Computer etiquette for staff and visitors of the LPTMC

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The computational facilities of the laboratory are largely a shared resource. This allows users to:

• Access to a large number of machines (about 60) for scientific computing.

• Benefit from regular backups of data stored on their accounts.

The laboratory computers are used both for office tasks (word processing, email, internet, etc.) and heavy numerical calculations (simulations, computer algebra, etc.). This dual use requires us to impose the following rules for the benefit of all users:

1. **Do not switch off computers when leaving for the day.** It is recommended, however, to turn off the monitor.

2. **Do not deconnect network cables to connect to you laptop or other devices.** Instead use the wifi networks   LPTMC1213 or LPTMC1323 (ask Michel Quaggetto for the password), or use a free network connector (present, for example, on the Cisco telephones).

3. **Set the priority for runs.** Calculations that require more than one hour must be "reniced" using either the `top` command : type "`top`" then "`r`" then the PID of the program and finally 19, or by running the program with the command `nice -20 "program name"`

4. **Do not store too much data on your account.** The limit is 80 GB for staff and 20 GB for students and visitors. To view the amount of space used on your account, use the command `du -sh` in the root directory. External disc drives may be used to store more data, but this data will not be backed up.

5. **Do not submit jobs to machines that are already heavily used.** The number of jobs running for more than one hour must be strictly less than the number of processors of the machine. The number of programs running on a machine can be viewed using the site ganglia or the top command.

6. **Select the computer with care.** Certain tasks (e.g. Monte Carlo) require fast processing while others (computer algebra) require extensive RAM. The site ganglia has a list of all the machines in the laboratory with their characteristics. Please ensure that your task does not use more than 10-15% of the RAM. Otherwise the machine will be unusable, even for office tasks.

7. **Do not transfer large amounts of data to/from external disk drives during normal working hours.** Since all data is stored on one machine, such transfers tend to slow the network for all users.