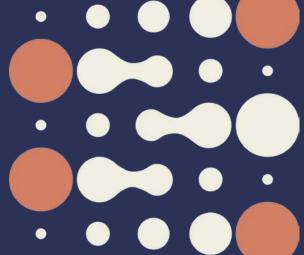
IARC Scientific Council SC/61

Item 9: Request for support from the governing council special fund: computing infrastructure for the IARC Scientific IT platform

Nicolas Tardy, infrastructure manager (ITS)

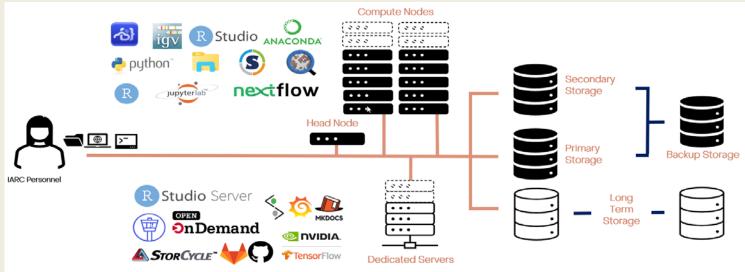
International Agency for Research on Cancer







The IARC Scientific IT Platform

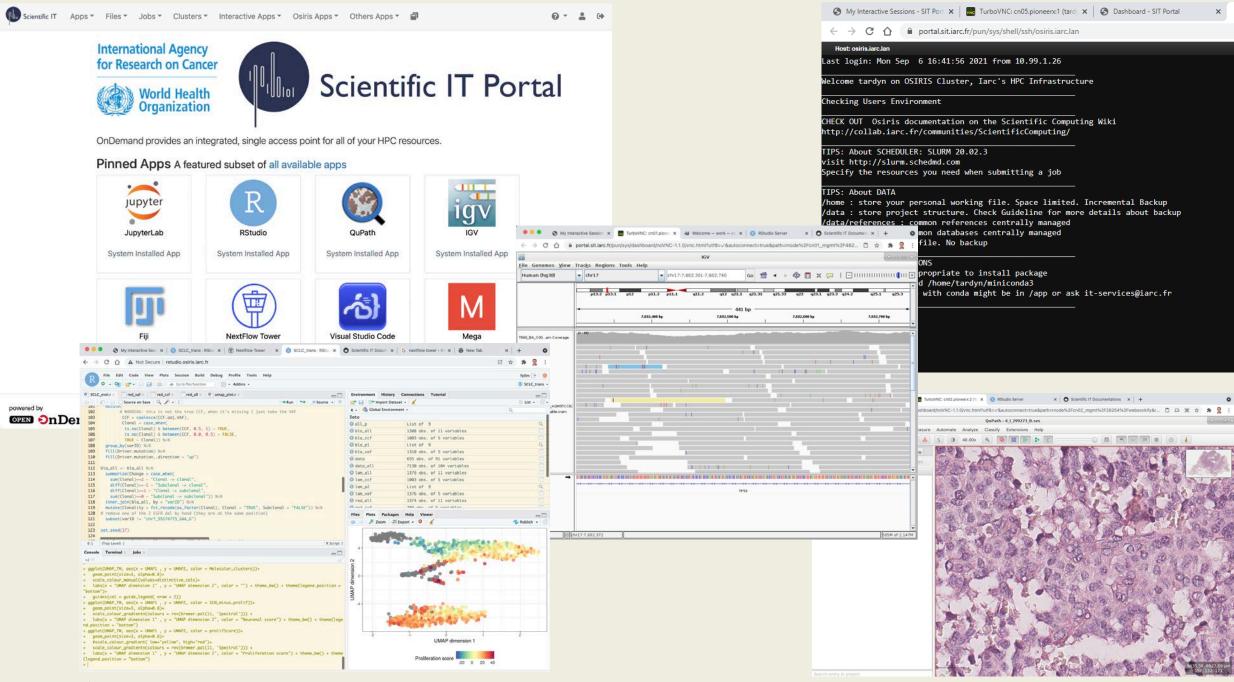


Purpose:

- Centralized infrastructure, cost-effective, for storing and analyzing scientific data.
- Ensures secure, high-performance computing resources aligned with worldwide data protection standards.
- A key resource for collaborative, data-centric cancer research and open-science initiatives.

Strategic Importance:

- Enables efficient handling of complex datasets for cancer research.
- Promotes interdisciplinary collaboration and open-science initiatives.
- Supports the IARC Medium-Term Strategy (MTS).



History and future plans



Phase 1

Provide all IARC personnel with a best-in-class Scientific IT platform

- + User-friendly web portal
- + Foundations to allow access to external collaborators (legal administrative, technical)
- + Data Protection Policy, Data Use Agreement

Phase 2

Roll out the Scientific IT platform to external collaborators

- + Analysis tools adapted to data protection needs
- + Generalize internal use
- + Develop management tool and financial model

Phase 3

Make IARC a **global Open-Data hub** for cancer research

- + Support open-science vision
- + IARC data catalog/portal/ROPA
- + Democratizing access to IARC resources (participating states, LMICs)
- + Attract external collaborations
- + Measurable impact (publications, citations, funding)

Continuous capacity & performance increase following demand / equipment renewal



Current Source of Concerns

End of Life for Current Servers

- Servers are eight years old and reaching the end of their lifecycle.
- No longer covered by warranty, increasing the risk of unavailability due to hardware failures.

Capacity to Meet Growing Needs

- Rising computational demands from research activities.
- Current infrastructure struggles to scale with growth.

Upcoming Challenge

- Budget and funding approvals
- Ensure scalability to meet future research demands
- Procure and integrate new High-Performance Computing while minimizing disruption during the transition phase

Funding request and proposal

Request: €250 000 from the Governing Council Special Fund.

Proposed Investment:

- New computing servers totaling 2000 compute cores, 15 TB RAM, and 25 GBps network.
- Including some high-performance graphics processing units (GPU) for artificial intelligence research.
- Supporting infrastructure: network, power supply, and maintenance (five years).

Sustainability Plan:

Ongoing development of a cost-recovery system for long-term operational support.

Why it matters:

- Ensures continuity and scalability of a critical research platform.
- Aligns with IARC's goals for open science, collaboration, and high-quality research.