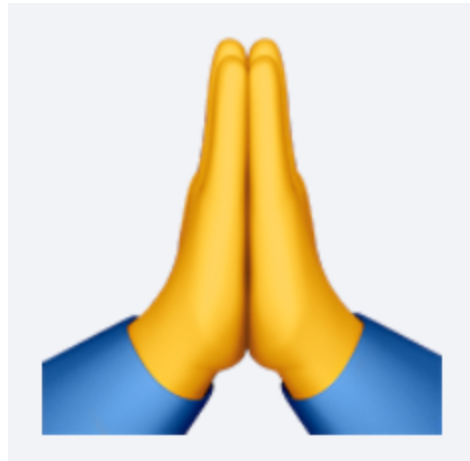


Help us help you

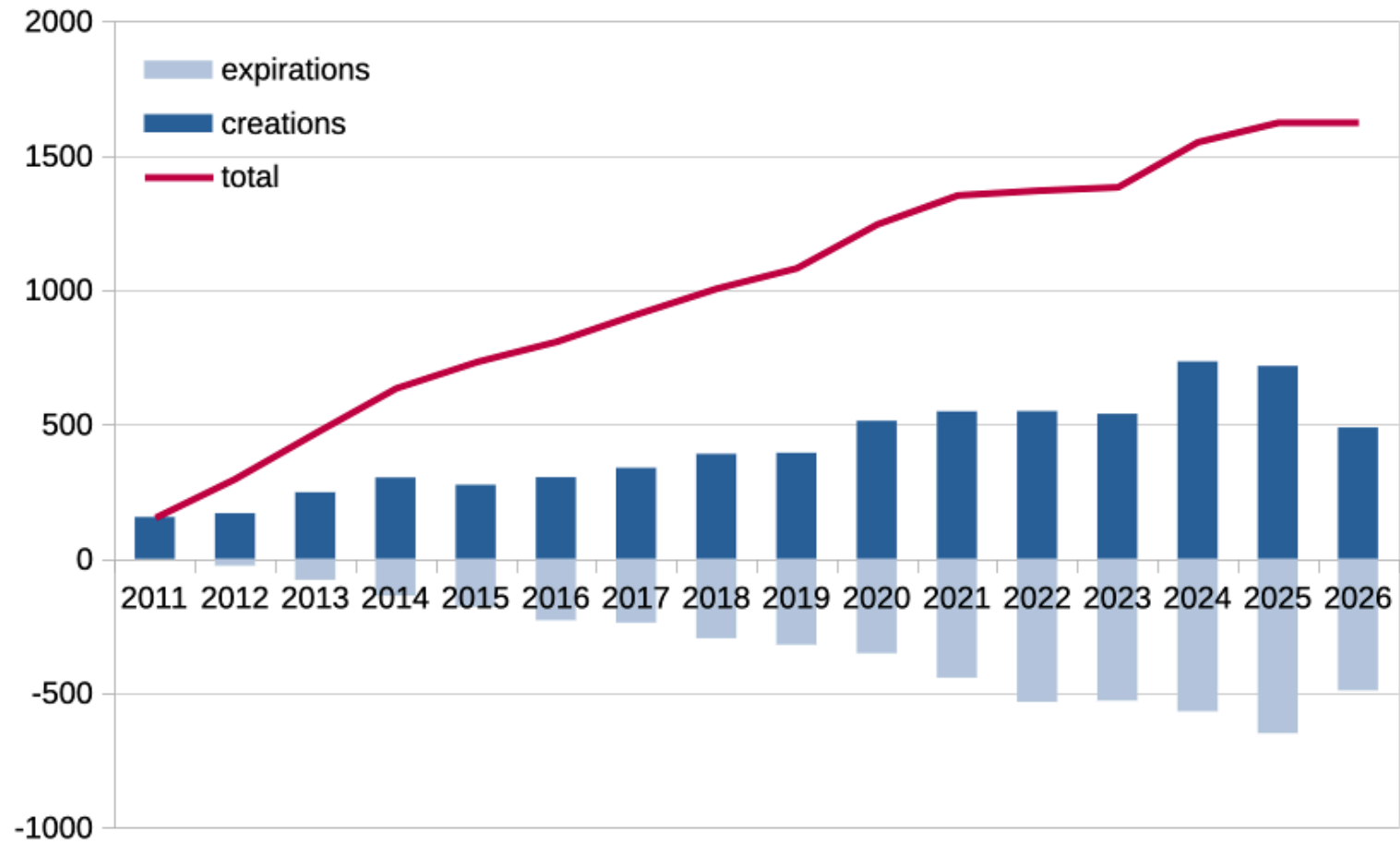


damien.francois@uclouvain.be

October 2026

You, the CÉCI users, are legion

April 2011 - Sept. 2026



We, the CÉCI administrators, are a small team

- UCLouvain (CISM): 4.4
- ULiège (nicadm): 2
- UNamur (PTCI): 1.5
- UMonS (CMN): 1
- ULB (HPC team): 3

Our goals :

-  provide as much uptime as possible for the CÉCI infrastructure
-  maximize resource (CPUs, GPUs, memory) utilization
-  accommodate a wide spectrum of jobs
-  minimize turnaround for your jobs

How can you help us?

1.  **security**: more hardening == less usability
2.  **support**: more budget == more resources
3.  **communication**: better requests == faster responses
4.  **education**: better understanding == more advanced help

