

Blue Waters Demo

Goal:

This lesson gives students a glimpse into how parallel computing is done on a remote supercomputer.

Materials:

- Account for the instructor on the Blue Waters supercomputer, see <https://bluewaters.ncsa.illinois.edu/education-allocations>
- Computer connected to projector for the instructor.
- Parallel Computing Notebook, 1 per student.

Activity:

1. The instructor shows a video of timelapses of the construction of the Blue Waters supercomputer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfMKXzSVKds> (YouTube title “Blue Waters timelapses”).
2. The instructor demonstrates some of what it is like to run commands on Blue Waters. Students ask questions and take notes.

Questions for your Parallel Computing Notebook

1. What are the advantages to using a remote supercomputer as compared to a local supercomputer like LittleFe?
2. What are the disadvantages?