



CSC computing resources for GIS

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CSC – Suomalainen tutkimuksen, koulutuksen, kulttuurin ja julkishallinnon ICT-osaamiskeskus

Non-profit state organization with special tasks



Turnover in 2017

40,5 M€



Headquarters in Espoo, datacenter in Kajaani

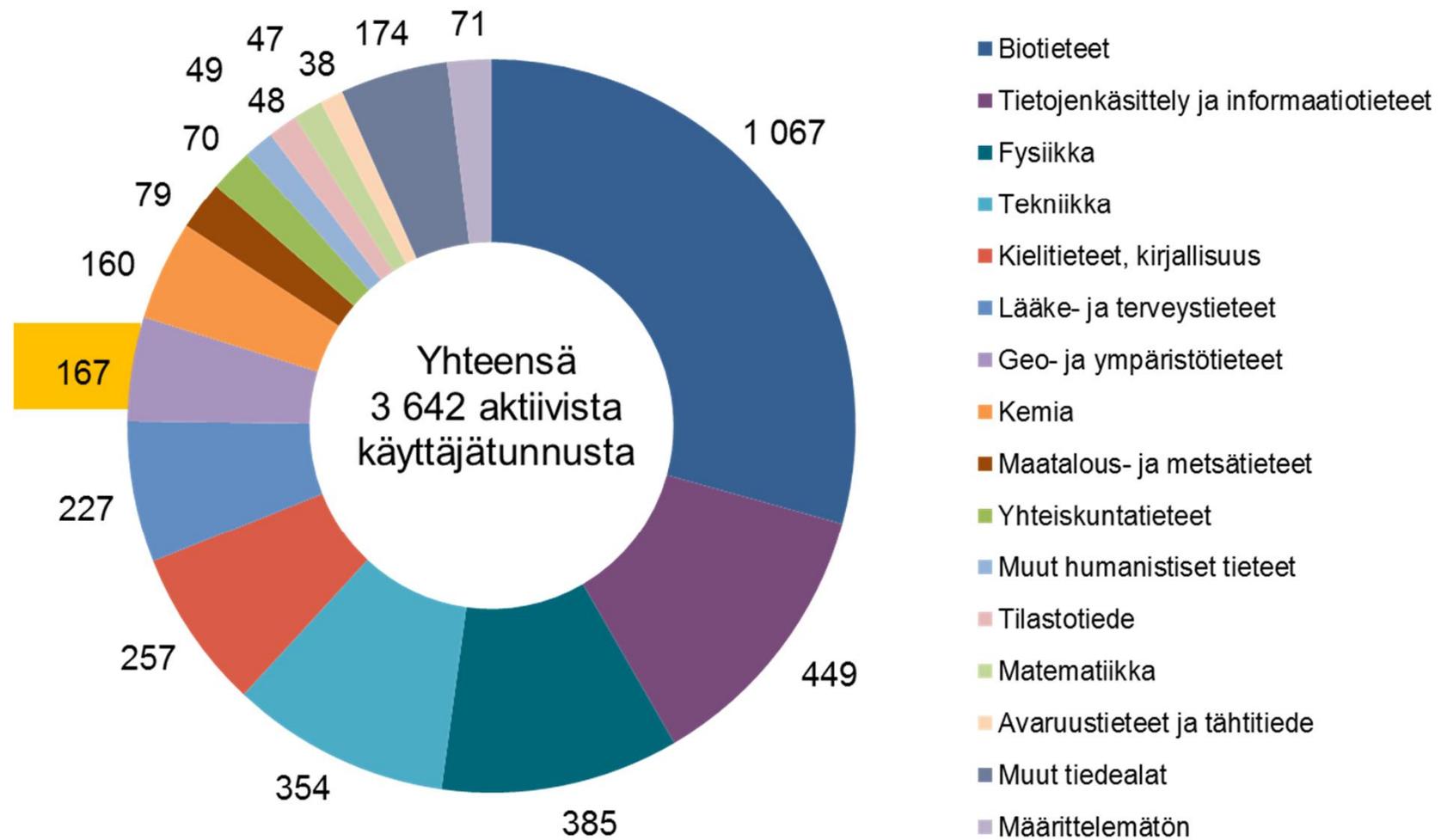


Owned by state (70%) and all Finnish higher education institutions (30%)

