Mike Wallis - IS Research Services - 2022/23

# Introduction to RSS

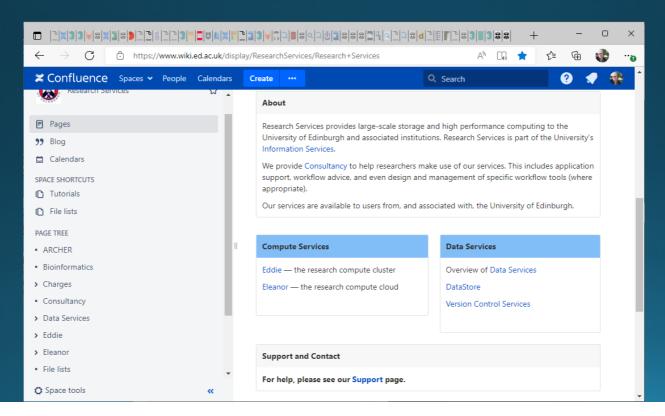
CERSE, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023

# What is Research Computing?

- Doing anything that involves computers and research.
  - Stats
  - Visualisation
  - Image manipulation
  - Data entry and recording
  - Training programs and diet plans
  - Writing code to do things
  - Metanalysis
  - ...all kinds of things.
  - If users use a computer for research they can talk to us for help

#### The RSS Wiki

https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/ResearchServices



## What I'm going to talk about

- Storage options (datastore)
- High-performance/throughput compute (eddie)
- Virtual machines (eleanor)

## What we offer for storage

- DataStore
- DataSync
- DataShare
- DataVault
- Version control systems
- Eddie parallel filesystem storage

#### Why use Datastore?

- Accessible from anywhere on campus
- Resilient, backed up
- Free for majority of users
- Group space access managed by AD
- 500Gb quota for research staff

It is not encrypted at rest; for sensitive data we do suggest encrypting on disk.

## Why use DataSync?

- Available off-site
- Resilient
- Free at point of use
- Collaborative with external partners
- Can create shares with password/limited time expiry
- Secure transfer

# Eddie – HPC/HTC for UoE research



#### What is Eddie?

- Supercomputers can be very specialised hardware (eg Cray) or offthe shelf components
- Clever low latency networks
- Very fast shared (parallel) storage
- Lots of CPUs
- Lots of RAM
- Energy dense

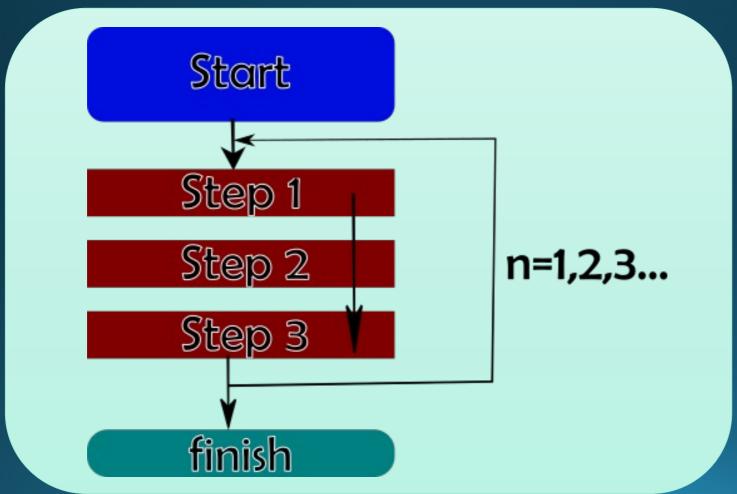
#### Eddie

- 3<sup>rd</sup> generation: joint procurement between The University, IGMM, Roslin Institute and others
- Accessible by any researcher in The University
- Free at point of use
- ~400 nodes, ~11000 cores, ~110TB total RAM
- Workloads are scheduled to run when resources are available
- Eddie uses the Linux operating system (Scientific Linux 7.x)
- Quickstart: <a href="https://edin.ac/38C3pxd">https://edin.ac/38C3pxd</a>