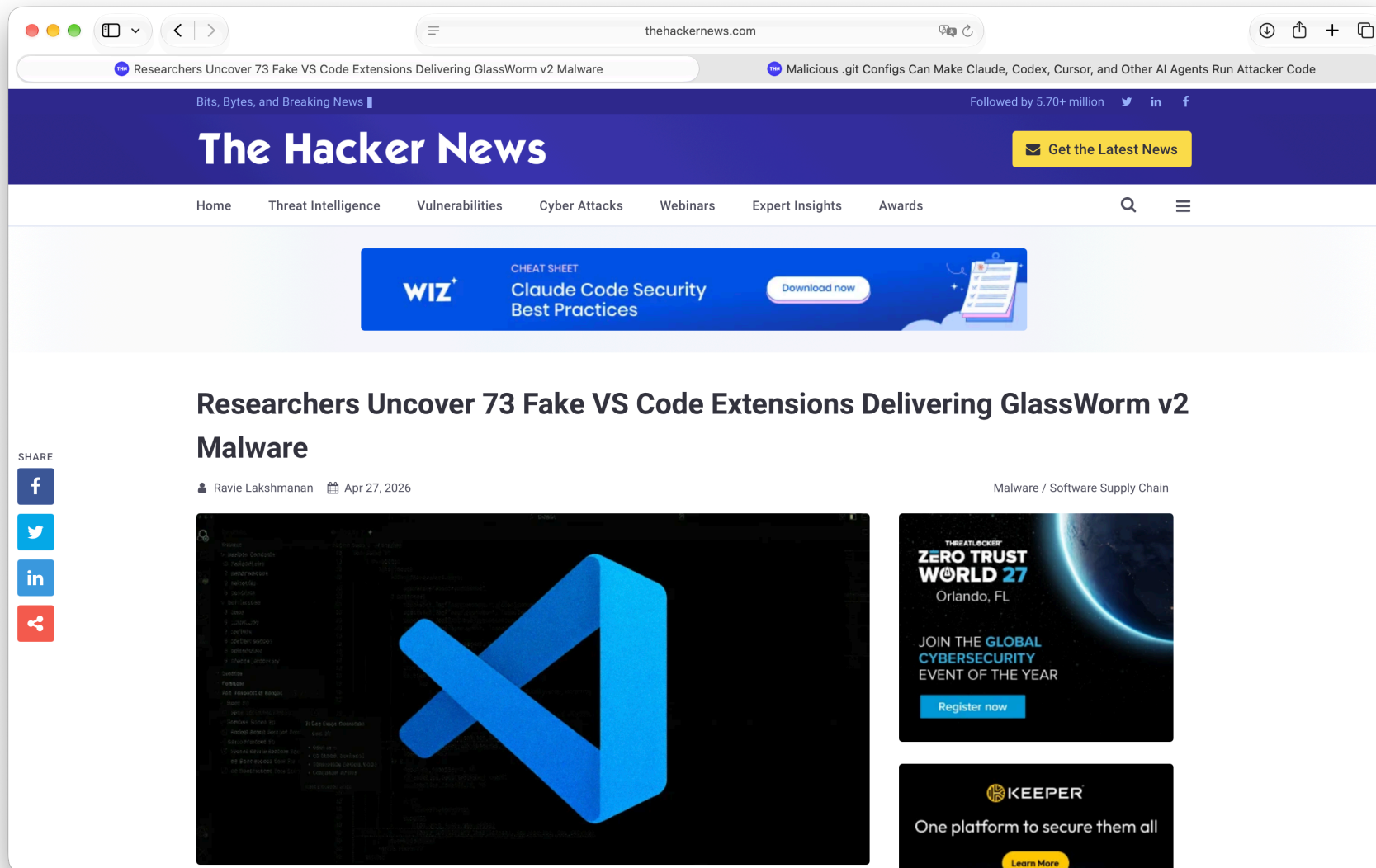


security

Know the rules

- the rules of your university
- the rules of the university hosting the cluster you are using
- the rules of CÉCI: <https://www.cec-hpc.be/faq.html#2.5>
- do not harm security
 - **do not share secrets**
 - **do not give access to the clusters to others**
 - **do not install random software on the clusters**

The rules exist so that everyone's data are safe and secure



malware are now distributed via nice-looking Visual Studio Code extensions



malware are now distributed via harmless-looking `pip install s`

WIKIPEDIA25 years of the free encyclopedia

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Slopsquatting

ArticleTalk

ReadEditView history

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Slopsquatting is a type of [cybersquatting](#). It is the practice of registering a non-existent software package name that a [large language model](#) (LLM) may [hallucinate](#) in its output, whereby someone unknowingly may copy-paste and install the software package without realizing it is fake.^[1] Attempting to install a non-existent package should result in an error, but some have exploited this for their gain in the form of [typosquatting](#).^[2]

The name is a [portmanteau](#) of "AI slop" and "typosquatting".^[3]

History

In 2023, security researcher Bar Lanyado noted that LLMs hallucinated a package named "huggingface-cli".^{[4][5][6]} While this name is identical to the command used for the command-line version of HuggingFace Hub, it is not the name of the package. The software is correctly installed with the code `pip install -U "huggingface_hub[cli]"`. Lanyado tested the potential for slopsquatting by uploading an empty package under this hallucinated name. In three months, it had received over 30,000 downloads.^[6] The hallucinated packaged name was also used in the [README file](#) of a repo for research conducted by [Alibaba](#).^[7]

In April 2025, the term was coined by [Python Software Foundation](#) Developer-in-Residence and security researcher Seth Larson and popularized by Andrew Nesbitt on [Mastodon](#).^{[1][8]}

In May 2025, the potential and prevalence of slopsquatting was detailed in the academic paper "We Have a Package for You! A Comprehensive Analysis of Package Hallucinations by Code Generating LLMs".^{[1][9]} Some of the paper's main findings are that 19.7% of the LLM recommended packages did not exist, [open-source](#) models hallucinated far more frequently (21.7% on average, compared to [proprietary](#) / black-box models at 5.2%), [CodeLlama 7B](#) and [CodeLlama 34B](#) hallucinated in over a third of outputs, and across all models, the researchers observed over 205,000 unique hallucinated package names.

Prevention

Sequence diagram of slopsquatting

Contentshide

(Top)

History

Prevention

Impact

See also

References

Appearancehide

Text

☐ Small

☒ Standard

☐ Large

Width

☒ Standard

☐ Wide

Color

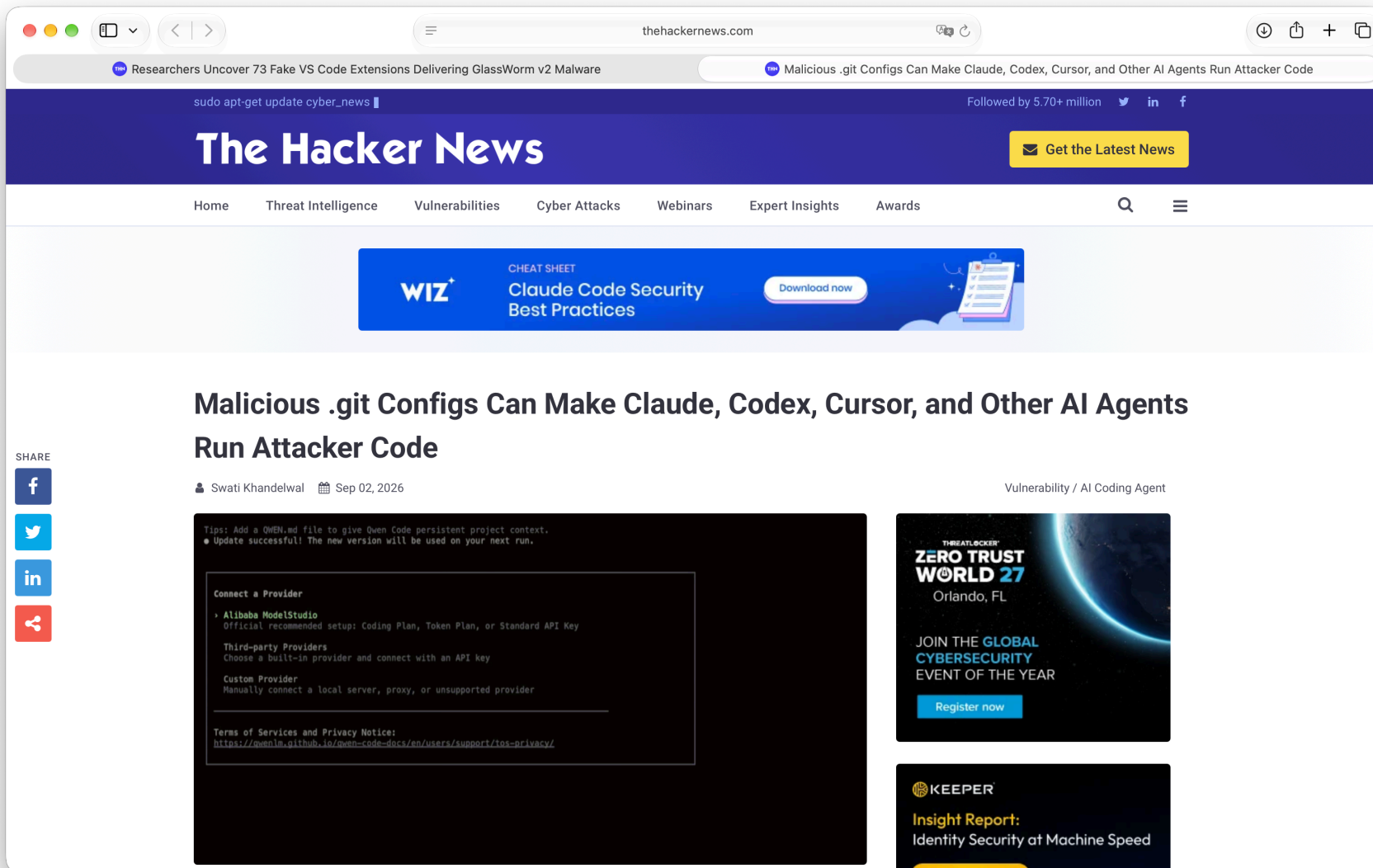
☐ Automatic

☒ Light

☐ Dark

malware are now distributed via harmless-looking `pip install`s taking advantage of often-LLMs-hallucinated Python package names

