

Computer and Network system at RCNP

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In its second year of operation, the computer and network system at RCNP is working without major problem. The following figures show the status for the use of the computer system. The number of users, or issued computer accounts, is shown in the left panel of Fig. 1. In the current system, user accounts are valid

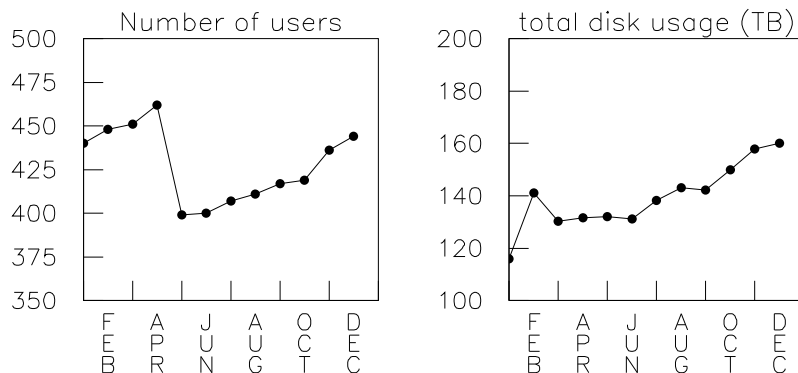


Figure 1: Number of user accounts (left) and total disk usage (right).

through the end of March and about 70 inactive accounts were removed in May. The overall number of users is as same as the previous year. As shown in the right panel of Fig. 1, the total disk usage is gradually increasing. The status for the batch node is summarized in Fig. 2.

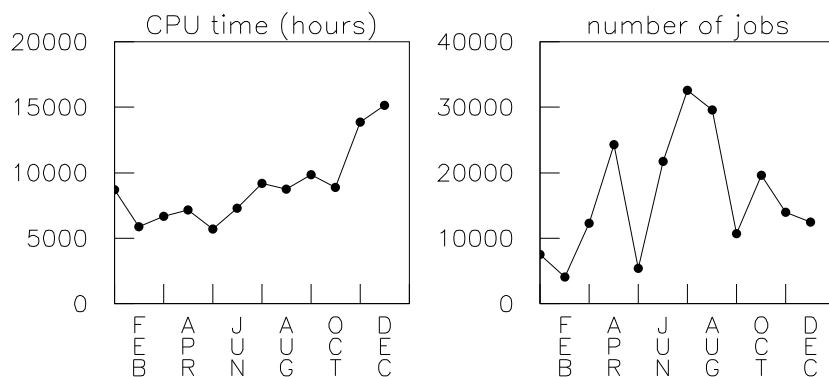


Figure 2: Usage of the batch node. Total CPU time (left) and number of jobs (right) per month are shown.

The Computer and Network group has been working for improving convenience for the users. The followings are a few examples. We introduced the Greylisting method to our mail server. It is blocking significant amount of spam mails (unsolicited bulk e-mails). The “General Purpose segment” network was extended to two rooms in the RI building at RCNP and two offices for the LEPS group at SPring-8. For the public-use PC at the 4th-floor library, it became possible for the account holders to use it with their username/password by introducing LDAP authentication. For the mail servers and www servers, we increased the amount of memory from 2 GBytes to 4 GBytes to improve their performance.

As a security incident, some PC’s inside RCNP was infected by a computer virus which had been brought by a PC infected outside and connected to the RCNP network. To minimize such risk, use of anti-virus software is strongly recommended for any personal computers connected to the RCNP network. As a known problem, network hubs and wireless access points inside the experimental hall often hang up when a high-intensity beam is used there. It is recovered by power cycling.

A new campus-wide network (ODINS-5) has been introduced in Osaka University. Network for the administrative office and network to the campus core switch have been replaced with new ones at RCNP. The Campus-wide wireless LAN by ODINS-5 also became available.