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JASMIN

JASMIN: Infrastructure to support a diverse range of scientific use cases

ISENES3 Virtual workshop on requirements for a fast and scalable evaluation workflow, May 2021

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RAL Space

Overview

- CEDA and JASMIN
- Scientific use cases
- Topics:
  - Storage
  - Compute
  - Data transfer/migration
  - Cloud
- Bringing it all together

CEDA: Overview

- Centre for Environmental Data Analysis
- Mission: to provide data and information services for environmental science
- ~30 staff
- CEDA:
  - >20Pb of environmental data
  - Catalogue and data access services
  - ~67,000 users (~20k active users)
- JASMIN

https://www.ceda.ac.uk/

JASMIN: Purpose

Supports data analysis for (NERC) environmental science community

- Large scale, data-intensive science

Designed for performance

- Tailored to needs of academic community

Compute co-located with the data

- CEDA Archive data (curated)
- Group Workspaces (self-managed, not curated)

Flexible compute capabilities

- Interactive and batch compute
- JASMIN Cloud provides autonomy, scalability

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JASMIN: numbers

- **>40 Petabytes** high performance storage
- **>13,000** computing **cores**
- **High-performance network** design
- **~50 Private cloud 'tenants'**, to enable flexible usage
- Dedicated **high memory** and **data transfer** machines
- GPU cluster to be installed

User needs for "big-data" platform

- Access to any software packages...*that we might need*
- A stable unchanging software environment...*for the duration of my project (and when we come back and re-run later)*
- Access to unlimited processing capability...*at the exact time we are ready to run*
- Access to unlimited storage...*in case we need it*
- Tools to manage all kinds of workflows *across such a platform*

JASMIN: Scientific use cases

1. Interactive login (small)
2. Notebook (small)
3. Notebook on CaaS (medium)
4. Batch via login (medium/large)
5. Batch and multi-step workflows (large)
6. External Cloud interactions (including Object Store) (medium/large)

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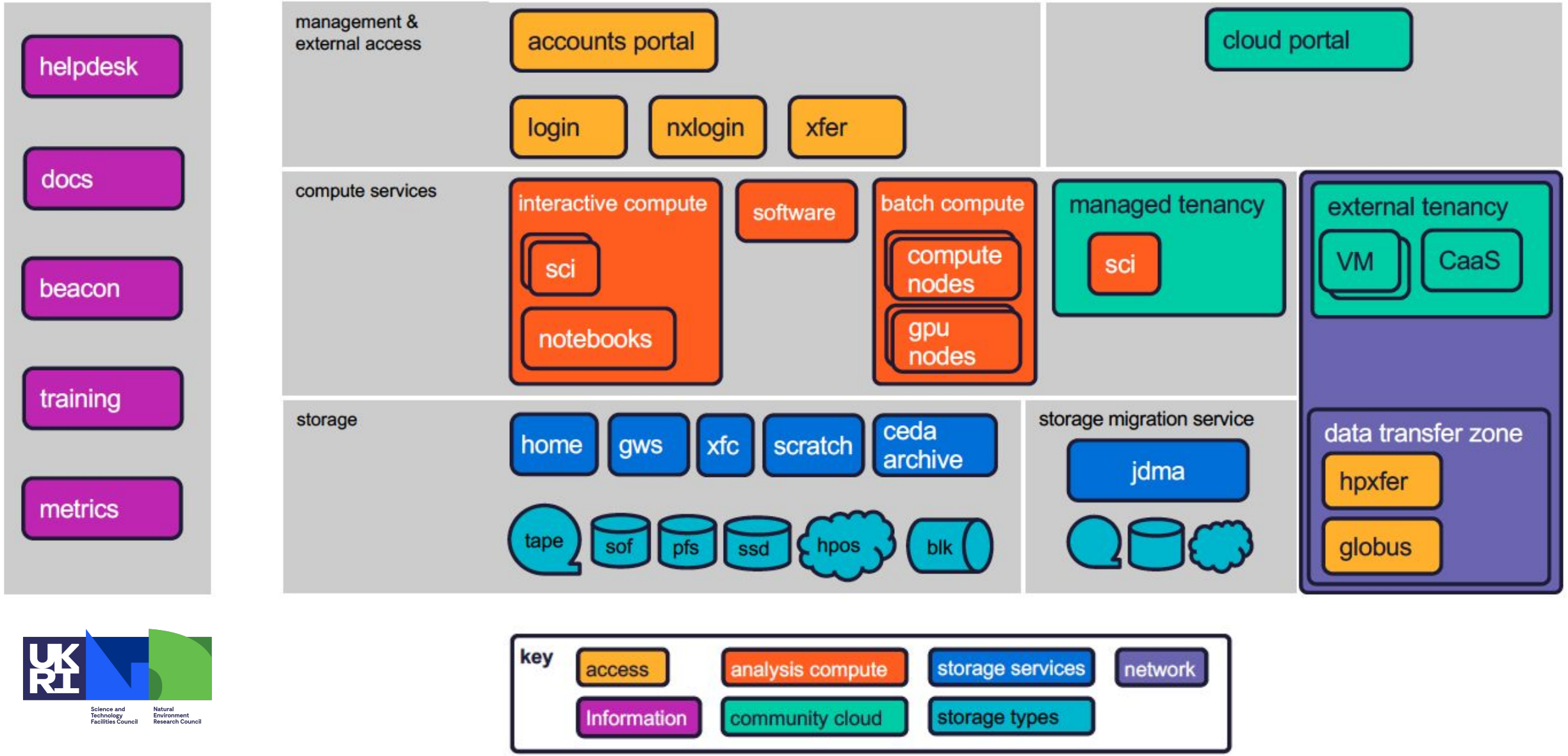
JASMIN Services