10



malware are now distributed via harmless-looking Git repositories, targeting LLM harnesses



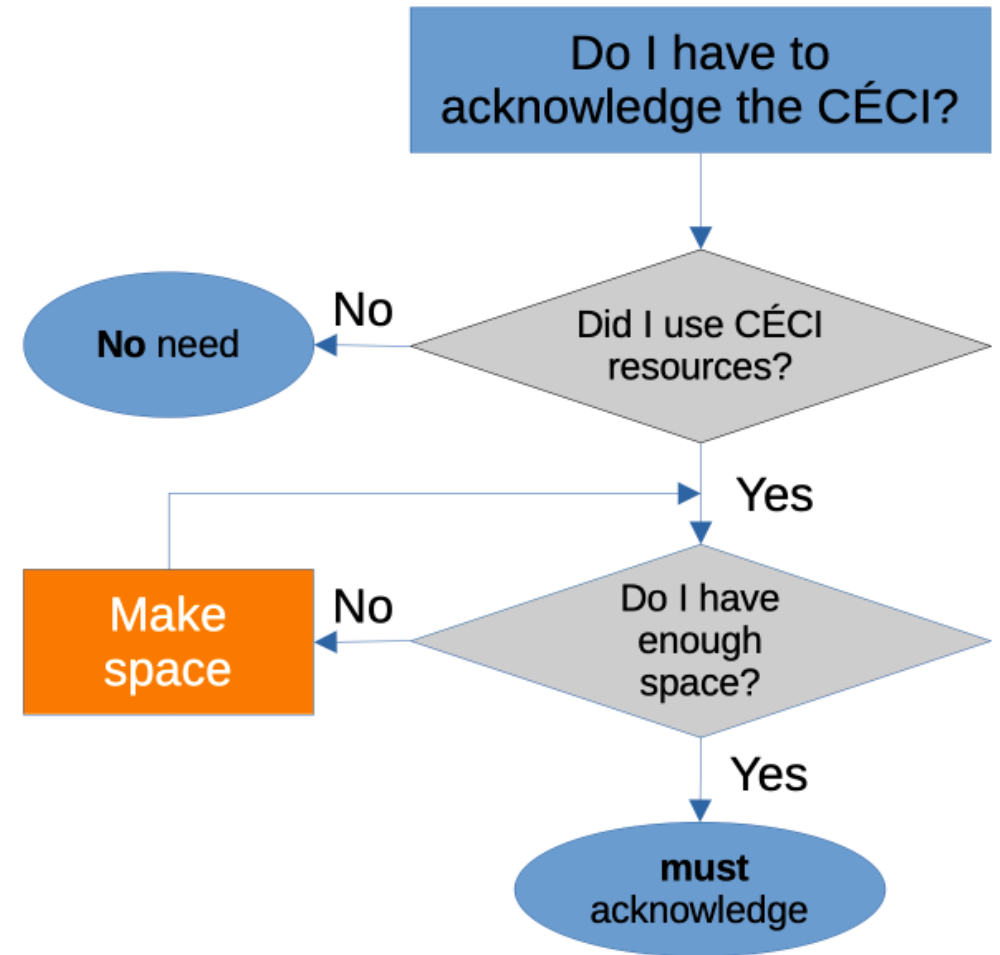
Ai-assisted vulnerability research has exploded in the past months. DO NOT TRY THEM ON THE CLUSTERS. I REPEAT. DO TRY THEM ON THE CLUSTERS



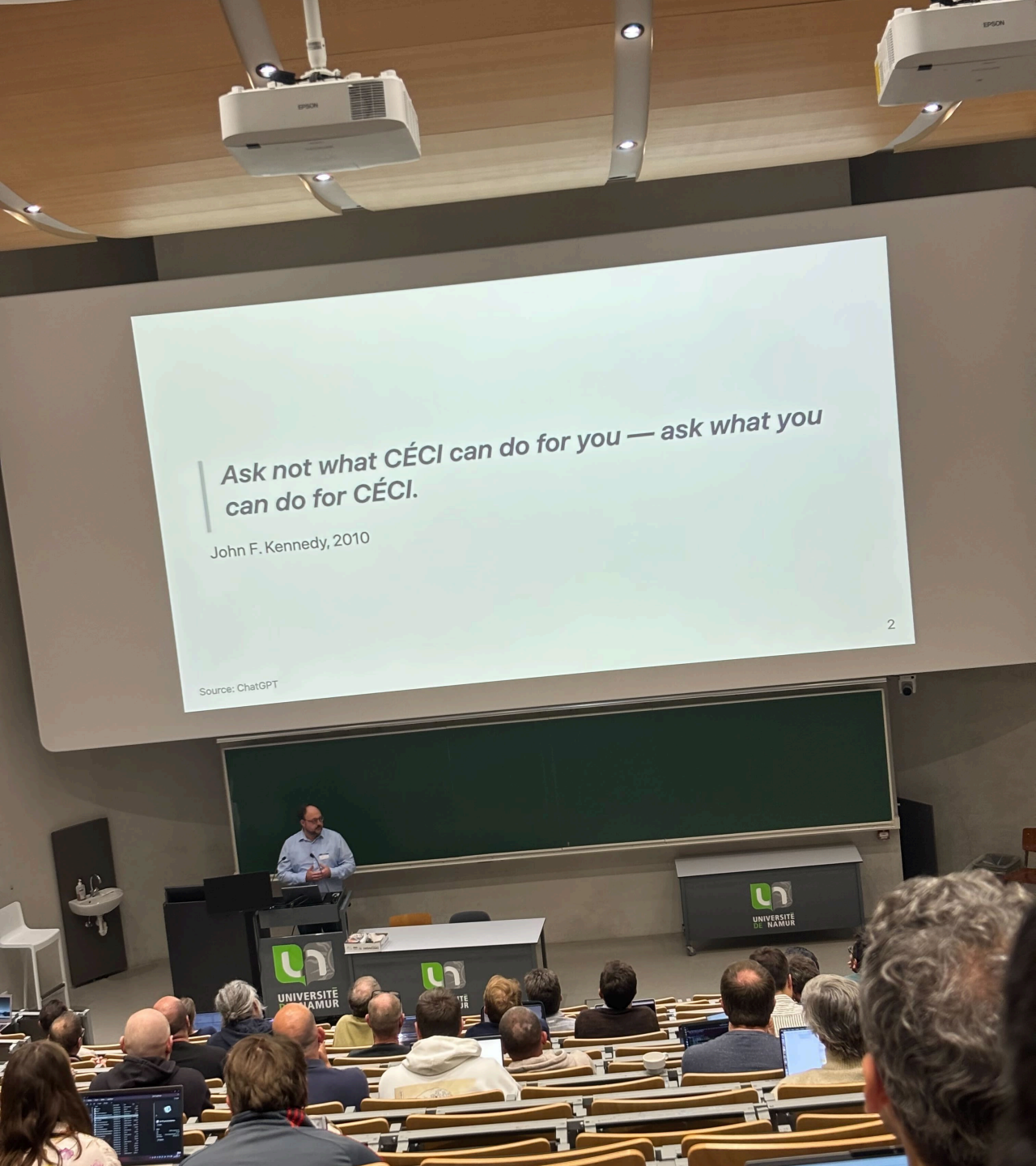
support

Acknowledgements

"Computational resources have been provided by the Consortium des Équipements de Calcul Intensif (CÉCI), funded by the Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique de Belgique (F.R.S.-FNRS) under Grant No. 2.5020.11 and by the Walloon Region"