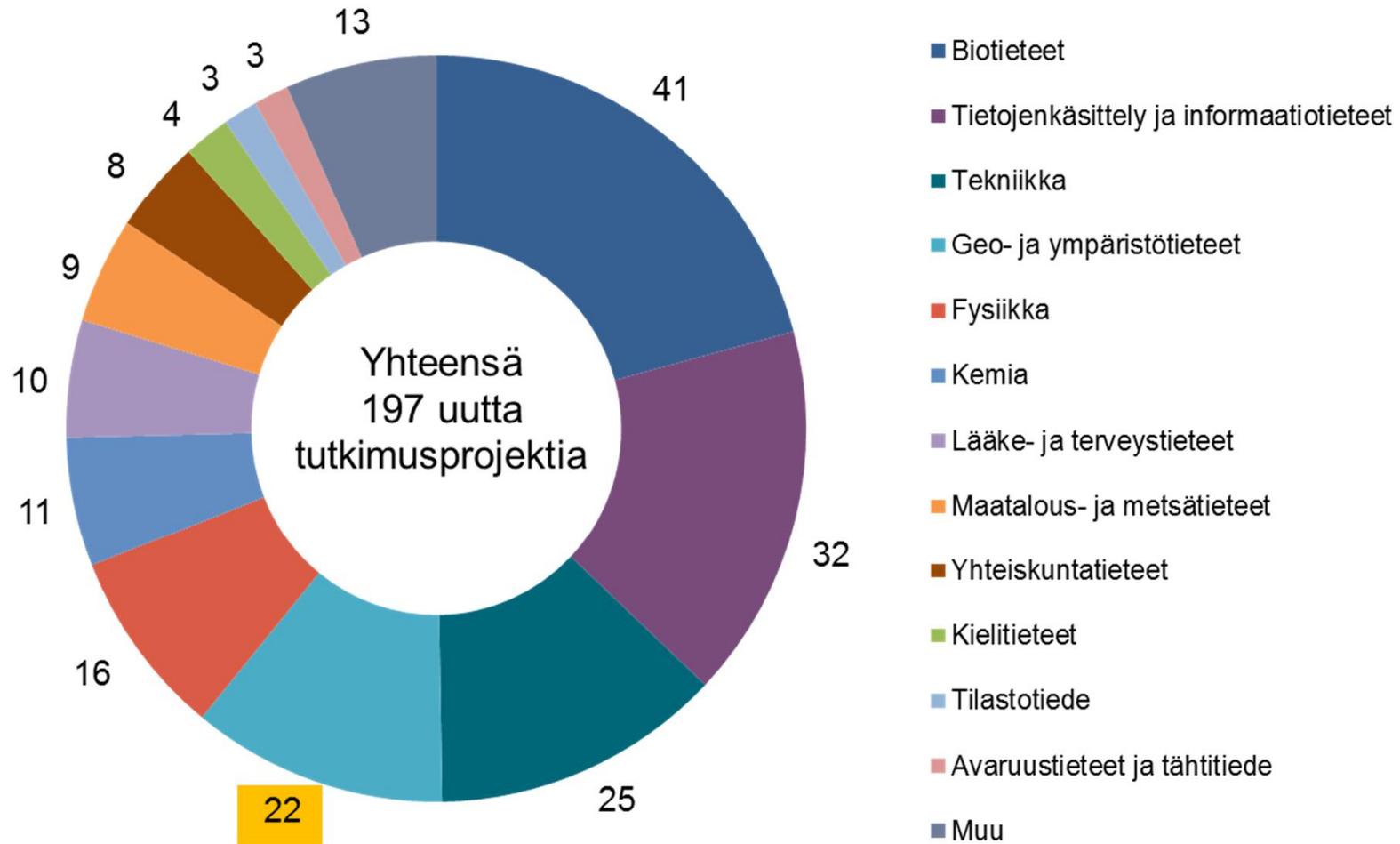


Circa 320 employees in 2017

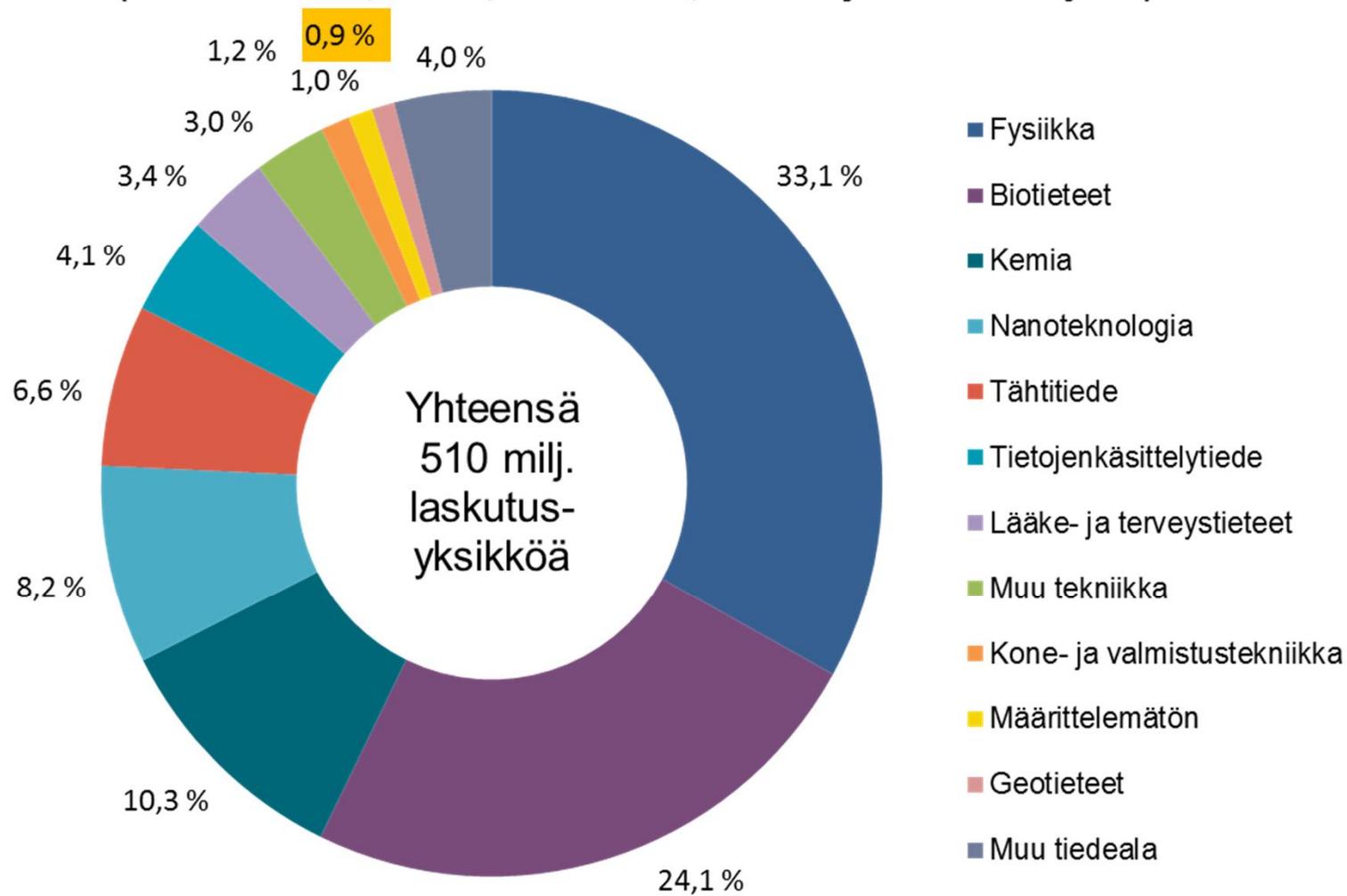
Aktiiviset käyttäjätunnusasiakkaat tiedealoittain kesäkuun 2018 lopussa



Uudet jaksolla H1/2018 avatut tutkimusprojektit tiedealoittain



Tietokoneressurssien käyttö tiedealoittain kaudella H1/2018 (sisältää Sisu-, Taito-, Taito-shell, cPouta ja ePouta-käytön)

