9/4/2000

Boston University
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Computer Information
Brief Summary

A)   Systems & Logging In

[Servers]
math.bu.edu   (AKA math)
Sun Enterprise 250
Main Login host, suitable for email, word processing, Web browsing

buma10.bu.edu   (AKA severi)
Sun HPC 450
Computational server, suitable for interactive and non-interactive tasks of a computational manner (see Applications section for examples of available computational packages)

[Workstations]

[Public Lab - Room 237]
5 Linux workstations
3 Sun Workstations
All these machines are standalone workstations which use the same name/password information as math and buma10.

Windows NT workstation
publicly accessible, username is 'Math' (no password)

HP printer 'kurt' (more on printers later)

[Offices]

In most people's offices are one or more workstations
of two basic types:

[X terminals] - These will have 'Welcome to math'
                        on screen when you go to log in.

[Standalone] - These have names like buma5, buma13 etc.
                        and you log into these as usual but from there

you should generally connect to math or buma10.
These will eventually be converted to X terminals.

To log into any of these machines, simply type in your username, hit <ENTER> on the keyboard and then, when asked, enter in your password.
When you enter your password, it will not show on screen for security purposes.

NOTE: If you are asked for an 'AFS Password' after entering in your regular password, you may simply hit <ENTER> and your login will proceed normally.

When you log in to a Sun workstation for the first time, you will be asked to choose between 'Common Desktop Environment (CDE) ' or 'Open Windows' as which are two possible window managers which affect how your environment will look when you log in. I suggest Open Windows but the choice is yours.
If you wish to find out more detailed information, please let me know.
Regardless, you should know how to log off depending on which environment you have chosen:

Open Windows: Click on the 'Console' window, located in the upper left, and type 'logout' or 'exit' and you will be logged off.

CDE: Click on the 'EXIT' button on the control panel in the center of the screen.

Again, my assistant and I can answer more detailed questions about these environments if you wish.

B)   Printers

[kurt]

This is an HP LaserJet printer located in room 237.

[sophie]

This is also an HP LaserJet printer but is located in room 141 (next to the main office)

Depending on where your office is located you probably will print to one or the other of these printers exclusively.

In general, printing a file can be accomplished by one of two

different commands:

lpr filename

lp filename

Now, by default, your accounts are set to print to kurt but you can print to whatever printer you wish. This can be accomplished in two ways.

1) specifying a printer to use explicitly

       lpr -Pkurt filename   lp -dkurt filename
                or
       lpr -Psophie filename   lp -dsophie filename

2) change your default printer

On the command line, type either

setprinter kurt ; source ~/.cshrc

      or

setprinter sophie; source ~/.cshrc

which will modify your settings to make your specified printer be your default printer.

You can print text or postscript (.ps) files using lpr.
However, there are certain types of files you should *NOT* print using the lpr command, in particular:

      Image files: .jpg, .gif, .tiff etc. (there are other ways to print image files)

      DVI (.dvi) files: If you (La)TeX a file, you should run the dvips command to turn the .dvi output into postscript (.ps) which **is** printable via the lpr command.

      PDF (.pdf) files   Although these are similar to postscript, they can't be printed using lpr. You must open these using Adobe acrobat:

                      acroread file.pdf

and print using the print option.

Checking Print Jobs

To check the status of your print job you can do the following:

lpq -Pkurt

or

lpq -Psophie

For example, suppose I do the following

lpr -Psophie .cshrc   (.cshrc is a file that affects your environment)

I can then do the following:

lpq -Psophie

```
Rank   Owner  Job   File(s)              Total Size
active  tkohl  8956  .cshrc               2720 bytes
```

There may be other jobs listed depending on how busy the printer is, but the number under the 'Job' column is important because if I decide that I don't want to print this file, then, assuming it's not already done printing, I can do the following to cancel this print job:

lprm -Psophie 8956

and that will remove the print job from the 'print queue'
You can also use the 'lpq' command to see if a given printer is very busy and perhaps wait till later to print your job or, perhaps, choose another printer to use.

C)   Email

There are several means available for reading your email. The principal (text-based) means is with the 'Pine' client which has a great many features including the ability to properly handle attachments, which it's predecessors, such

as Elm and ordinary Unix mail can't. If you wish, you can also read your email using Netscape. If you need help setting this up, please let I or my assistant know and we will help you. The principal information is that, for Netscape, the server type is POP and it is math.bu.edu and the outgoing SMTP server is also math.bu.edu

More detailed information about using Pine is available by request.

D)   Web Browsing

We have Netscape 4.7 installed on our system and, as a rule, you should browse the web when logged into math, as opposed to buma10, which, as mentioned above, is mainly for computational work.

E)   Applications

There are **many** applications available for a variety of different tasks, some (but definitely not all) are given below:

Star Office: A Solaris package with a word processor, spreadsheet, presentation and database package that can be used to work with files created by the various MS-Office applications such as MS-word, Excel, Power Point, etc.

TeX and LaTeX: These are available on the system for creating mathematical documents and include many addons like AMS-TeX, BibTeX and the like.

Emacs and vi: The two main Unix editors.

Computation:

        Matlab
        Maple
        Mathematica
        XPP   (Diff. Eqn's)
        DSTool   (dynamical systems)
        Octave   (Matlab clone)
        PARI   (algebra)
        GAP   (algebra)
        Geomview   (geometry)

Math Department Computer Resources

F) Web Pages

On the host math, the individual web pages are located under the following directory:

/usr/local/software/other/www/people

As such, my home pages, for example, are in the directory

/usr/local/software/other/www/people/tkohl

In here, you're main page should be called 'index.html' and this will correspond to the URL:

http://math.bu.edu/people/tkohl   (for example)

If you need help setting up your web pages, please let us know.

G) Help

This is just a sampling of what's available, much more information can be found on line on the math web page http://math.bu.edu/misc/computer.html

If you have any question, send email to help@math.bu.edu.