In doubt, remove the first paragraph of the second section (See Shiely F, Gallagher K, Millar SR (2024) How, and why, science and health researchers read scientific (IMRAD) papers. PLoS ONE 19(1): e0297034)

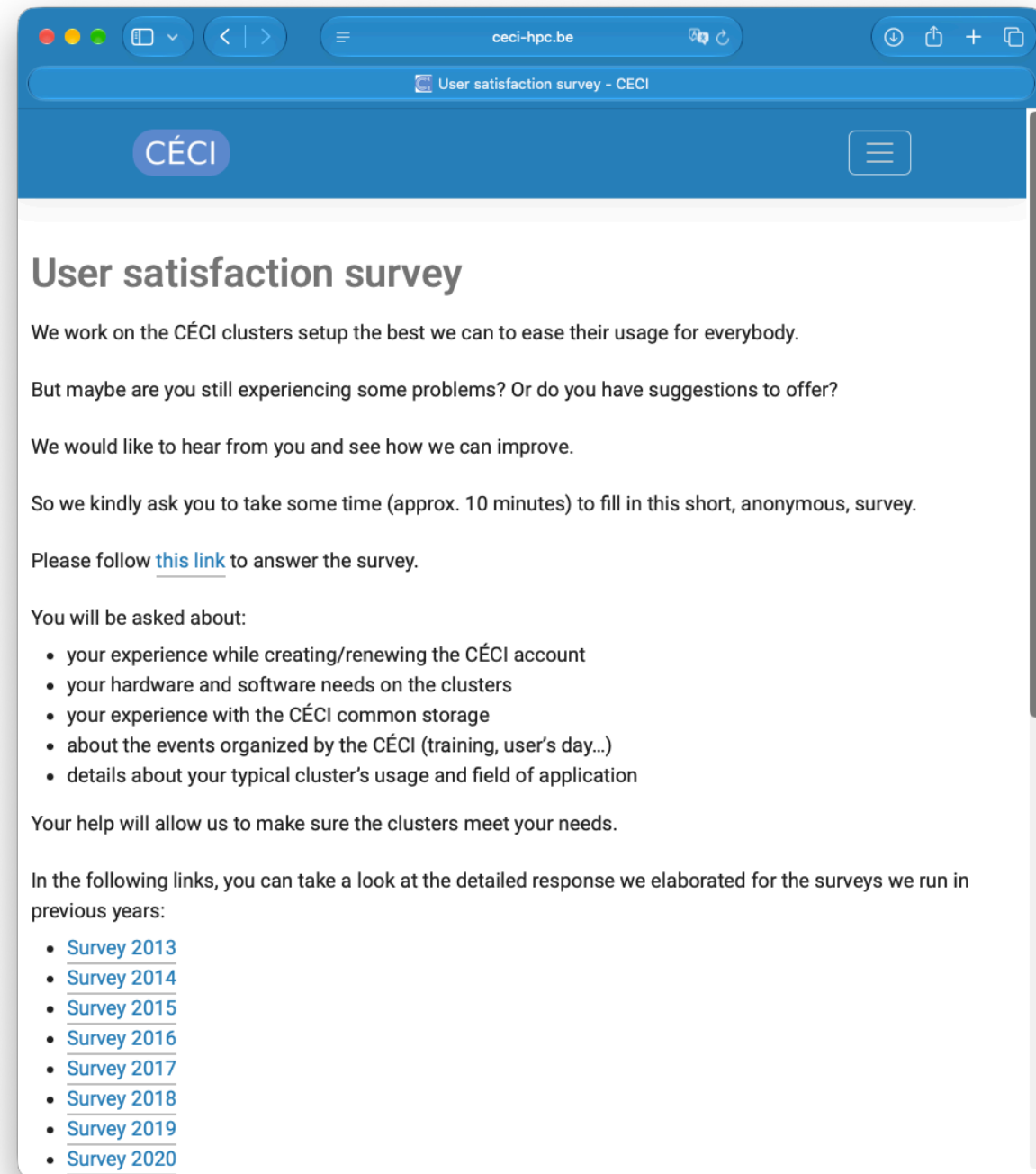


CÉCI User day

Once a year, last time in Namur, next time in Brussels, mix of technical and scientific talks by sysadmins and users.

CÉCI User survey

Once a year, reviewed by (human) sysadmins, with summary of findings and responses to comments published on the website.



Be cooperative

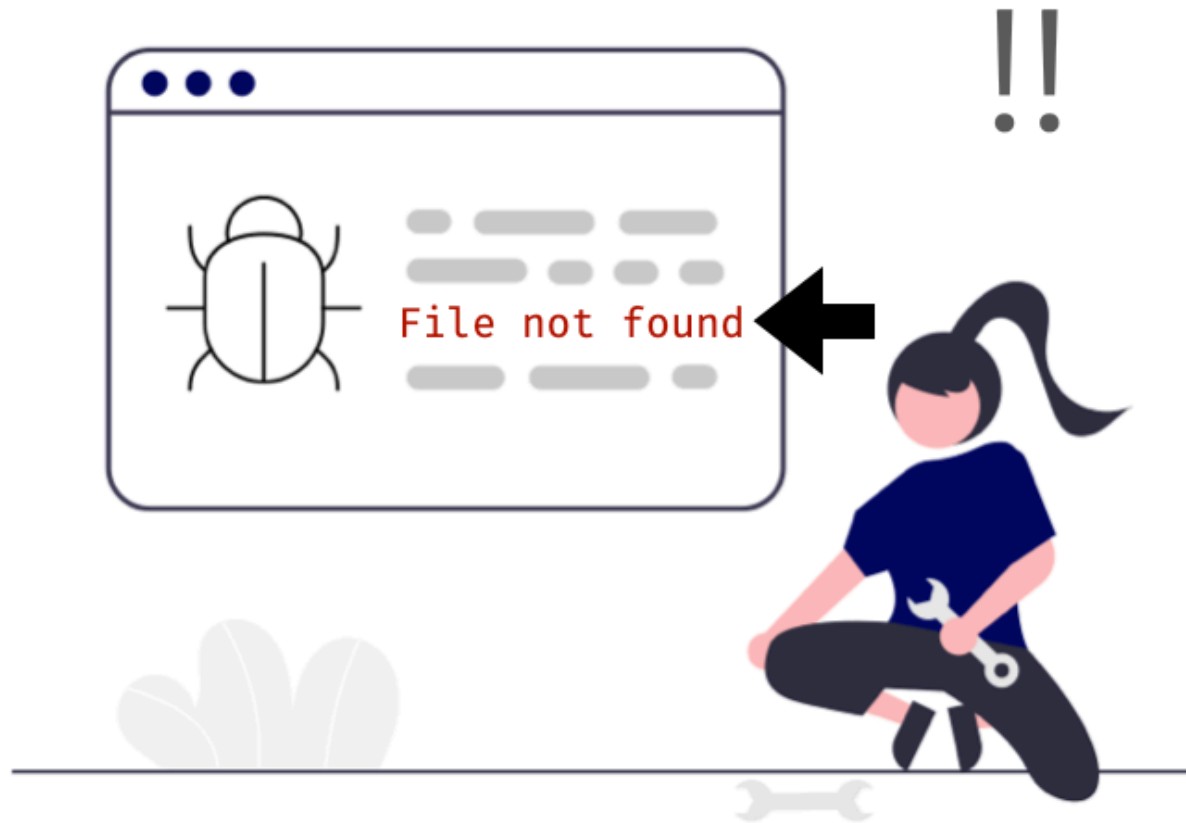
- do not request to be unregistered from mailing lists for announcements (a dozen email per year) and please **read the emails**
- participate in the ceci **user days**, take the **surveys**
- **acknowledge** the CÉCI and other providers in your publications that use their infrastructure

