

SISSA
reference card

October 14, 2004

This card is meant to be a quick reference of site-specific information for all Linux users at SISSA. It is assumed that you have at least a basic (user) knowledge of modern operating systems (Unix/Linux and/or Windows) and of Internet services (email, FTP, WWW)

This is not meant to be a manual, not even an introductory one, and it should not be used outside SISSA, since provided information would be of no use in any other computing environment.

As of this writing, most servers and all Linux workstations run Red Hat Linux.

You need to open an account to use computing resources at SISSA, and remember to renew it when it expires – this can be done as long as you directly or indirectly work with SISSA. The account will be usable for a month after expiration date, to allow you to save your data; it will then be removed. Accounts of periodical visitors are frozen at departure and re-enabled at return.

The use of your account is subject to the laws of the Italian Republic, as well as to the GARR network (italian universities network) networking policies. See <http://www.garr.it/docs/garr-aup-00-engl.shtml>.

It is strictly forbidden to «share» your account with other people.

The Ten Commandments for Computer Ethics

(see <http://wise.fau.edu/netiquette/net/ten.html>)

1. Thou shalt not use a computer to harm other people.
2. Thou shalt not interfere with other people's computer work.
3. Thou shalt not snoop around in other people's files.
4. Thou shalt not use a computer to steal.
5. Thou shalt not use a computer to bear false witness.
6. Thou shalt not use or copy software for which you have not paid.
7. Thou shalt not use other people's computer resources without authorization.
8. Thou shalt not appropriate other people's intellectual output.
9. Thou shalt think about the social consequences of the program you write.
10. Thou shalt use a computer in ways that show consideration and respect.

Also remember:

it is hard to make a computer or network more secure – and that's not your job –, but it is quite easy to make it insecure – and there is much you can do about it.

Using weak passwords, communicating over unencrypted links, «sharing» your account may severely compromise the overall network security.

Remote access

Access servers shared among all groups are usually referred to as the *main cluster*. The preferred address to connect to from outside is `shannon.sissa.it`. Please use `ssh` for both incoming and outgoing remote connections.

When logged into `shannon` you have access to the main storage, to mail folders and to various general-purpose software (editors, Netscape Navigator, Acrobat Reader, pine, LaTeX and related programs, a2ps, ImageMagick, xfig, ...). You are limited to 7200 seconds (2 hours) of cpu time (per session); this should not be an actual limiting factor since `shannon` is **not** a calculus machine.

Mobile computers

Mobile computers can be connected to SISSA network, provided they have DHCP support enabled. Simply plugging in an ethernet cable should be enough to be fully connected to SISSA network.

E-Mail

E-mail service is provided by `mail.sissa.it` (SMTP, POP3, IMAP). Both incoming and outgoing mail is scanned for viruses and filtered for spam.

Your mail address at SISSA is `<your-username>@sisssa.it`; webmail access is provided at `https://webmail.sissa.it/`.

Printers

Several network printers are available for general use:

printer name	location	
pst	ground floor	
ps12	1st floor	
pscc	1st floor	<i>color printer</i>
ps22	2nd floor	
psc	2nd floor	<i>color printer</i>
psbv	Bellavista Building	
psnb1		
psnb2	«new» building	
psnb3		

Printers can be accessed only via the main spooler `spooler.sissa.it` (Unix LPD queue). You can view the print queue via `www` at the url `http://spooler.sissa.it/`. Printing defaults to duplex where available. More print options are available using the `xpp` command on `shannon`. All printers use *A4* paper.

Please note that all print jobs are logged.

Backup

Daily backups are kept for home directories. Please ask for file restore only if **really** needed and be as specific as possible in your request (i.e. provide complete file or directory path and date for which restore is requested).

WWW

It is increasingly important that you configure your browser to use SISSA web proxy, being bandwidth a tightly limited resource.

A proxy autoconfiguration file is provided at <http://proxy.sissa.it/cgi-bin/proxy.pac>; this will provide redundancy and load balancing. Use proxy.sissa.it directly *only* if your browser cannot understand the `proxy.pac`.

Resources

The SISSA home page is <http://www.sissa.it/>; you will find information about research activities, people and events.

You can search the phonebook at <http://www.sissa.it/phone/> and browse the library catalogue at <http://ntlib.sissa.it/webif/>

Staff addresses and working hours can be found at <http://www.sissa.it/comp/comp-staff/index.html>. Please follow the provided guidelines when contacting them.

A longer –but still introductory– manual is available in printed form, as well as on-line at <http://www.sissa.it/comp/online-manuals/>. You can find several other manuals at the same location.

If you are interested in number crunching and numerical simulations, see <http://democritos.sissa.it/>.