
Setting Up Computer Accounts

- The Dept. of Statistics operates Windows & Linux systems.
- You will need a computer account for both systems (same username).
- To request a computer fill out a *Computer Account Application* and hand it in to us.
- Possible usernames are: first name, last name, first initial + last name or nickname.

E-Mail

- Your email: username@stat.tamu.edu
- Web based email access:
 - <http://www.stat.tamu.edu/mail>
- Mail clients & protocols
 - Almost any mail client can be made to work
 - Outlook, Thunderbird, Pine, etc.
 - Client must support secure IMAP (preferred) or POP
- Setup home email clients
 - Use VPN (discuss later)
 - Without VPN (little tricky):
 - Use local ISP mail server to send email.
 - Ask us for help!

Neo / NetID

- The University email system is called NEO
- NetID is used to login to NEO, VPN, Modems, and many other university computing resources.
- To access NEO and activate a NetID:
 - <http://neo.tamu.edu/>
 - Make sure your Directory Information is up-to-date.
 - You cannot forward your email from Neo to stat... so you need to regularly check you Neo account.

Computer Access

- Linux and Windows system available in grad student labs for student use.
- Many offices have a system for general use.
- Many students bring their own computers.
 - If there is a physical network drop available then you may be able to use it for your system.
 - Otherwise you can use wireless access (not available everywhere).
- Faculty sometimes provide computers for students to use.

Computer Access (cont)

- Requirements to use our network:
 - We must setup networking for the computer to work. See Jay or Dustin in office 416.
 - Do not unplug an existing system in order to use their network drop (even temporarily).
 - You must have an up to date virus checker on your system.
 - Your system must be patched and regularly updated.
 - If we tell you to unplug your system, do so!
- Operating Systems:
 - Windows: Windows XP (strongly recommended)
 - Linux: Suse 10.0 / 10.2 & Redhat Advanced Server

Modem / Broadband

- Modem access is available.
 - <http://cis.tamu.edu/networking/internetConnection.php>
 - You will need a NetID to use the modem bank.
- Broadband
 - Cable modem (Cox): 4Mbs/512Kbs
 - DSL (Verizon): 3Mbs/768Kbs, 768Kbs/128Kbs
- Most departmental computer system cannot be accessed from outside of A&M due to the Texas A&M campus firewall.
- ...unless you use VPN.

VPN / Wireless

- VPN (Virtual private Network)
 - Access University/Departmental Computers from outside of Texas A&M (except public resources such as web sites).
 - Access Campus Wireless networks.
 - Download VPN and setup instructions:
<http://www.net.tamu.edu/network/vpn.html>
 - A NetID is required to access the VPN resource.
- Campus Wireless
 - Two wireless access points in our department (not complete coverage everywhere).
 - Available in many locations such as the library.

Software

- Some software is available for free or discounted prices to students.
- Software cannot be installed on Dept. computers.
- <http://software.tamu.edu> (NetID)
 - McAfee/Virex for Windows/Mac [free].
 - Frontpage 2002/2003 for Windows [\$5].
 - Sharepoint 2007 Designer [\$15]
 - Office 2007 Enterprise for Windows [\$20].
 - Office X and 2004 for Mac [\$5].
 - SPSS 11.0.3/13 for Mac/Windows [\$30].
 - Visual Studio .NET Pro 2002/2003/2005 [\$20].
 - Windows Vista Ultimate Upgrade [\$20].
 - Windows XP Pro Upgrade [\$10].

Statistical Software

- Software for your *personal* PC
 - SPSS (<http://software.tamu.edu>) [\$30].
 - Minitab (<http://sellsoftware.tamu.edu>) [\$39.50].
 - SAS (see us, you must fill out a form) [free].
 - R (<http://www.r-project.org>) [free].
 - Note: Do not install on Departmental PC's.
- Available for use in our Department
 - Linux: Matlab, Splus, Stata, R, Mathematica, Maple, Octave, SAS.
 - Windows: R, Minitab, SAS (limited), SPSS (limited)

Linux System

- Logins
 - from Linux lab (graphical)
 - NX (must use version 2.1!)
 - <http://www.stat.tamu.edu/~henrik/NX>
 - putty (text based login)
 - Google search: “putty”
 - VNC server
 - <http://www.tightvnc.com> (XP, etc.)
 - <http://www.realvnc.com> (Vista)

Linux System

- Systems
 - NX servers: s0, s1 (no VPN, or outside TAMU).
 - NX Servers: s2, s3, s4, s5, s6, s9 (VPN, or inside TAMU)
 - Simulation systems: s7, s8, s9
 - Do not use faculty/other systems without permission
- Remote logins
 - SSH (from Linux use the command 'ssh s1')
 - Graphics transparency.
- Checking out system:
 - top
 - cat /proc/cpuinfo

Linux System

- Simulations
 - Size versus length
 - Simulations of any length OK, but caveats:
 - System do go down. Make simulations able to start/stop!
 - If simulations are very long (> many days) let me know.
 - Simulations may not be too large (size as in memory foot print).
 - Monitor size using the 'top' command
 - If using > half RAM the simulation may be killed.

Linux System

- Simulations (cont)
 - Multiple simulations:
 - Running multiple simulations on different systems is OK
 - Do not run multiple simulations on the same system
 - Use shell scripts to run many simulations sequentially
 - Some software restricted due to limited licenses
 - Multiple matlab simulations will be killed!
 - Simulations must run in the background!
 - Any simulation can be run in the background.
 - Learn in class how to do it... (I hope)
 - R CMD BATCH; matlab_batch
 - sim < in > out & ; octave? ; etc.
 - Check documentation or check with us.

Linux / Windows System

- Transferring files
 - drive U: on windows maps to your Linux files
 - drive H: maps to your files on the Windows server
 - WinSCP can be used to transfer files between Windows & Linux systems.
 - <http://winscp.net/eng/index.php>
- Remote (outside of A&M) access
 - Use VPN to gain access to an any public Linux system.
 - Use 'ssh.stat.tamu.edu' without VPN
 - Transfer files to/from remote to Linux system
 - Login remotely using putty or other SSH client.
 - VNC, NX

Printers & Printing

- Public printers:
 - hp1, hp2, hp3, hp4, hp5, hp6, hp7, hp8, hpc
- All grad student have a printing quota.
 - 700 pages for fall semester.
 - Request more by going to Dr. Longnecker.
 - Check quota (note \$70.00 = 700 pages):
 - <http://www.stat.tamu.edu/printer>
 - Will be implemented: Desktop icon print quota.
 - Do not print other users material on your print quota.

Media

- Projector for local presentations
 - (ie. defense, exams, etc.)
- Laptops for local presentations.
 - Give us at least one week notice.
- Make sure you reserve the room you plan on using.
 - See/email Shou-Fen Less (sflee@stat.tamu.edu) in the front office.
- We do not have projectors/laptop for long term checkout.

Computer Support

- Three IT support personnel:
 - Henrik Schmiediche (416E)
 - Steve Shoemake (416F)
 - Janitha Karunaratne [Jay] (416)
 - Dustin Talk (416)
- Send all requests for support to
 - support@stat.tamu.edu
- We provide limited help with personal systems (mostly networking & some install)