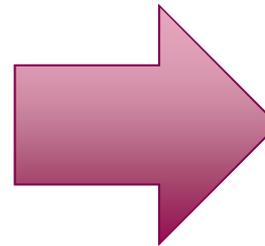
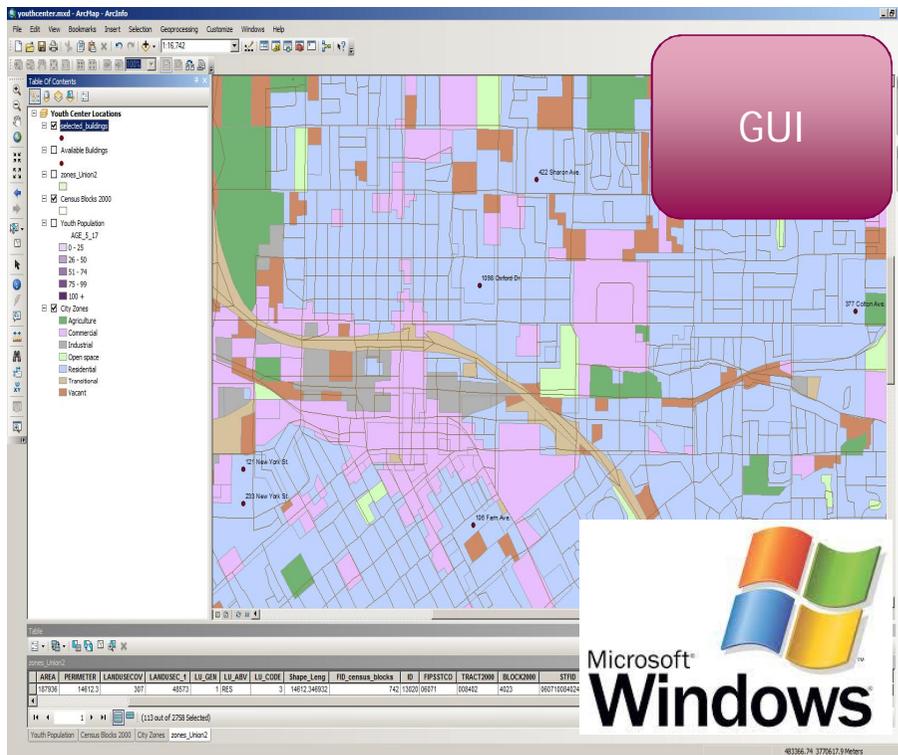


Reasons for using CSC computing resources

- Computing something takes more than 2-4 hours
- Need for more memory
- Very big datasets
- Keep your desktop computer for normal usage, do computation elsewhere
- Need for a server computer
- Need for a lot of computers with the same set-up (courses)

- Free for Finnish university users / will be free for state research institutes

The keys to geocomputing: Change in working style & Linux

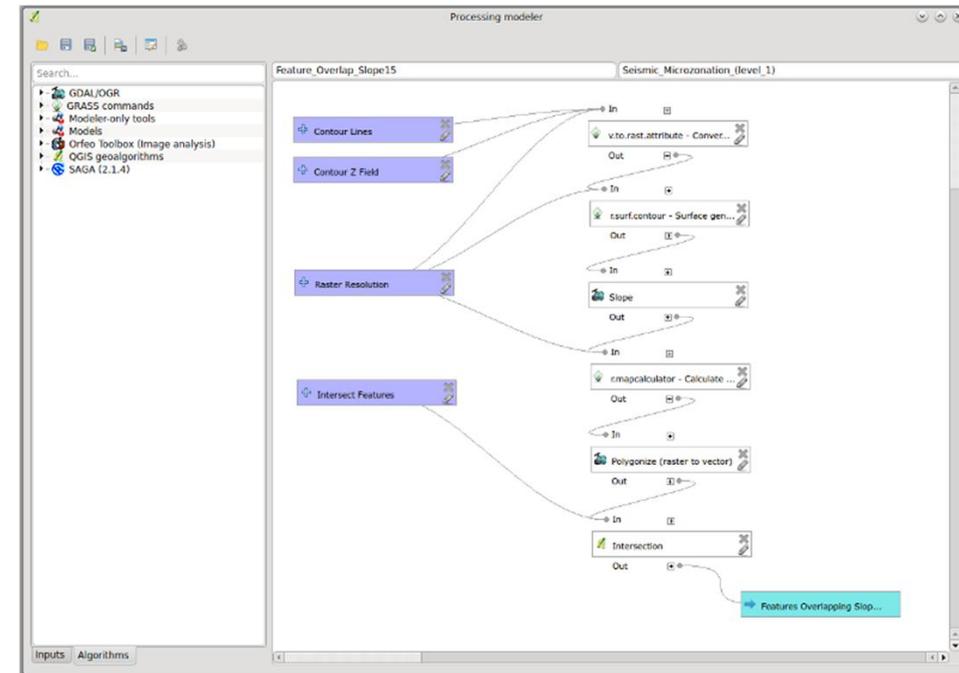
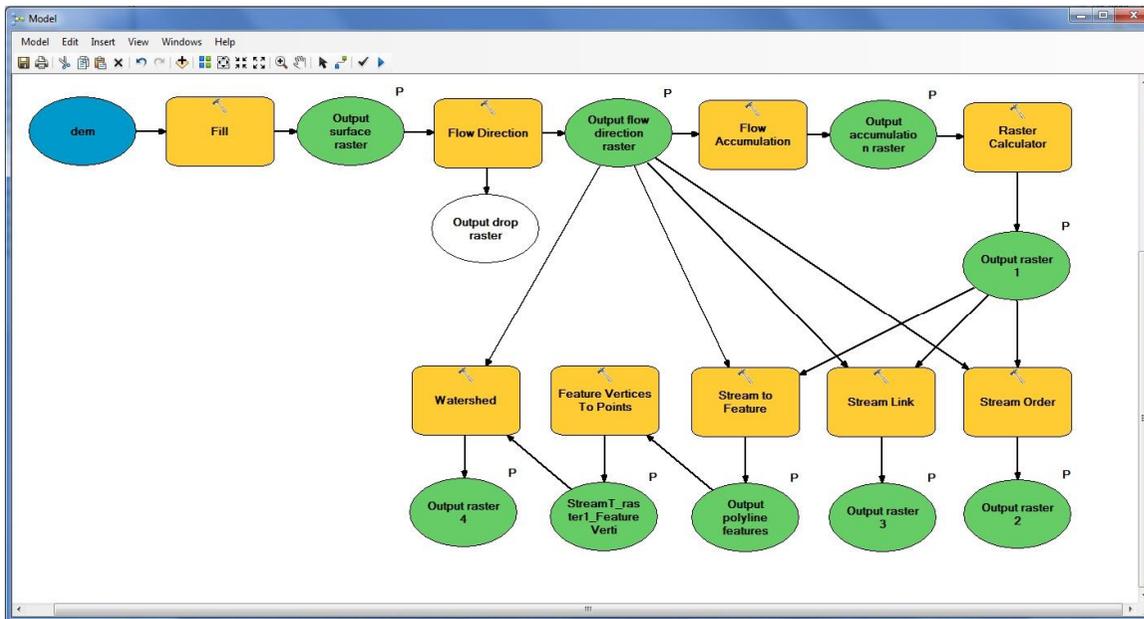


ArcGIS, QGIS, ...