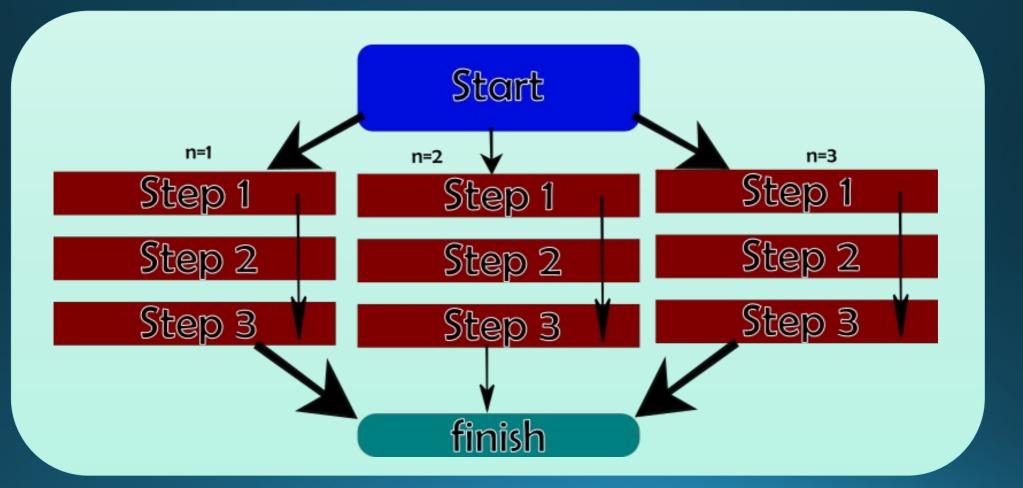
# Why use Eddie?

Laptop Desktop Workstation Local HPC Eddie National service (ARCHER) International service (CERN)

# Serial processing



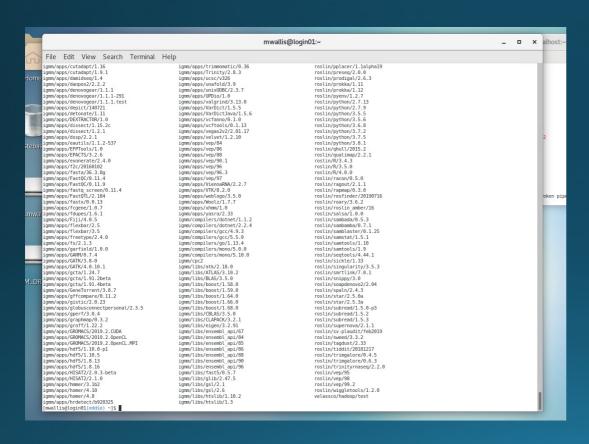
# Parallel processing



#### Linux

- Understanding Linux is a highly recommended prerequisite for using Eddie
- Software Carpentry provides an online Linux course: <a href="http://swcarpentry.github.io/shell-novice/">http://swcarpentry.github.io/shell-novice/</a>
   <a href="http://swcarpentry.github.io/shell-novice/">(at a minimum, be familiar with lessons 1,2,3 & 6)</a>
- Research Services will do in-person Eddie training in the future, and are working on digital training on Learn

#### Pre-installed applications



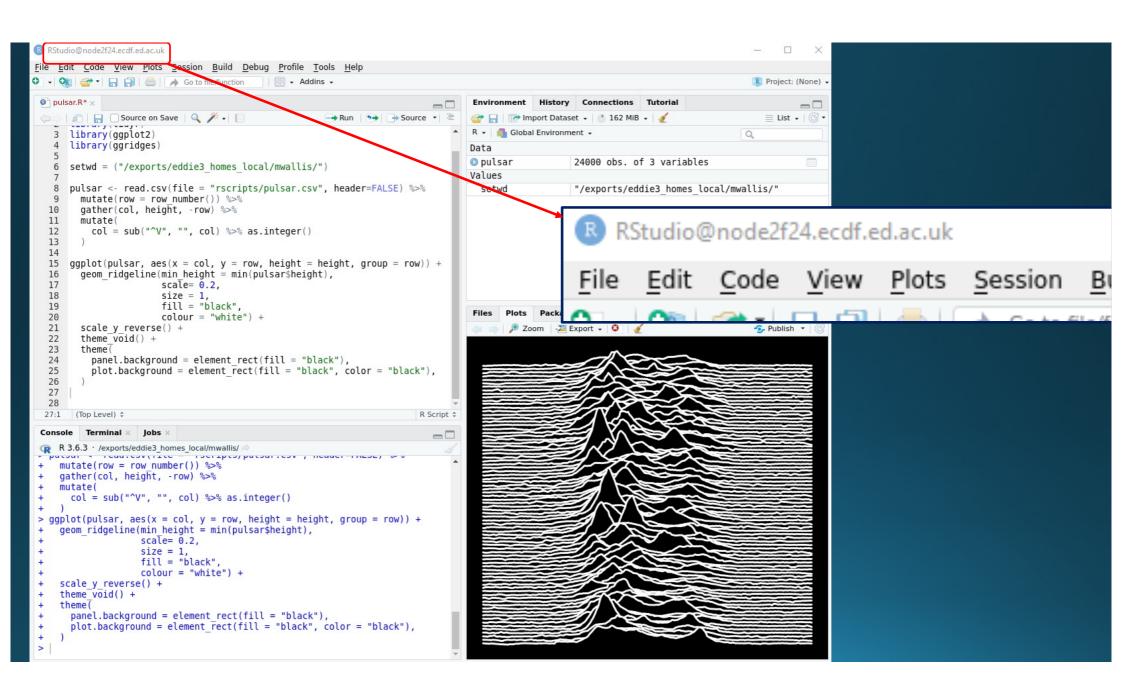
- module avail will show you everything
- Some applications are installed by RSS
- Some are installed by local communities
- Very good chance that what you want is already there
- You can also install your own applications into user space
- First point of call if you think your application should be a module is your local IT service

