

GLiCID Charter

The GLiCID Team

June 4, 2026

1 Introduction

1.1 The GLiCID Mesocentre

GLiCID is a Research Support Unit under the auspices of the University of Angers, École Centrale Nantes, Le Mans University, and Nantes University. It is a cross-cutting structure serving the staff of research teams and units in the Pays de la Loire region, as well as their academic and/or industrial partners. Its mission is to provide users with advanced, shared computing resources for high-performance computing and data processing related to research involving computation. More information about GLiCID can be found at <https://www.glicid.fr>.

1.2 Purpose and Scope

This Charter supplements the digital charter of the user's home institution and requires that it be respected. Its purpose is to formalize the rules of use that the user commits to respecting in exchange for access to the mesocentre GLiCID's services, computing resources, and associated storage. These rules are primarily based on common sense and aim to ensure optimal use of resources by everyone, given the global constraints imposed by the principle of resource sharing. The use of information systems requires compliance with rules designed to ensure security, processing performance, and the protection of confidential data, in accordance with applicable legal and regulatory provisions.

GLiCID provides its users with the following services:

- Access to CPU and GPU computing hours for sequential and parallel computing
- Access to high-performance, high-capacity data storage linked to computing
- On-demand installation of software and libraries necessary for research work (commercial licenses are the responsibility of the users)
- Virtual machines (OpenStack)

Use of the Mesocentre's resources, which requires prior approval of this Charter, is subject to authorization. It may be withdrawn, partially or fully, temporarily or permanently, in case of non-compliance with the Charter.

The term "Mesocentre" refers to the set of hardware and software resources that constitute the computing services operated by GLiCID, and the personnel responsible for its administration and operation.

The term "User" refers to any natural person using or having access to the Mesocentre's computing resources, regardless of their status, including service providers and system and network administrators.

1.3 Description of Resources

The shared scientific computing resources made available to Users are LINUX servers equipped with a wide range of software (programming languages, databases, statistics, ...) as well as the network providing access to these facilities, including the connection through the RENATER network¹, with access to resources being primarily remote from machines connected to the Internet.

The computing and storage equipment is detailed here: <https://www.glicid.fr/equipements.html>

The principles of resource sharing at GLiCID among its users are available at <https://www.glicid.fr/>

2 Commitments

2.1 Access Rights

GLiCID's resources are accessible to all staff and their collaborators from public institutions and businesses in the Pays de la Loire region. Access conditions for users differ depending on their affiliation. We distinguish:

- Users with access rights, meaning staff members of the supervising institutions;
- Users from public institutions;
- Users from private companies.

Access rights are **personal**, **non-transferable** and **temporary**. They may only be used within the framework of the User's professional activity in accordance with applicable legislation. Access accounts are set up with a predefined expiration date. These are renewable upon request by the User. Access rights cease as soon as the holder no longer meets the attribution criteria as specified in this document. They are revoked as soon as the User no longer meets the access conditions. This right is provided in the form of an electronic account (username and password) in the name of the person authorized to work on the resources.

The User commits to not using any account other than the one provided to them. The User commits to refraining from any attempt to appropriate **in any way whatsoever** another User's password.

2.2 Security Rules

The SSH key is the primary access method to computing resources. This key is intended to authorize access to GLiCID's various resources. Usernames, passwords, and private SSH keys must be kept secret and must not be disclosed to **anyone**, including Mesocentre staff. Users are also asked to **protect this key with a passphrase**.

The User commits to not providing other users, whether authorized or not, with access to the Mesocentre's systems or networks through authorized equipment under their control.

The User commits to informing **without delay** the Mesocentre of any loss, any attempted breach, or any anomaly related to the use of their personal access credentials.

The User is required to comply with **all** directives related to IT security, whether **already in force** or **established in the future** by the Mesocentre. This includes, without limitation, compliance with password policies, authentication procedures, sensitive data management rules, and system and network security practices. It goes without saying that the exploitation of security vulnerabilities, even for testing purposes, is strictly **prohibited**. Any failure to comply with these directives could result in disciplinary measures, including revocation of access rights to the Mesocentre.

2.3 Rational Use of Resources

The resources that may be requested are:

- CPU and GPU computing hours;
- Priority CPU and GPU computing hours;
- Long-term storage capacity;

¹A National Telecommunications Network for Technology, Teaching and Research to federate telecommunications infrastructures for research and education in the form of a Public Interest Grouping.

The User commits to using only the resources allocated to them for work planned within the framework of their research projects submitted to GLiCID. In particular, external collaborators to the supervising institutions must not use these resources outside of the collaboration justifying their account creation.