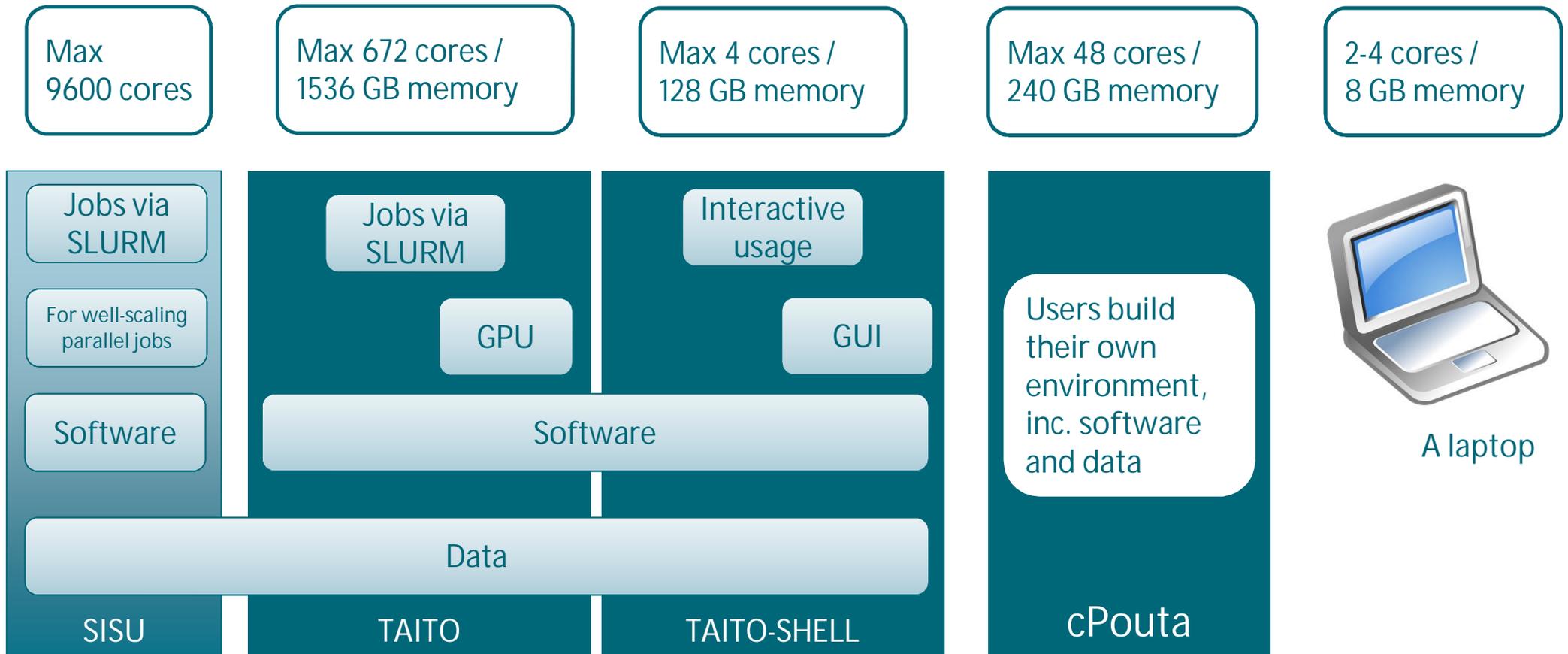
R, Python, shell scripts, Matlab, ...

Support for creating Python scripts

- ArcGIS Model Builderer -> ArcPy Python script
- QGIS Graphical (Processing) Modeler -> PyQGIS Python script



CSC HPC resources



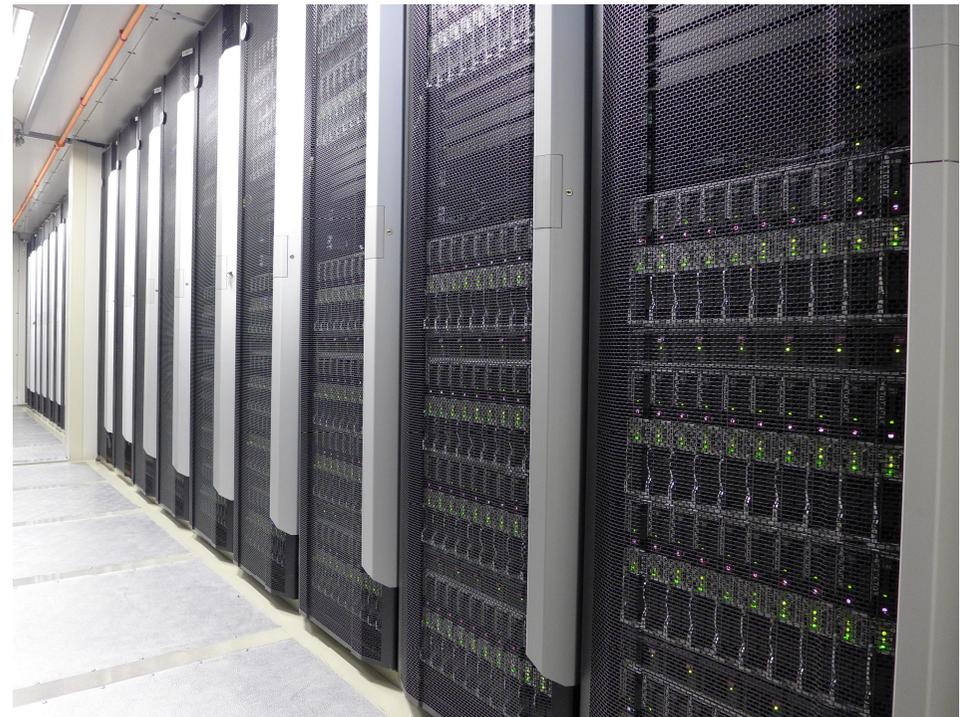
Realistic expectations

- A single core of a CSC machine is about as fast as one of a basic laptop.
- It has just a lot of them.
- .. and more memory and faster input-output.
 - Just running your single core script at CSC does not make it much faster.
 - For clear speed-ups you have to use several cores.
 - ... or optimize your script.

