

New Data Storage Solution at Department of Geosciences

Our current, main data storage solution on *vann.uio.no* is about to be replaced by a new solution. Some of you have already started using it but most of you are still on the old solution. It is our intention to move all data on *vann.uio.no* to our new solution during the fall and hopefully to sync the last bits and pieces just before Christmas. We then hope we can take down *vann.uio.no*.

While doing this, we also would like to restructure the current disk solution in accordance with future requirements and the present structure at the department. This means that the old section-disks will disappear and be replaced with new section-disks. Most of the current section disks are also very messy. On the new solution, section disks will only be used for administrative and educational purposes (including disk space for Master students). All research related data need to be stored on the department's data-disk (large data sets for common use, currently K:\data), research group-disks, project disks, NorStore allocations or personal staff disks. The latter, of the size of 1 TB, can now be ordered through USIT following this link: <http://www.uio.no/tjenester/it/hosting/storage/forskere/>. All scientific personnel, including PhD's, Post-docs and permanent staff, can order this free service. We will no longer provide own staff disks on the new solution. If you are running a research project or are affiliated to a project, but no project disk exists, please contact drift@geo.uio.no and we will help you creating one.

Be aware, almost all home directories are unaffected by this move, since these are located on a different server drifted by USIT. However, some of you have home directories on *vann.uio.no*. Those of you who have home-directories on *vann.uio.no* will be contacted directly in order to discuss the move of the data stored there. We also would like to encourage you not to store large research data sets on home-directories. These are legal, personal storage places and are not suitable for data sharing. In addition, in case of death, the data is difficult to retrieve without permission of your direct relatives. However, all home-directories (except those on *vann.uio.no*) have high backup frequencies (hourly) and are therefore very suitable to store frequently updated research analyses, documents, etc.

Section disks

The new section disks will contain a few permanent folders, including Administration, Education and Students. The Administration folder is meant to be used for storing administrative documents related to the section. All course material related to the sections educational tasks can be stored in the Education folder (The current disk called 'kurs' will continue to exist on the new solution, but is meant to be used by students when performing computational tasks related to a course). The section's Master students will be provided data storage space in the Student folder. Eventually, if desired, Master students can also get allocations on a project disk when they are affiliated to a project

All disks on *vann.uio.no* serving administrative and technical data will be transferred directly to the new solution, meaning that in principal the data move should not affect technical and administrative personnel very much.

Research Group Disks

For reasons of continuity in a specific field of research performed at our department, research group disks will be created. These disks will provide storage facilities for data that has a longer live span than a typical project. In this case, we avoid data copying in and out of related research projects. These disks store typical data sets for these research groups. We will discuss with the different sections, which research groups need disks.

What do we require from research personnel at the moment?

NOTE: Meteorology and Oceanography disks will not be moved during this data move. Staff members of the MetOs section do therefore not need to take any action during this round.

1) If you currently have a personal staff disk on *vann.uio.no*, (NOT your home-directory), order a new staff disk from USIT and move all your data residing on your current staff disk to this new disk. Please inform us when you have done that so we can remove your old staff disk. If you are in doubt whether you have or not have a staff disk or have questions about how to order the new staff disk, contact us.

2) We provide all projects with a project-disk. If you are a project leader of a project, but do not have a project disk yet, please contact us.

3) We encourage all project leaders running projects with large data sets (in the order of TB's) to consider applying for NorStore allocations (www.norstore.no) for their projects. NorStore disks can now easily be mounted both in Windows and Linux. There is no need for data transitions between NorStore and your personal pc. Your data is directly accessible. NorStore allocations are free of charge.

4) Commonly used data sets should preferably be stored on a shared network disk. At the moment, this disk resides on *vann.uio.no* as K:\data (Windows) or /felles/data (Linux). If you have data sets which are of common interest and repeatedly used, please tell us so we can store it to our new common data-disk. If this data set needs restricted access, we can arrange that too.

5) The following section disks contain a lot of structured and unstructured data.

- gfgruppe-data
- peggdata
- peggproj
- gggruppe-prosj
- gggruppe-data
- tpggruppe-prosj
- mhnggruppe-prosj

If you use one or more of these disks, we would appreciate whether you clean and or move data from there to your project disk or personal staff disk. These disks also contain a lot of data related to previous PhD, post-docs and other staff members. We will go through these disks and make an inventory of what is stored of old PhD and Post-doc data and try to assign a responsible staff member to these data sets. He/She will then need to decide what to do with the data.

Research Data Archive

We encourage all researchers to start using NorStores research data archive solution for archiving published research data (<https://archive.norstore.no/>). Your research data will be stored securely for at least 10 years and in this way you contribute to sharing research data which is to the benefit of the scholarly community.

All users that will be affected by any of the data transitions we perform will be informed beforehand within an acceptable time frame.

We hope this data transition will go as smooth as we anticipate and with least disturbance for our users. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Training

In order that the new data storage solution will be used in an effective way, we rely on an effort from you side. You will need to start thinking about how to store your data, documenting data, who is leaving and what to do with the data, archiving data etc. In order to help you doing this, the IT section will start up training sessions this fall for good practice in research data management. In these sessions, we will teach you how to deal with a.o. applying for NorStore allocations, how to archive research data, version control, documentation and metadata, backup and restore, security issues, access control, legal issues related to storing and sharing research data, etc. So, stay tuned!

Best regards,

For Geo-IT

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