For all its clusters, GLiCID uses Slurm as a scheduler, a flexible and scalable job scheduling system that manages access to compute nodes. To use Slurm, the User must create a script specifying the resources (time, nodes, memory) and the commands to execute. Bypassing this scheduler and its priority rules may result in immediate suspension of the submitted job and potential removal of access to the infrastructure.

The User commits to making rational and fair use of the services, including the network and computing resources. The User commits to making rational and reasonable use of storage spaces and computing resources in order to avoid or limit their saturation, for the benefit of the community of Users. Login servers **are exclusively reserved for connection, data transfer, and job submission** to the compute cluster. **NO COMPUTATION** should be launched directly on the login node. The User is responsible for the jobs they launch both on the login server and on the computing resources. Any data processing launched directly on the login servers will be systematically terminated without prior notice by the system administrators.

The User commits to not voluntarily performing operations that could harm the functioning and integrity of the Mesocentre's resources or divert them for personal purposes.

In case of abuse, the Mesocentre staff reserves the right to terminate the User's work sessions in order to free up resources, to delete or compress files that occupy excessive disk space or that have no relation to work performed on the Mesocentre, after prior notification sent to the User and respecting a time-frame whose duration depends on the urgency, allowing the User to remedy the situation themselves. The Mesocentre also reserves the right to change the priority or stop the execution of the responsible job, in case of excessive use of computing resources or use not in accordance with the rules of use and fair sharing.

2.4 Data Storage

The User has access to separate disk spaces:

- personal: /home, /scratch, /LAB-DATA/GLiCID/users, /micromamba
- by project: /LAB-DATA/GLiCID/projects

Each space has specific characteristics adapted to its use, which are described here: <https://doc.glicid.fr/GLiCID-PUBLIC/main/storage/storage-policies-quotas.html>

The User is required to use only the amount of disk space strictly necessary for them, and to effectively use compression and archiving tools. **Temporary computing files must be deleted after the computation is complete.** It is possible to view the space occupied in personal and shared spaces, via the *glicid_home_usage* command or on the CLAM portal. **It is the User's responsibility to organize their own backup solutions.**

- Duration: By default (without affiliation to a project), the duration of an account and its associated personal spaces is 12 months. Shared project spaces are available for the duration defined at the time of project creation or update (according to the PGD) in the CLAM portal;
- Retention: data from a user whose account has expired will be deleted after a period of 3 months;
- Access rights: data from personal spaces is private and not accessible to other users. Nevertheless, unless otherwise explicitly stated by the user, once their account has expired, their data may be accessed by their director in the sense of CLAM (the "manager" in CLAM);
- Responsibility and management: GLiCID's storage spaces, even those that are backed up and/or purchased, are provided without any warranty in case of data loss. **IT IS THE USER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MANAGE THEIR DATA (organization, volume, relevance, age, potential backup).**
- Legislation: as mentioned in section 7, it is the user's responsibility to comply with all legislation concerning digital data (such as so-called "health" data ("données de santé")).

3 Environmental Impact

Users are encouraged to optimize their computations and storage volume in order to limit the energy footprint of their work. The European Data Centres Code of Conduct lists a set of best practices that can be consulted here: <https://ecoinfo.cnrs.fr/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/guide-de-bonnes-pratiques-datacenter-2019.pdf>

4 Maintenance and Service Quality

GLiCID is a research service managed by researchers. Although the team always does its best to maintain the highest possible quality of service, GLiCID cannot be held to a formal obligation of results in this regard.

GLiCID plans a scheduled shutdown for maintenance of its equipment every two months. Although limited as much as possible, the mesocentre may interrupt services for unplanned maintenance without prior notice in case of emergency.

4.1 Software Environment Installation

Different software environments are offered: Modules, Guix, Micromamba, Apptainer... For more information: <https://doc.glicid.fr/GLiCID-PUBLIC/main/software/index.html>

If a software tool requires a connection to a remote site (for example, use of a public database), it is necessary to allow these URLs on the proxy. This request must be made via a ticket: <https://help.glicid.fr/>.

For the use of micromamba and conda environments, it is imperative to install environments in the dedicated partition: `/micromamba/<username>`.

5 Support

User support is provided via tickets: <https://help.glicid.fr/>. The team commits to responding as quickly as possible, without any obligation of results or deadlines ("best effort"). Users are reminded that courtesy in exchanges via tickets is required. No disrespect will be tolerated.

6 Acknowledgments, Activity Reports, and Projects

6.1 Publications

Users commit to providing a list of their publications based on work that has benefited, at least in part, from GLiCID resources. These must mention the mesocentre in their acknowledgments:

"This research used resources of the GLiCID Computing Facility (Ligerien Group for Intensive Distributed Computing, www.glicid.fr; Pays de la Loire, France, doi.org/10.60487/glicid)"

Publications from laboratories in Life Sciences and Health must also mention:

"We are grateful to the Institut Français de Bioinformatique and the BiRD platform, financed under the Programme d'Investissements d'Avenir funded by the Agence Nationale de la Recherche (RENABI-IFB ANR-11-INBS-0013 and MUDIS4LS ANR-21-ESRE-0048), for providing help and/or computing and/or storage resources".