Taito / Taito-shell pre-installed software for GIS

- R
- Python
- MatLab / Octave
- GDAL/OGR
- GRASS GIS
- LasTools (some)
- PDAL
- Proj4
- QGIS
- SagaGIS
- Taudem
- Zonation

<https://research.csc.fi/software> -> Geosciences



GIS Software not available in Taito

Windows software:

- ArcGIS
- MapInfo
- LasTools Windows tools

Server software

- GeoServer, MapServer
- PostGIS

Web map libraries

- OpenLayers, Leaflet

Using different GIS-software in Taito

	Bash	R	Python	QGIS
GDAL	x	x	x	x
GRASS	x	x	(x)	x
LasTools	x	(x)	(x)	x
SagaGIS	x	x	(x)	x
Taudem	x	(x)	(x)	?
R spatial packages	-	x	-	-
Python geo packages	-	-	x	-

Installing software for own use

- Possibility to install software for own use
 - The software must be available for Linux
 - .. and installation must be possible without root access
- You can add also packages to R and Python

Shared data area in Taito

- Hosts large commonly used datasets
- Reduces the need to transfer data to Taito
- Located at /proj/ogiir-csc/
- All Taito users have read access.
- Only CSC personnel have write access.
- For data with open license

- If you think some other dataset should be included here, ask from servicedesk@csc.fi

All Paituli open data

+

LUKE

Multi-source national forest inventory

NLS

Virtual rasters for DEMs

https://research.csc.fi/gis_data_in_taito

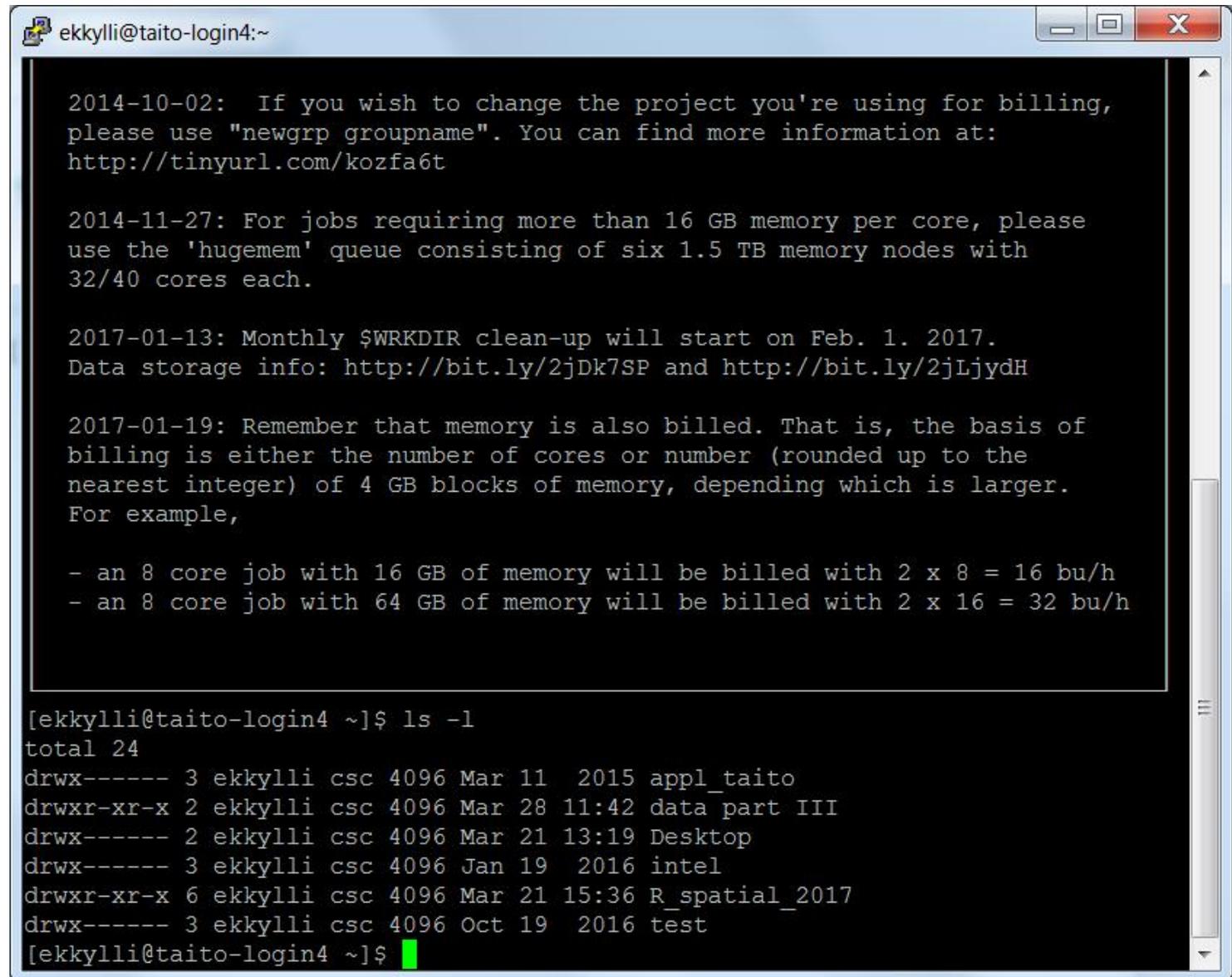
Virtual rasters

- Allows working with dataset of multiple files as if they were a single file.
- XML pointing to actual raster files
 - The virtual file doesn't need to be rectangular, it can have holes and the source files can even have different resolutions
- Taito has ready made virtual rasters for elevation models and a python tool to create your own for a specific area.

Access to Taito from Windows

- Putty for ssh connection
- FileZilla/WinSCP for moving data
- NoMachine for GUI
- Find about other access options and more information at:
<https://research.csc.fi/taito-connecting>

