Connecting to the clusters

Prerequisites to connect to SCITAS clusters:

- A valid EPFL GASPAR account
- An approved SCITAS account
- The client computer needs to be inside the EPFL network, or the user should establish a VPN connection

Step-by-step guide

1. Log to a cluster using your GASPAR username and password as follows:

   ```bash
   ssh -X <myusername>@<mypreferedcluster>.epfl.ch
   ```

2. Once logged in, you have access to your home directory at `/home/<username>`. Your home directory is the same on all SCITAS clusters, and is limited by a quota of 100GB per user. Home files are backed up every night. This means that important files like source code, consolidated simulation results, etc should go here.

3. On each cluster, you have also access to a private scratch directory at `/scratch/<username>`. Scratch file systems are local to each cluster and are fast. This is typically where raw results, checkpoints, large temporary datasets will go. Scratch files are not backed up and files older than two weeks are subject to automatic deletion by a daily cleanup procedure.

Errors

**WARNING: REMOTE HOST IDENTIFICATION HAS CHANGED!**

A SSH server is identified by a key which is used to derive the security of the connection. A fingerprint of the key is kept on the SSH client at the first login and compared at every consequent logins. If the key changes after some time, the SSH client refuses to connect and you see this error. It's required from you that you check that the server you're connecting to is legit and you're not being hacked. Usually it means contacting the server administrator to ask for the new key fingerprint. You can then proceed by removing the old offending key from your `~/.ssh/known_hosts` file and connect again. You'll be asked to accept the new key fingerprint.

Check the current fingerprint, against the list you can find below:
ssh-keygen -F fidis.epfl.ch -l

If the fingerprint doesn't match, remove the offending key (in this example for fidis.epfl.ch):

ssh-keygen -R fidis.epfl.ch

Here's the list of fingerprints for our cluster frontends:

**fidis.epfl.ch**

  - WoLq217XsvxsFSUSUL08Puh:05SVIHJzrFRSq+ZH7c (DSA)
  - fyShenbrju5yPfCNP3NgwKwXer8q8h6GgbL1bBb7kc (ECDSA)
  - 4j14dnKvzhH/51kYm

**fd1.epfl.ch**

  - 9C8B1rZjhhSapKj8tqZhrOf6f6T2EC7wctgVLVY (ECDSA)
  - aECki30oGo+FwapmKGXb4nclyDrnWbwGMc8D0n0Y (ED25519)
  - T4wshurmNxme/uz2qTx16SNP040Q/Nevm/03o1xh

**helvetios.epfl.ch**

  - w4E4spZNAaM919FR7ztPnP9PbMG9hANDR30HNIFL1VY (DSA)
- **MD5**: 5e:7:5:3:7:8:8:8:e:6:e:3:3:ba:8:5:0:4:3:7:0:7 (ECDSA) SHA256:
  - bC9e1lG6Ojo+FvpmMKXvb4n3lyDrnWbwGMYc8D0n0Y (ED25519)
  - bJ7bx58jn1nE+KCGv9t1VFXoTwbtw3nG1nSmn0Y (ED25519)
  - 9UcxgL54YHlWNLIXpFzP2rQPMn3D2tgYxxyo4oEkJ0gC (RSA)

**izar.epfl.ch**

  - 80C85Sb7oX78t0Qhr0f6f6T2EC7wctgVLVY (SHA256)
  - 80C85Sb7oX78t0Qhr0f6f6T2EC7wctgVLVY (SHA256)
- **MD5**: 01:1:1:7:1:1:2:8:6:4:2:8:3 (RSA) SHA256:
  - b3G3l41kHqS4a56Q3x207yXKxysPqT35jK9w3 (RSA)

**Related articles**

- FAQ
- Using the clusters
- Connecting to the clusters
How to configure PuTTY SSH to transfer files to Cluster from Windows

First steps on the clusters

Note

If you are already connected to a machine, you can check the host keys using this (you need to be root):

```
for i in $(ls /etc/ssh/ssh_host*_key); do
    ssh-keygen -l -E MD5 -f $i | tr \n " \\
    ssh-keygen -l -E SHA256 -f $i
done | awk '{print $2, $4, $6, $8}' | column -t
```