All this is important when requesting funding for the clusters

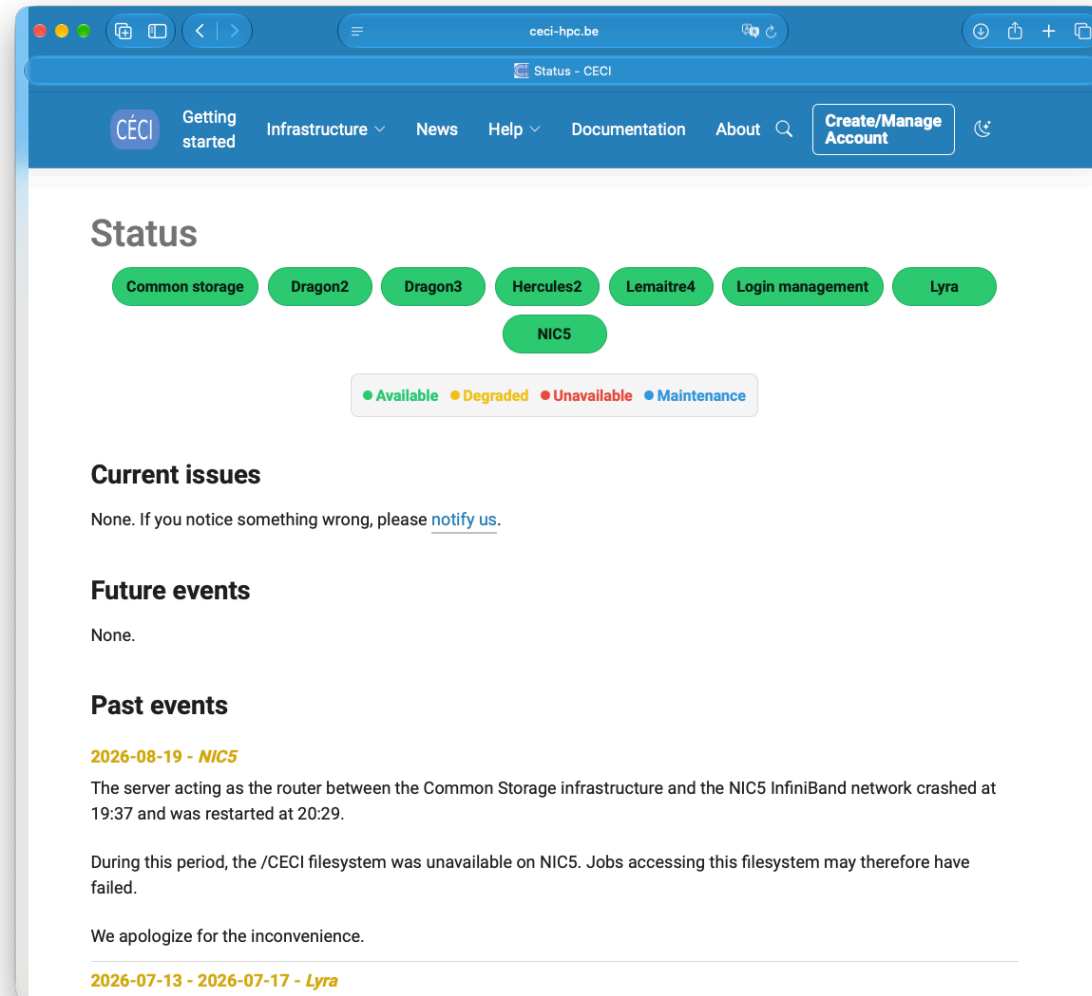


communication

🤔 1. Start with your due diligence.



🤔 1. Start with your due diligence.



The screenshot shows the CECI Status page in a web browser. The page has a blue header with the CECI logo, navigation links (Getting started, Infrastructure, News, Help, Documentation, About), and a 'Create/Manage Account' button. The main content area is titled 'Status' and features a row of green buttons representing different system components: Common storage, Dragon2, Dragon3, Hercules2, Lemaitre4, Login management, Lyra, and NIC5. Below this is a legend for status indicators: Available (green dot), Degraded (yellow dot), Unavailable (red dot), and Maintenance (blue dot). The page is divided into three sections: 'Current issues' (None), 'Future events' (None), and 'Past events'. The 'Past events' section lists two incidents: one on 2026-08-19 involving NIC5 and another from 2026-07-13 to 2026-07-17 involving Lyra.

Status

Common storage Dragon2 Dragon3 Hercules2 Lemaitre4 Login management Lyra NIC5

● Available ● Degraded ● Unavailable ● Maintenance

Current issues

None. If you notice something wrong, please [notify us](#).

Future events

None.