Putty

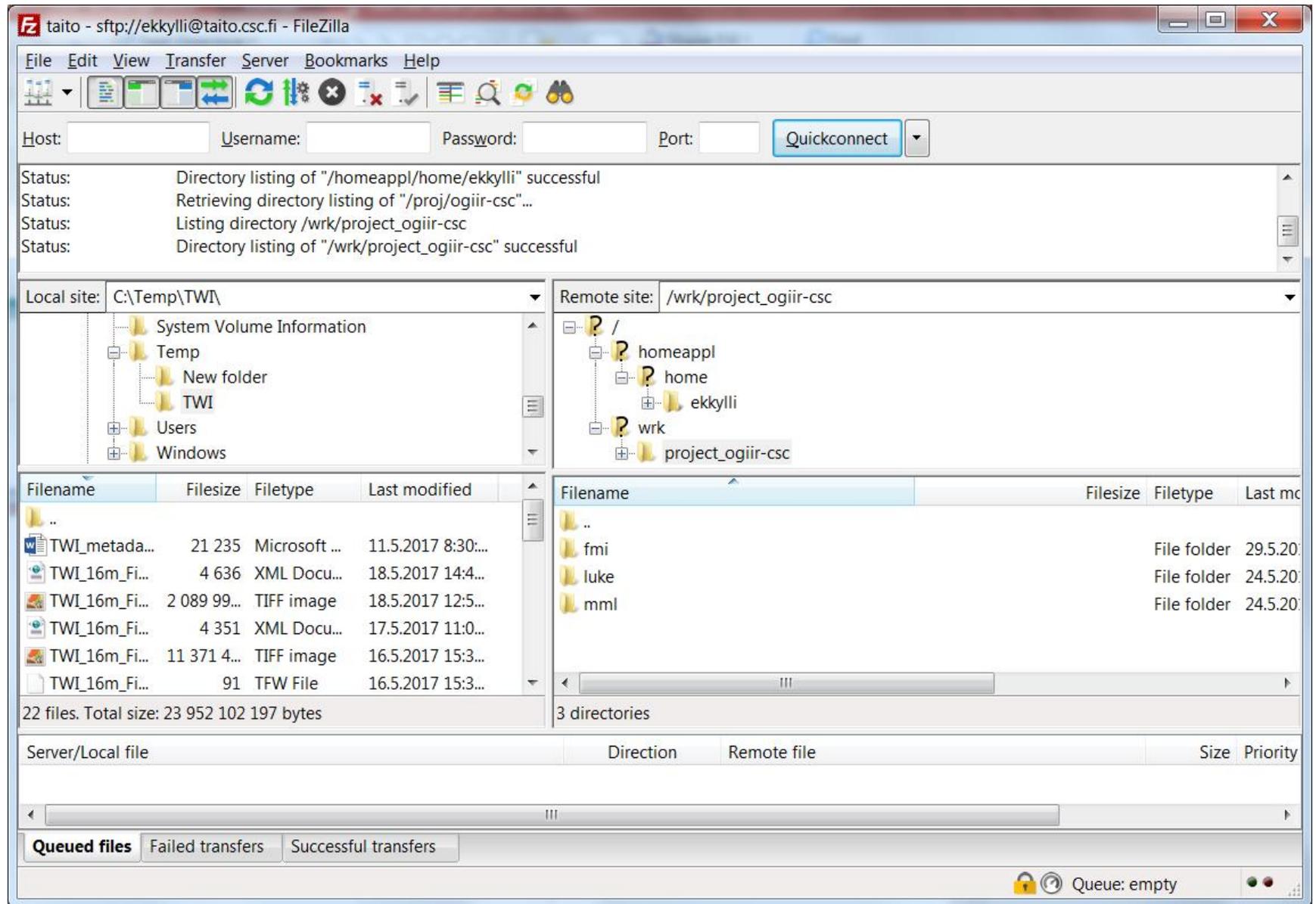


The screenshot shows a Putty terminal window titled "ekkylli@taito-login4:~". The terminal displays several system messages and a directory listing. The messages are dated and provide information about billing, memory requirements, and clean-up schedules. The directory listing shows the contents of the user's home directory.

```
ekkylli@taito-login4:~  
  
2014-10-02: If you wish to change the project you're using for billing,  
please use "newgrp groupname". You can find more information at:  
http://tinyurl.com/kozfa6t  
  
2014-11-27: For jobs requiring more than 16 GB memory per core, please  
use the 'hugemem' queue consisting of six 1.5 TB memory nodes with  
32/40 cores each.  
  
2017-01-13: Monthly $WRKDIR clean-up will start on Feb. 1. 2017.  
Data storage info: http://bit.ly/2jDk7SP and http://bit.ly/2jLjyDH  
  
2017-01-19: Remember that memory is also billed. That is, the basis of  
billing is either the number of cores or number (rounded up to the  
nearest integer) of 4 GB blocks of memory, depending which is larger.  
For example,  
  
- an 8 core job with 16 GB of memory will be billed with 2 x 8 = 16 bu/h  
- an 8 core job with 64 GB of memory will be billed with 2 x 16 = 32 bu/h  
  
[ekkylli@taito-login4 ~]$ ls -l  
total 24  
drwx----- 3 ekkylli csc 4096 Mar 11 2015 appl_taito  
drwxr-xr-x 2 ekkylli csc 4096 Mar 28 11:42 data part III  
drwx----- 2 ekkylli csc 4096 Mar 21 13:19 Desktop  
drwx----- 3 ekkylli csc 4096 Jan 19 2016 intel  
drwxr-xr-x 6 ekkylli csc 4096 Mar 21 15:36 R_spatial_2017  
drwx----- 3 ekkylli csc 4096 Oct 19 2016 test  
[ekkylli@taito-login4 ~]$
```



FileZilla



NoMachine



The screenshot displays a remote desktop session titled "NoMachine - Connection to nrxkjaani.csc.fi". It features three main windows:

- Terminal Window (Left):** Shows shell commands and instructions for running R on Taito computing nodes. It includes instructions for using `rsun` and `Rmpi` for interactive work, and notes that starting R directly on a computing node will be killed. It also mentions the RStudio version (v0.99.1196) and the use of `rsstudio` to start the application.
- RStudio Editor (Center):** Displays the R script `Calc_contours.R`. The script defines command arguments, sets default values for folders and files, and loads the `RSAGA` and `rgdal` libraries. It also sets up the main directory and subfolders for input and output.
- Console Window (Bottom):** Shows the execution of the R script. It displays the creation of directories (`mainDir`, `imageFolder`, `gridFolder`) and the download of a file from the URL `http://kartat.kapsi.fi/files/korkeusmalli/hila_10m/etrs-tm35fin-n2000/V4/V41/` to the `inputfile` path.
- Environment and Files Panels (Right):** The Environment panel shows the current workspace with variables like `args`, `gridFolder`, `imageFolder`, `inputfile`, `mainDir`, `mapsheet`, `shapeFolder`, `tiffFolder`, and `url`. The Files panel shows the directory structure of `~/R_spatial_2017`, including subfolders like `1_tiff`, `2_grid`, `3_shape`, and `4_image`, along with various data files and scripts.

