

Cloud Computing and the Humanities

National eResearch Collaboration Tools and Resources

We are providing a **free** cloud computing offering for Australian Researchers, including the humanities.



What is Cloud Computing, NeCTAR?

Cloud Computing enables ubiquitous, convenient, self-service access to a shared pool of computing resources. Using virtualisation technology, researchers can create servers with broad network access on demand, when they need them.

NeCTAR is an Australian Government Project to build new infrastructure, specifically for the needs of Australian Researchers. The Research Cloud is one of NeCTAR's programmes.

Collaboration

Researchers can use the cloud for working with others.

Cloud users can install anything they want – It's simple to set up a wiki, blog, survey or any web based service. Virtual Machines have a Public IP address, so they're accessible from the world – even to colleagues overseas.

Users can re-use existing tools from the cloud community – our cloud is designed to be compatible with other commercial and open-source clouds.

In addition to a support desk, a community forum has been established to enable users to interact and share experiences and tools. The cloud is responsive to the unique needs of researchers and feedback translates more quickly into action than would otherwise occur.

The infrastructure is large scale and will 20,000 cores before completion, meaning there is sufficient capacity to perform even complex analysis tasks.

Interested?

Try it now, no approval needed, merely login using your institutional username and password.

<http://www.nectar.org.au>

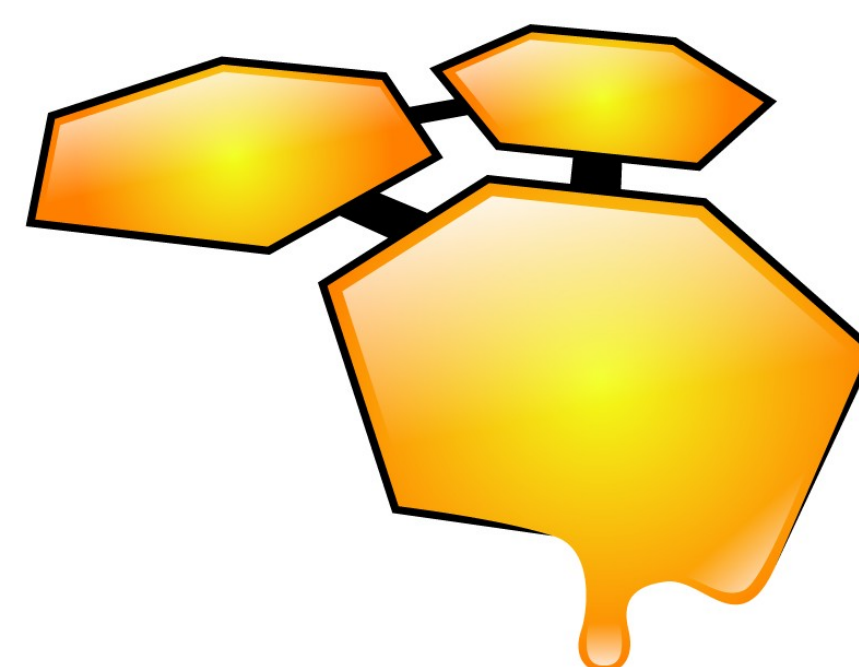
The screenshot shows the NeCTAR User Dashboard. The top navigation bar includes the NeCTAR logo, 'USER DASHBOARD', a 'Help' button, and a dropdown menu. The left sidebar lists navigation options: Manage Compute, Overview, Credentials, Instances, Images, Snapshots, Keypairs, Security Groups, and Allocation Request. The main content area is titled 'Overview' and displays three summary cards: CPU (18 Cores Active, 3401.6 CPU-HR Used), RAM (72.0 GB Active), and Disk (540 GB Active, 102049.0 GB-HR Used). Below these is a 'Server Usage Summary' table with a 'Download CSV' link.

ID	Name	User	VCPU's	Ram Size	Disk Size	Flavor	Uptime	Status
2103	demo_02		1	4GB	30GB	m1.small	23 hours, 12 minutes	Active
2104	dev-master-dashboard		1	4GB	30GB	m1.small	23 hours, 5 minutes	Active
2173	devstack_diablo		1	4GB	30GB	m1.small	6 hours, 59 minutes	Active

An example from the humanities

The cloud can be used for linking or hosting databases

HuNI is planning to use the research cloud for hosting tools and example projects that make it simple to query over 25 different humanities databases. This enables researchers from around the country to find information for their own research, and create a virtual collection that can add to, annotate, publish and share.



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