Past events

2026-08-19 - NIC5

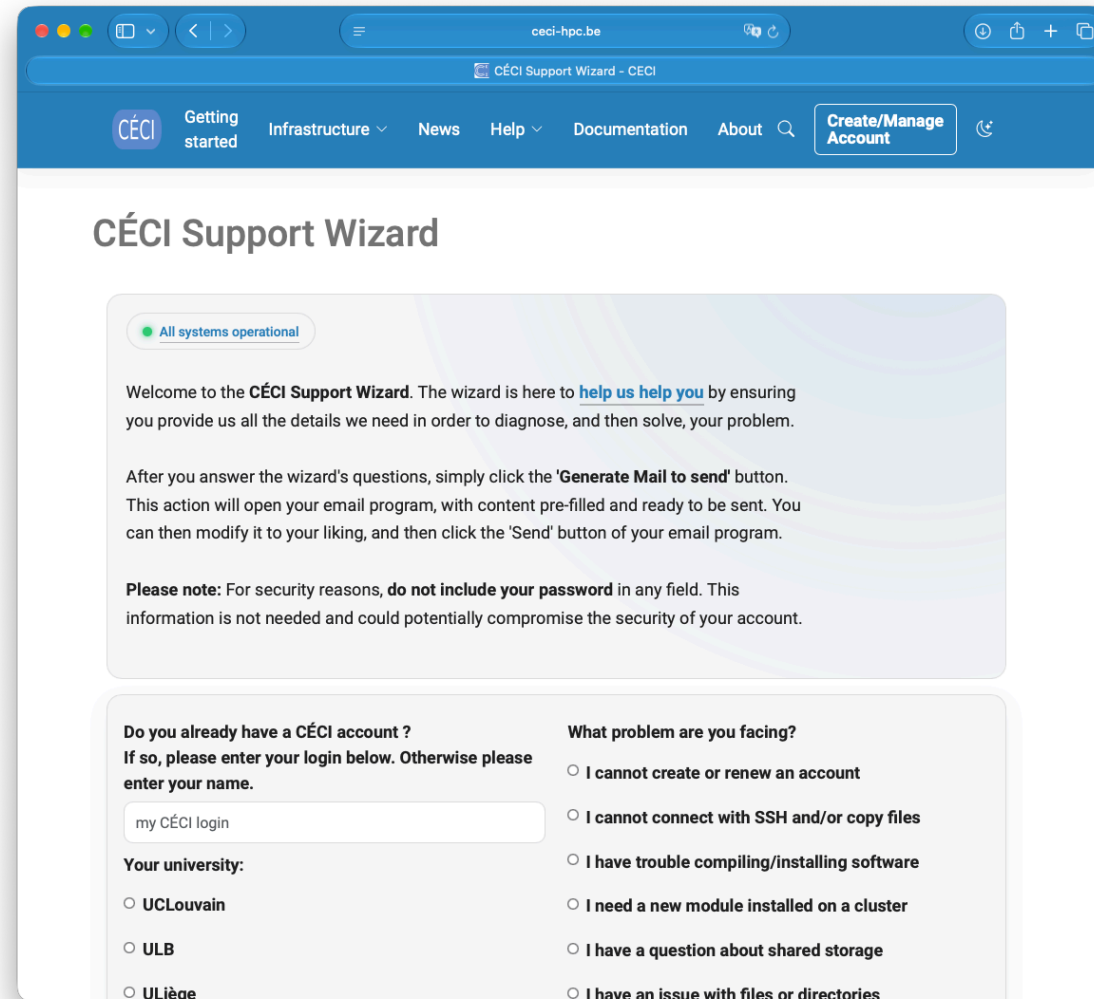
The server acting as the router between the Common Storage infrastructure and the NIC5 InfiniBand network crashed at 19:37 and was restarted at 20:29.

During this period, the /CECI filesystem was unavailable on NIC5. Jobs accessing this filesystem may therefore have failed.

We apologize for the inconvenience.

2026-07-13 - 2026-07-17 - Lyra

2. Use the correct channel



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `ceci-hpc.be`. The page title is "CÉCI Support Wizard - CÉCI". The navigation bar includes links for "Getting started", "Infrastructure", "News", "Help", "Documentation", "About", and a "Create/Manage Account" button. The main heading is "CÉCI Support Wizard". A status bar indicates "All systems operational". The welcome message states: "Welcome to the CÉCI Support Wizard. The wizard is here to [help us help you](#) by ensuring you provide us all the details we need in order to diagnose, and then solve, your problem." It instructs users to click the "Generate Mail to send" button after answering questions, which will open an email program with pre-filled content. A security note states: "Please note: For security reasons, do not include your password in any field. This information is not needed and could potentially compromise the security of your account." The form is divided into two sections. The left section asks "Do you already have a CÉCI account ?" and "If so, please enter your login below. Otherwise please enter your name." with a text input field containing "my CÉCI login". It also asks "Your university:" with radio button options for "UCLouvain", "ULB", and "ULiège". The right section asks "What problem are you facing?" with radio button options: "I cannot create or renew an account", "I cannot connect with SSH and/or copy files", "I have trouble compiling/installing software", "I need a new module installed on a cluster", "I have a question about shared storage", and "I have an issue with files or directories".

ceci-hpc.be

CÉCI Support Wizard - CÉCI

CÉCI Getting started Infrastructure News Help Documentation About Create/Manage Account

CÉCI Support Wizard

All systems operational

Welcome to the **CÉCI Support Wizard**. The wizard is here to [help us help you](#) by ensuring you provide us all the details we need in order to diagnose, and then solve, your problem.

After you answer the wizard's questions, simply click the 'Generate Mail to send' button. This action will open your email program, with content pre-filled and ready to be sent. You can then modify it to your liking, and then click the 'Send' button of your email program.

Please note: For security reasons, **do not include your password** in any field. This information is not needed and could potentially compromise the security of your account.

Do you already have a CÉCI account ?
If so, please enter your login below. Otherwise please enter your name.

my CÉCI login

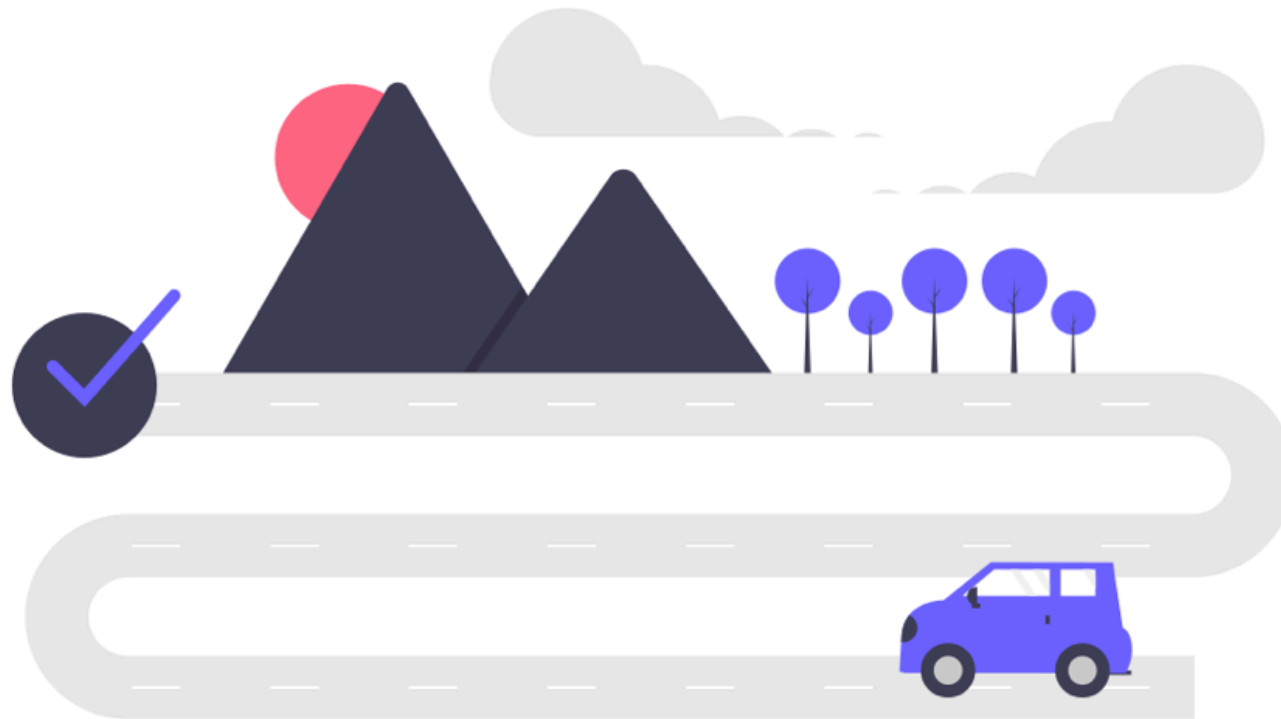
Your university:

- ☐ UCLouvain
- ☐ ULB
- ☐ ULiège

What problem are you facing?