Directories at CSC Environment



<https://research.csc.fi/data-environment>

Directory or storage area	Intended use	Default quota/user	Storage time	Backup
\$HOME ¹	Initialization scripts, source codes, small data files. Not for running programs or research data.	50 GB	Permanent	Yes
\$USERAPPL ¹	Users' own application software.	50 GB	Permanent	Yes
\$WRKDIR ¹	Temporary data storage.	5 TB	90 days	No
\$WRKDIR/DONOTREMOVE	Temporary data storage.	Incl. in above	Permanent	No
\$TMPDIR ³	Temporary users' files.	-	~2 days	No
Project ¹	Common storage for project members. A project can consist of one or more user accounts.	On request	Permanent	No
HPC Archive ²	Long term storage.	2 TB	Permanent	Yes
IDA ²	Storage and sharing of stable data.	On request	Permanent	No, multiple storage copies

¹: Lustre parallel (³:local) file system in Kajaani ²: iRODS storage system in Espoo

Taito module system

- Tool to set up your environment
 - Load libraries, adjust path, set environment variables
 - Needed on a server with hundreds of applications and several compilers etc.
- Check the module names from <https://research.csc.fi/software>
- In NoMachine some tools with GUI are added to the context menu
- Example: initialize R and RStudio statistics packages

```
$ module load rspatial-env
```

```
$ module load rstudio
```

Batch system

- Has to be used on Taito (not in Taito-shell)
- Optimizes resource usage by filling the server with jobs
- You have to reserve time, cores and memory for your job
- Several queues: parallel, serial, longrun, test and hugemem
- You have to write a batch job script
- <https://research.csc.fi/taito-batch-jobs>



Scientist's User Interface (SUI)

Batch Job Script Wizard

- Create job scripts with easy to use forms
- Save scripts locally or in CSC \$HOME
- Instructions of how to submit and monitor

Batch Job Script Wizard

Host: Application: Level:

Form

General

Job Name:

Shell:

Email Address:

Output

Standard Output File Name:

Standard Error File Name:

Computing Resources

Computing Time:

Number of Cores:

Memory Size:

Script Commands

```
# example run commands
srun ./my_mpi_program
```

Script Result

```
#!/bin/bash -l
# created: Oct 11, 2014 1:59 PM
# author: jsmith
#SBATCH -J myjob
#SBATCH -o out
#SBATCH -e err
#SBATCH -p serial
#SBATCH -n 8
#SBATCH -t 12:00:00
#SBATCH --mail-type=END
#SBATCH --mail-user=jsmith@unknown.edu

# commands to manage the batch script
# submission command
# sbatch [script-file]
# status command
# squeue -u jsmith
# termination command
# scancel [jobid]

# For more information
# man sbatch
# more examples in Taito guide in
# http://research.csc.fi/taito-user-guide

# example run commands
srun ./my_mpi_program

# This script will print some usage statistics to the
# end of file: out
# Use that to improve your resource request estimate
# on later jobs.
used_slurm_resources.bash
```

Save

Reset

Example: steps for running your R script in Taito

(0. Get yourself CSC user account)

1. Move your data and scripts to Taito (with FileZilla).

2. Log in to Taito (with Putty).

3. Open RStudio in Taito-shell with NoMachine.

4. Check which R packages do you need and if they are available in Taito.

* If needed, install it yourself or ask CSC - servicedesk@csc.fi.

5. Fix the paths of your input/output files.

6. Test your script in Taito-shell with some test data.

7. Run your scripts with all data interactively on Taito-shell or in Taito as batch job.

(8. Make use of several cores using snow, foreach or rmpi packages in your R code.)

Example code in CSC training Github

- Spatial analysis, with batch job scripts suitable for Taito.
Examples for serial, array and parallel jobs
 - Python
 - R
- cPouta installation guidelines:
 - PostGIS
 - GeoServer
 - ArcGIS Server for ArcPy

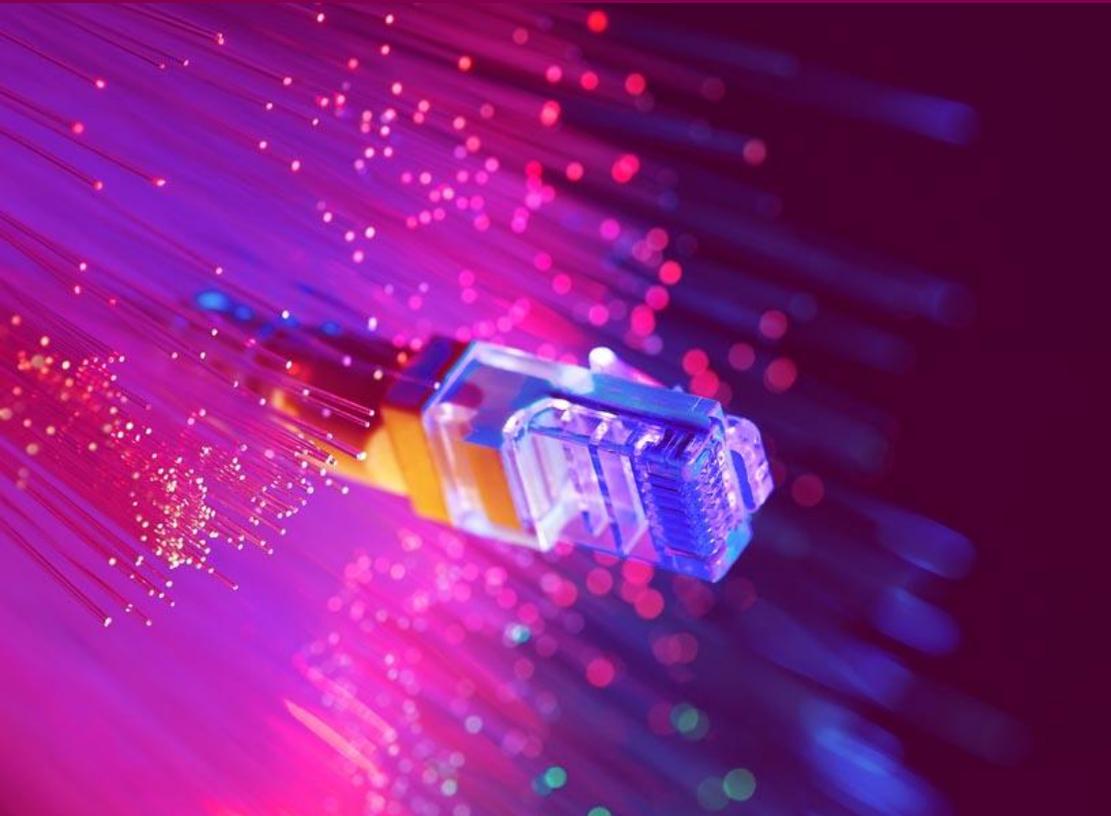
<https://github.com/csc-training/geocomputing>



GIS projects on Taito

- UH/CBIG: Global protected area expansion and conservation prioritization analysis (R, Zonation)
- UH: Weather modelling (R)
- UH: Travelling times (custom code)
- UH: Climate impact on bird populations (R)
- UTU: Forest mapping in the Amazon (R)
- FGI: Catchment area calculations for whole Finland (custom GPU code)
- SYKE: Species modelling in the sea (R)
- LUKE: Several forestry related (Matlab, custom code)

cPouta cloud



Pouta Clouds in general

- Serviced offered by CSC (hardware in Finland)
- True self-service cloud IaaS powered by OpenStack
 - Deploy your own virtual machines, storage and networks as your requirements evolve
 - No proprietary software to limit scalability
- Simple to create and modify virtual resources
 - Choose from Web UI, CLI or RESTful APIs
- Designed to serve scientific as well as other use cases
 - General purpose
 - High Performance Computing
 - Data Intensive Computing
 - Sensitive data



cPouta

- The user is responsible of setting up the virtual machine and has to install everything
- Almost anything is possible
- A lot of freedom, but also more responsibility
- Linux is the default and easy way, but Windows is also available.

