your account.