- ☐ I cannot create or renew an account
- ☐ I cannot connect with SSH and/or copy files
- ☐ I have trouble compiling/installing software
- ☐ I need a new module installed on a cluster
- ☐ I have a question about shared storage
- ☐ I have an issue with files or directories

🎯 3. State the general goal



4. Provide all important information ("five W")

-  **Who:** what is your login?
-  **What:** what job ID, what file, what modules?
-  **When:** on which date, at what time?
-  **Where:** which cluster, which directory?
-  **Why:** what is the problem?

💬 5. Give the exact error (copy/paste from terminal)



Final remarks

- the sooner we hear about a problem the sooner we can work on it
- one problem per request makes it easier to work in parallel
- reporting that a suggested solution does work helps to organise knowledge
- user requests are prioritized based on the **severity** of the problem

To use an LLM to write is to void the social contract between writer and reader: we readers shouldn't be expected to labor to understand a sentence that the writer themselves didn't work to create.

—Bryan Cantrill, The revolt of the reader



education

There are certain tasks you should learn to do by yourself

- install software (modules included)
- change permissions back after an error, sharing files among users
- remove a failing `.bashrc`
- change group ownership
- join a Tier-1 project
- fix quota exceedance

Some you MUST do

- organise backups of your files 

next.ink

» Data center en feu : le gouvernement coréen perd 858 To de données - Next

NEXT

Q

S3

1 To

Connexion

Premium

Mathilde Saliou

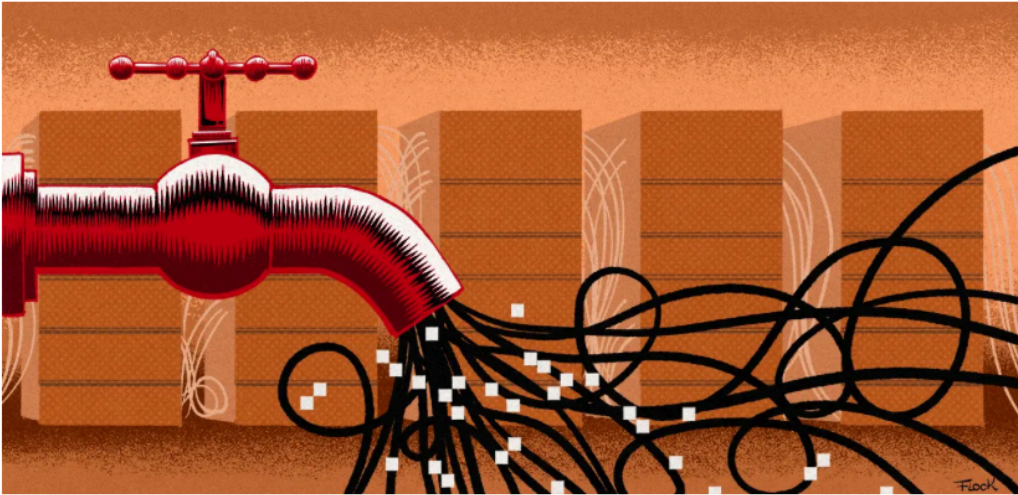
Le 09 octobre 2025 à 11h40

2 min

Société numérique

Un data center détruit dans l'incendie causé par l'explosion d'une batterie au lithium-ion. Tel est l'événement qui paralyse la Corée du Sud depuis le 26 septembre : d'une batterie, le feu s'est propagé à 384 autres.

Le feu a pris lors d'un exercice de réduction des risques, alors que des batteries UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply, dédiées à la continuité de l'alimentation électrique) d'une salle de serveurs installée au cinquième étage du bâtiment étaient déplacées vers les sous-sols pour protéger des infrastructures critiques.



Installées en 2014, ces batteries avaient dépassé leur durée de vie recommandée (10 ans), [note le Korea Herald](#), même si elles avaient subi des inspections régulières.

lemonde.fr

» Le site de l'entreprise OVH à Strasbourg touché par un « important incendie »

Menu

Le Monde

S'abonner

Le site de l'entreprise OVH à Strasbourg touché par un « important incendie »

Le feu, qui s'est déclaré vers 1 heure du matin, a été « circonscrit », a annoncé la préfecture du Bas-Rhin, mercredi en début de matinée.

Le Monde avec AFP

Publié le 10 mars 2021 à 06h07, modifié le 10 mars 2021 à 19h06 · Lecture 3 min.

Lire plus tard

Mettre Le Monde en favori sur Google



L'incendie de l'entreprise OVHcloud à Strasbourg le 10 mars 2021, photographié par les Sapeurs-pompiers du Bas-Rhin. SAPEURS-POMPIERS DU BAS-RHIN / VIA REUTERS

Offre spéciale été :
0,99 € pour 2 mois d'abonnement
[S'abonner](#)

