Getting Started

SEAS Computing has migrated much of HPC hardware to FAS Research Computing (FASRC). The remaining hardware is in "maintenance mode" and will be phased out. New users should obtain a FAS RC account by visiting https://rc.fas.harvard.edu.

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Steps to Connecting

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<tr>
<td><a href="http://apply.seas.harvard.edu">http://apply.seas.harvard.edu</a></td>
<td>to request a SEAS account. Please include your course number if appropriate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="https://password.seas.harvard.edu">https://password.seas.harvard.edu</a></td>
<td>to change your SEAS password. Email <a href="mailto:help@seas.harvard.edu">help@seas.harvard.edu</a> if you have forgotten your password and need it reset.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="https://vpn.fas.harvard.edu">https://vpn.fas.harvard.edu</a></td>
<td>password-based authentication to SEAS is only possible when you are on the FAS VPN. Use your HUID and PIN to connect to the VPN.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ssh://login.seas.harvard.edu</td>
<td>you must be on the VPN for username/password authentication, otherwise you must have ssh key based authentication setup. See details below if you don't have ssh keys or if you haven't used ssh before.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scp -r ~/.ssh login.seas.harvard.edu:</td>
<td>Copy your ssh keys to your .ssh directory on login.seas. This must be done over the VPN. Make sure your private key is in the .ssh/authorized_keys file.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:help@seas.harvard.edu">help@seas.harvard.edu</a>, <a href="http://www.nomachine.com">http://www.nomachine.com</a></td>
<td>If you need a graphical remote desktop, email help with your SEAS username, email address, reason for access, and faculty or staff sponsor. Download the remote desktop client from NX: <a href="http://www.nomachine.com">http://www.nomachine.com</a>. Note: This is being phased out. Please obtain a FAS RC account (<a href="https://rc.fas.harvard.edu">https://rc.fas.harvard.edu</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://code.seas.harvard.edu">http://code.seas.harvard.edu</a></td>
<td>Git-based code repository (public and private).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Using LINUX

LINUX has quickly become the predominant OS used in HPC systems, and almost all of our clusters are LINUX based. Thus a very basic knowledge of LINUX is a prerequisite for computing on SEAS resources.

Take a look at the following links for pointers:

- Introduction to LINUX
- LINUX command line tutorial
- LINUX Command reference
- Secure Shell (SSH) Tutorial
- "The Ultimate Linux Guide"

SSH Access to Systems

In order to allow wider network access to HPC systems, but to assure that this access does not entice hackers, we are migrating to SSH key based access only to HPC systems. This means that you cannot use your SEAS login password for access, but instead must setup SSH key based access to our systems.

While this introduces an initial extra hurdle to logging in, it dramatically increases security, and allows these hosts to be network accessible to a larger community.

Password-based access is still available on the SEAS login server

- login.seas.harvard.edu

and this host can be used to install a public SSH key initially; however, once your ssh keys are setup, you can log directly into the desired HPC system.

For users on systems with isolated home directories or who cannot connect to login.seas.harvard.edu for any reason, email achelp@seas.harvard.edu with your public key and we’ll be happy to install it for you.

For a general overview regarding connectivity from various platforms, please see here. Please refer to this HOWTO for specific details on setting up ssh key based access to HPC, and other SEAS systems.