6.2 Activity Reports

The GLiCID director may request a short activity report from its users, who commit to providing it within a reasonable timeframe.

6.3 Projects

GLiCID can only function thanks to the contributions of its users. In their research projects, researchers commit to requesting funds to dedicate to GLiCID in proportion to their use.

6.4 Note

A user who cannot demonstrate good faith regarding the three preceding points may see their access to GLiCID resources limited.

7 Compliance with Legislation

The User is responsible, wherever they are, for the use they make or will make of the Mesocentre's computing, analysis, visualization, and network resources to which they have access.

The following principles, inscribed in French law, are recalled below in a non-exhaustive manner. Indeed, the User commits to performing no operation likely to cause harm in any way whatsoever to:

- respect for privacy, the right to one's image, copyright and neighboring rights of any natural or legal person, private or public;
- defamation and insult;
- the integrity, security, and availability of the Mesocentre's resources;
- public order and public safety;
- persons and property through acts constituting criminal offenses.

When the User is required to create files containing personal data, they shall in particular:

- comply with prior procedures with the CNIL (www.cnil.fr);
- provide prior information to the concerned persons regarding the purpose of the processing of this information;
- provide prior information to the concerned persons regarding the risks inherent to the Internet, that these data may be used in countries that do not provide sufficient protection of personal data.

When the User is required to create or use documents or devices protected by copyright or neighboring rights to copyright within the framework of the publishing services offered by the Mesocentre, they must include, for each of the elements concerned, information on their intellectual property (name(s) and role(s) of the author(s), sources and date of creation), details regarding the nature of each document (original or adapted, nature of adaptations), as well as a precise indication of the authorized modes of use.

8 Intellectual Property

The use of software (source or binary) and more generally of any document (file, image, sound, ...) must be done in compliance with intellectual property law, recommendations set by rights holders, and commitments made by the supervising institutions of GLiCID (in license contracts for example). In particular:

- It is strictly prohibited to make copies of commercial software for any purpose other than a backup copy under the conditions provided by the intellectual property code;
- The installation of any software may only be done in compliance with applicable legislation, the author's and publisher's recommendations, and the Mesocentre's recommendations. If applicable, it is subject to payment of the right to use it;
- It is strictly prohibited to circumvent the usage restrictions of a software.

9 Confidentiality

The User may only access information or files made publicly available on the network, as well as their own personal information or files. It is prohibited for the User to attempt to access information or files reserved for the use of other users, even in cases where these elements are not protected by physical or logical devices. Any violation of this obligation may engage the civil or criminal liability of its author.

Any attempt to intercept communications between third parties is prohibited.

The User is required to protect and keep strictly confidential the information they may have become aware of in the course of their collaboration with the Mesocentre.

The User is also required to take, with the possible assistance of administrators, the necessary data protection measures to comply with the confidentiality commitments made by the supervising institutions of GLiCID vis-à-vis third parties.

10 Analysis and Control

For legal reasons and the necessities of security, maintenance, and technical management, the use of hardware and software resources as well as exchanges via the network are recorded in log files. These are then stored and archived for the legally authorized duration, and if necessary, may be used for the purposes of investigation, documentation, and prosecution of criminal offenses in order to make information available to judicial authorities. Log files may also be used by Mesocentre personnel to help resolve technical issues.

11 Legal Obligation

It is recalled that any person on French territory must comply with all applicable legislation, particularly in the field of IT security.

The supervising institutions of GLiCID are obligated to comply with all rules protecting the interests of third parties and public order, and in particular to promptly inform public authorities of any illegal activities they may observe in the course of using its services.

The supervising institutions of GLiCID are obligated to prevent or to stop any violation of third-party rights by removing the litigious information accessible through its services or by making access impossible, as soon as they receive an order from a public authority.

Non-compliance with the rules of conduct set by this Charter, as well as with applicable laws, may lead to administrative or criminal sanctions.

12 Data and GDPR

Upon account creation to access the cluster, the mesocentre is required to collect the following personal information: last name, first name, affiliation, email address.

These data, as well as any data the User may deposit in their storage space, are in no way made public or communicated to third parties. Under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the User has the right to address to the mesocentre at any time a request for communication, modification, or deletion of their personal and scientific data, using the contact email address. Unless otherwise requested by the User or their supervisor, **all** of their data will be destroyed **3 months** after the expiration of their access to resources.

13 Contact

For any information regarding this document, contact the Mesocentre at the following address:

contact@glicid.fr