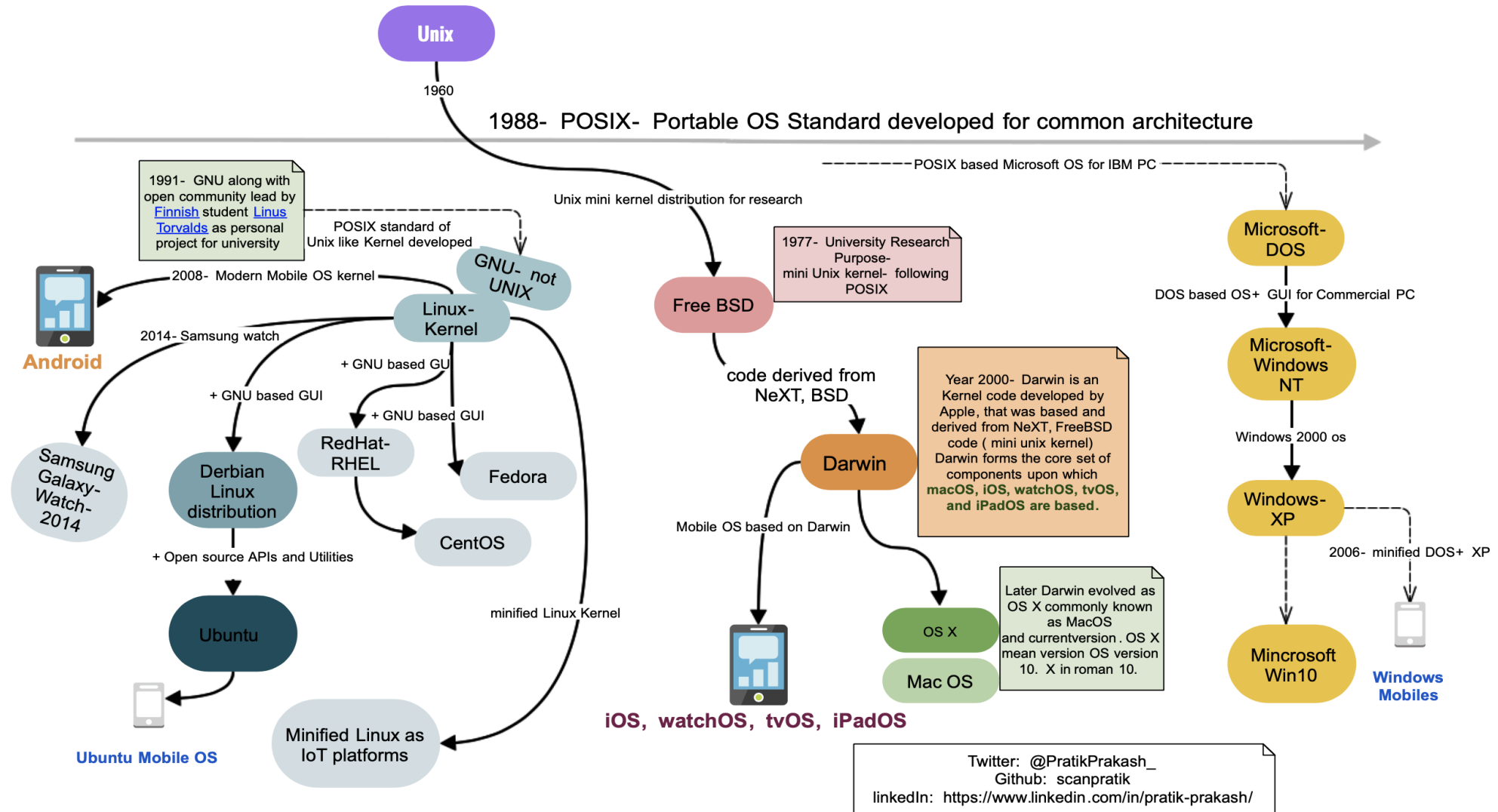
×

29

Learn the basics before you use the clusters

-  Basics of **Operating systems**
-  Basics of **Text user interfaces and the Terminal**
-  Basics of **Programming**

Evolution of Modern Operating Platforms



If Linux is entirely new to you, please read

<https://www.linux.com/what-is-linux/>

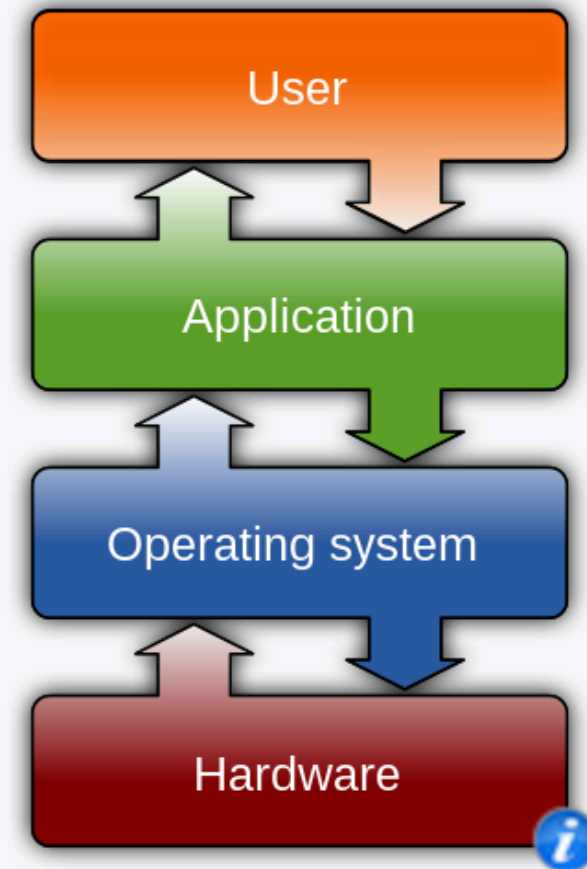
- 5-minutes read
- addresses the basics
- offers links to further documentation

And attend the next sessions.

Operating system, OS

- organises access to resources inside a computer
- allows starting programs, accessing files, etc.
- interacts with the user through:
 - the *desktop* (GUI)
 - the *terminal* (CLI)

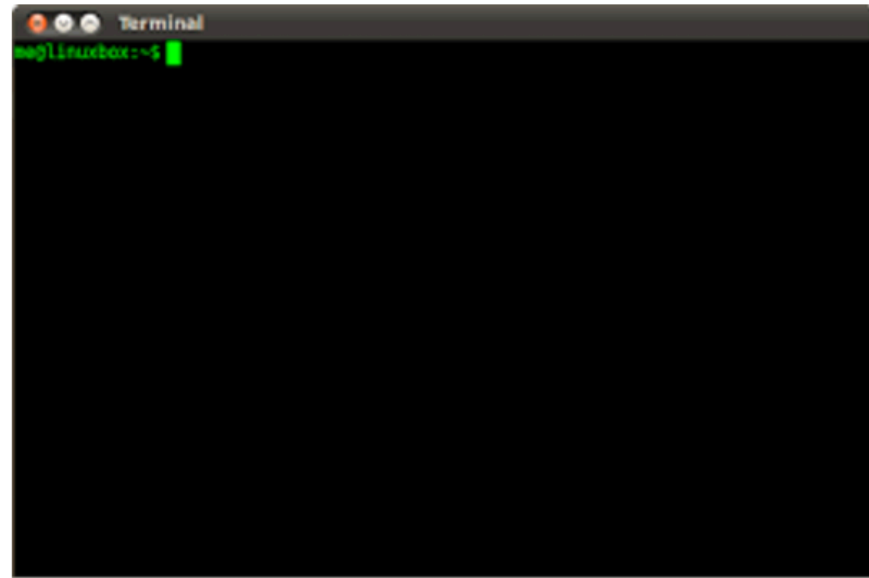
Operating systems



Common features

Process management • Interrupts •
Memory management • File system •
Device drivers • Networking • Security • I/O

The *desktop* vs the *terminal*



Interacting with the *shell* in the *terminal*:

- we type "simplified" sentences after the *prompt* in the *terminal*
- we press the `Enter` key when we have finished our sentence
- the *shell* interprets the sentence and act accordingly
- we wait for the response, which is then displayed in the *terminal*
- and we start again with another sentence 

On the compute servers, the shell is called `bash`

The Bash *shell* gives access to

- a set of basic shell commands
- a set of command-line tools (GNU)
- a rudimentary programming syntax

If the terminal is entirely new to you, please read

<https://frontend.turing.edu/lessons/module-1/getting-around-in-the-terminal.html>

and

<https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/a-beginners-guide-to-the-windows-command-line/>

- 15-minutes read in total
- addresses the basics
- offers links to further documentation

And then attend the next sessions.

About programming

Concept

Writing instructions for the computer in a human-comprehensible language that can be univoquely translated into a computer-understandable language.

"write 'hello' on the screen" -> `echo hello` -> `1010010101110101101001011...`

About programming

Basic constructs

- Variables: type, scope, assignment, and operators
- Conditionals: if-then, if-then-else
- Loops: for, while, etc.
- Functions: call, parameter, return value, side effects

If programming is new to you, please read

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/basics-of-computer-programming-for-beginners/>

- 10-minutes read
- addresses the basics
- offers links to further documentation

before you attend the next sessions.

Be thoughtful of others.. Don't be ...

- Running anything CPU-intensive on the head node
- Issuing many requests per unit of time to the scheduler
- Submitting large amounts of jobs without testing
- Performing excessive I/O on a global filesystem rather than on a local filesystem
- Storing large number of small files rather than consolidating them
- Leaving data on the scratch for ever
- Leaving typos in the email options
- Wasting resources with idle jobs, failing jobs, etc.
- Trying to game the system to increase your priority

What do yo need for the next sessions?

- a laptop (or a colleague with a laptop)
- EDUROAM access
- a CÉCI account
- ULiège and Umons: VPN access

Help us help you

play along others for maximum science per Watt

prepare your interactions with us for most efficient support

be demanding with yourself for getting the most of the resources

😊 We thank you in advance! 😊