# Batch processing

- Asynchronous workload
- Ability to submit thousands of jobs at the same time
- Great for montecarlo simulations
- Simple parallelisation
- Lots of RAM

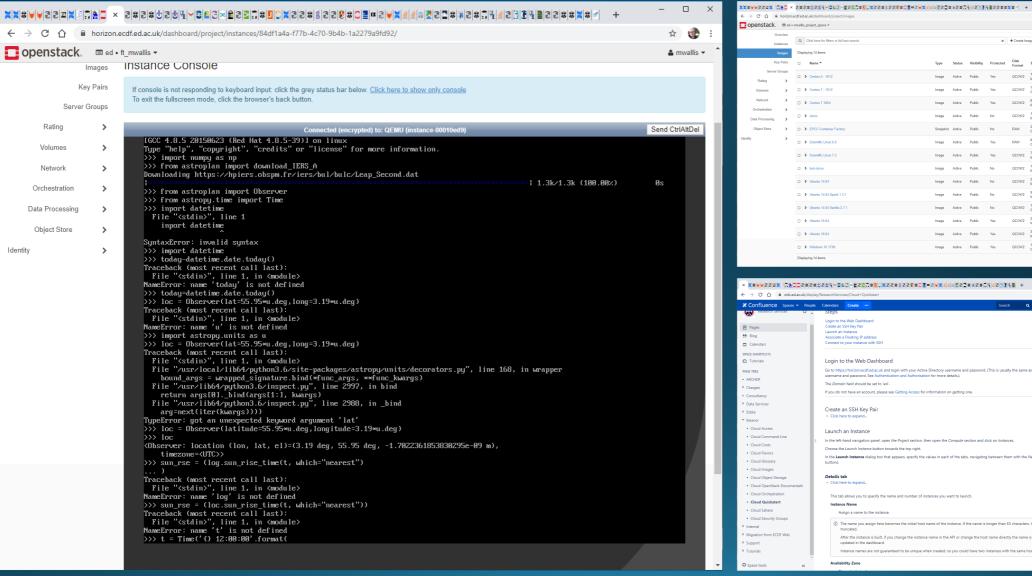
#### Interactive sessions

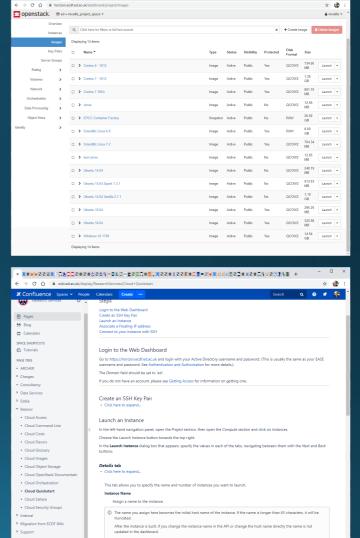
- Prototyping
- Jupyter
- Rstudio
- Watching time-step processes in real time
- qlogin -l h\_rt=04:00:00,h\_vmem=8G



#### Eleanor

- Sandbox virtual environment
- Low cost
- Simple interface
- Great for experimenting
- Quickstart: <a href="https://edin.ac/39Hylfq">https://edin.ac/39Hylfq</a>





Availability Zone

## Why use Eleanor?



#### Sandbox

Just testing a theory before scaling up



#### Application server

• Don't want to run a webserver on your laptop?



#### It's your machine

And it's a VM! Break something?
 Delete it & start over!

#### And so much more!

#### Available resources

- GPUs\* on both Eddie and Eleanor
- Eddie: ooo's of cores, TB of RAM, Pb of storage
  - Scaleable, inexpensive (or free) for compute
- Eleanor: 16 cores, 96Gb of RAM, Tb of storage
  - Sandbox, expandable, (slightly) chargeable
- DataStore, DataSync, DataVault, Secure Storage
  - Shared resilient storage; external collab; archive; special circs
  - Accessible anywhere on campus
- Version control service
  - SVN and GitLab

## Plan your research compute needs

- Have ideas!
- Talk to us about your ideas!
- We can offer advice, support and training
- ...we cannot run your services for you (so think about this!)
- Use the free tier to test as much as you like
- Paid for when you need serious resources
- Remember to have a data management plan
- Think about your application as a publishable resource

#### Summary

- You create data (so have a plan!)
- Your workload will get bigger than your laptop
- The University has services you can use
- ...and people to help you use them

# Help and support

- https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/ResearchServices
- is.helpline@ed.ac.uk