KE1

```
cloud-user@workshop-ubuntu16: ~  
login as: cloud-user  
Authenticating with public key "imported-openssh-key"  
Passphrase for key "imported-openssh-key":  
Welcome to Ubuntu 16.04.3 LTS (GNU/Linux 4.4.0-96-generic x86_64)  
  
* Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com  
* Management:    https://landscape.canonical.com  
* Support:       https://ubuntu.com/advantage  
  
Get cloud support with Ubuntu Advantage Cloud Guest:  
http://www.ubuntu.com/business/services/cloud  
  
0 packages can be updated.  
0 updates are security updates.  
  
Last login: Mon Sep 25 03:35:11 2017 from 193.166.85.73  
cloud-user@workshop-ubuntu16:~$
```

KE1

Some more intro here?

Kylli Ek; 11.12.2017

Traditional HPC (Taito) vs. IaaS (cPouta)

	Traditional HPC environment	Cloud environment Virtual Machine
Operating system	Same for all: CSC's cluster OS	Chosen by the user
Software installation	Done by cluster administrators Customers can only install software to their own directories, no administrative rights	Installed by the user The user has admin rights
User accounts	Managed by CSC's user administrator	Managed by the user
Security e.g. software patches	CSC administrators manage the common software and the OS	User has more responsibility: e.g. patching of running machines
Running jobs	Jobs need to be sent via the cluster's Batch Scheduling System (BSS = SLURM in Taito)	The user is free to use or not use a BSS
Environment changes	Changes to SW (libraries, compilers) happen.	The user can decide on versions.
Snapshot of the environment	Not possible	Can save as a Virtual Machine image
Performance	Performs well for a variety of tasks	Very small virtualization overhead for most tasks, heavily I/O bound and MPI tasks affected more

cPouta web interface



Project / Compute / Instances

Instances

Instance Name = Filter [Launch Instance](#) [Delete Instances](#) [More Actions](#)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Instance Name	Image Name	IP Address	Size	Key Pair	Status	Availability Zone	Task	Power State	Time since created	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	workshop_ubuntu16	Ubuntu-16.04	Floating IPs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">192.168.14.6193.166.25.121	standard.tiny	workshopKey	Shutoff	nova	None	Shut Down	4 days, 8 hours	Start Instance

Displaying 1 item

Options for installing software

- From an virtual machine image or Docker container with ready installed software packages
 - for ex. OSGeoLive, opendronemap
- Installing software manually
 - for ex. using apt-get command line
- Scripting tools
 - for ex. Ansible

GIS projects on cPouta

- UH: Driving times (ArcPy -> PostGIS)
- UH: Automating GIS processes course (Pebbles + remote desktop -> Notebooks, JupyterLab)
- UH: GeoServer and PostGIS for course use
- Aalto: Water simulations (MIKE, Windows)
- FGI: Catchment area calculations on the fly (custom code, Leaflet)
- FGI: SNAP+Python for Sentinel image analysis
- FGI: GeoCubes
- Oulu, UEF: Sharing research results with GeoServer
- UTU: Data sharing GeoNode
- UEF: drone image analysis with opendronemap
- Aalto: Spatial analysis with Spark

Object storage

- Used for storing and sharing data / files.
- Included in Pouta projects
- Ready to use (no need to set up a virtual machine)
- Manage via the Pouta Web interface or via API (s3, swift, python...)
- Data can be accessed from anywhere using URL or via API
- Data can be private, public and temporarily shared
- Limitations:
 - Object storage file can not be edited (you can delete and make a new copy)
 - Not suitable for databases
 - Can not (efficiently) be mounted as file system

Rahti

- Platform-as-a-service (based on OpenShift, Red Hat's distribution of Kubernetes)
- Used for running and orchestrating containers that run applications
- Still you need to install your software and pack it as containers
- Same end goal as cPouta: enable end users to run their own software in the cloud
 - web applications
 - APIs/microservices for science
 - Apache Spark
 - Jupyter notebooks
- Compared to Pouta, you don't need to manage virtual machines but you need to manage containers

notebooks.csc.fi

- Easy-to-use environments for working with data and programming.
- Primarily for teaching and course use
- Jupyter notebooks: R, Python, Julia, Spark, Machine learning
- New or coming:
 - JupyterLab
 - Custom containers from Rahti
- Limitations:
 - Time limited (some hours)
 - Data can not be saved
- Login: HAKA + CSC usernames + e-mail invitations

How to choose: Taito, cPouta or Rahti

- Taito:
 - Heavy computing with tools that can be installed to Taito
- cPouta
 - Server software: PostGIS, GeoServer, GeoNode etc
 - Heavy computing with tools that can not be installed to Taito
- Rahti:
 - Launch containerized software as single or distributed applications
 - Can host web based applications
 - For server software and tools that can not be installed to Taito

Accounts

- Using CSC resources is mostly free of charge for university users and research institutes for open research
- HAKA-users can create an account themselves in SUI:
<https://research.csc.fi/accounts-and-projects>
- Research institutes have to ask for account from servicedesk.
- HAKA-users can start using Taito without project with the default quota.
- For cPouta you always need a project.

Billing units

- Each project is given certain amount of so-called billing units (BU).
- On Taito, if you are using batch jobs, the billing is based on actual time used, but on the number of cores and memory reserved.
 - If you need help with estimating your job resource needs, see the seff command from the end of [this page](#) or see the webinar about estimating needed memory: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ThGRZq1G8U>
 - Changing billing project: <https://research.csc.fi/billing-and-monitoring>
 - Project saldo, to see how much BUs you have used: <https://research.csc.fi/saldo>
- In cPouta, billing is based on virtual machine size/type and its life time.
- You can ask for more quota, if you need.

Support

CSC service desk:

servicedesk@csc.fi

Add giscoord@csc.fi as cc, for a little bit faster reply.

- Help
- Installation requests
- [Code optimization](#)

Guidelines and news

- Guidelines

<https://research.csc.fi/geocomputing>

- GIS@CSC news

- GIS@CSC e-mail list: gis-hpc

<http://research.csc.fi/gis-csc-news>



Contact

<http://research.csc.fi/geosciences>

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