Computing Etiquette

Running Desktop Applications

Do...
1. Keep deskXX servers reserved for thin-client sessions only.
2. Run Firefox, Thunderbird, OpenOffice, other desktop productivity applications on deskXX
3. Use R, Matlab, SAS and other Statistical software for short-running jobs (no more than an hour or so).
4. Log into thin-clients using 'best-statdesk’ and not to a specific deskXX. This keeps the user load balanced across all computers for everyone's benefit.

Do Not...
1. Run week long R simulations on deskXX servers.
2. Fill up /scratch or /tmp on the servers local hard disk.
3. Start desktop applications or thin-client sessions on computation servers such as bigmemXX
4. Leave desktop applications running over night.

When Using Computation Servers

Do...
1. Use bigmem01, bigmem02, bigmem03, and bigmem04. Or utilize your advisor's private computation machines.
2. Log into computation servers via SSH from deskXX or your own computer in order to preserve processors for computation rather than running linux desktop sessions.
3. Run 'top' command or visit https://www.stat.wisc.edu/systems_reports (requires NetID log in) to see how much CPU and memory are available BEFORE you launch your job. If the load average is 48 and there are 48 processors on the server, then it is full. To see the number of processors run 'cat /proc/cpuinfo'.
4. Notify the Statlab (lab@stat.wisc.edu) if you are going to run many parallel jobs for a very long time.
5. Be courteous to your fellow students and faculty who are finishing jobs in order to produce papers and meet deadlines that may be more strict than yours. Communicate with your peers.

Do Not...
1. Overload computation servers. If the load average is greater than the number of processors, everyone's jobs will slow considerably. The Statlab will terminate offending jobs.
2. Leave unnecessary data in /scratch or /tmp. Remove any data once it is no longer needed to make room for other data sets. See the lab if you have data needs.
3. Insist on using the same computation server each time. Instead try using best-bigmem for single processing jobs.

Printing

Do Not....
1. Do not print many copies of the same thing. Instead, print one copy and then use the copy machine in room 1224.
2. Do not print 200+ page pdfs or books. Use a service such as Bob's Copy Shop.