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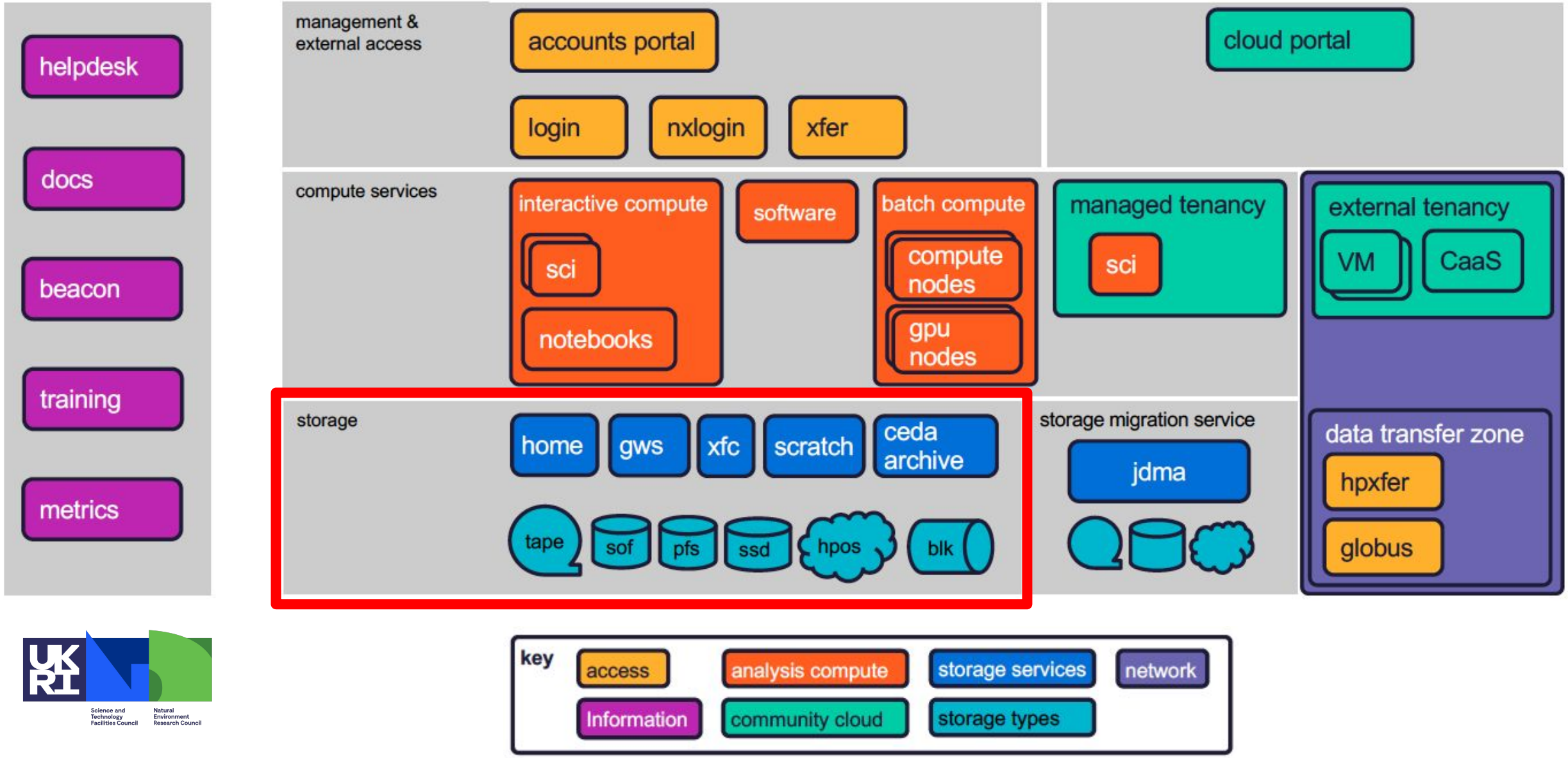
JASMIN Services



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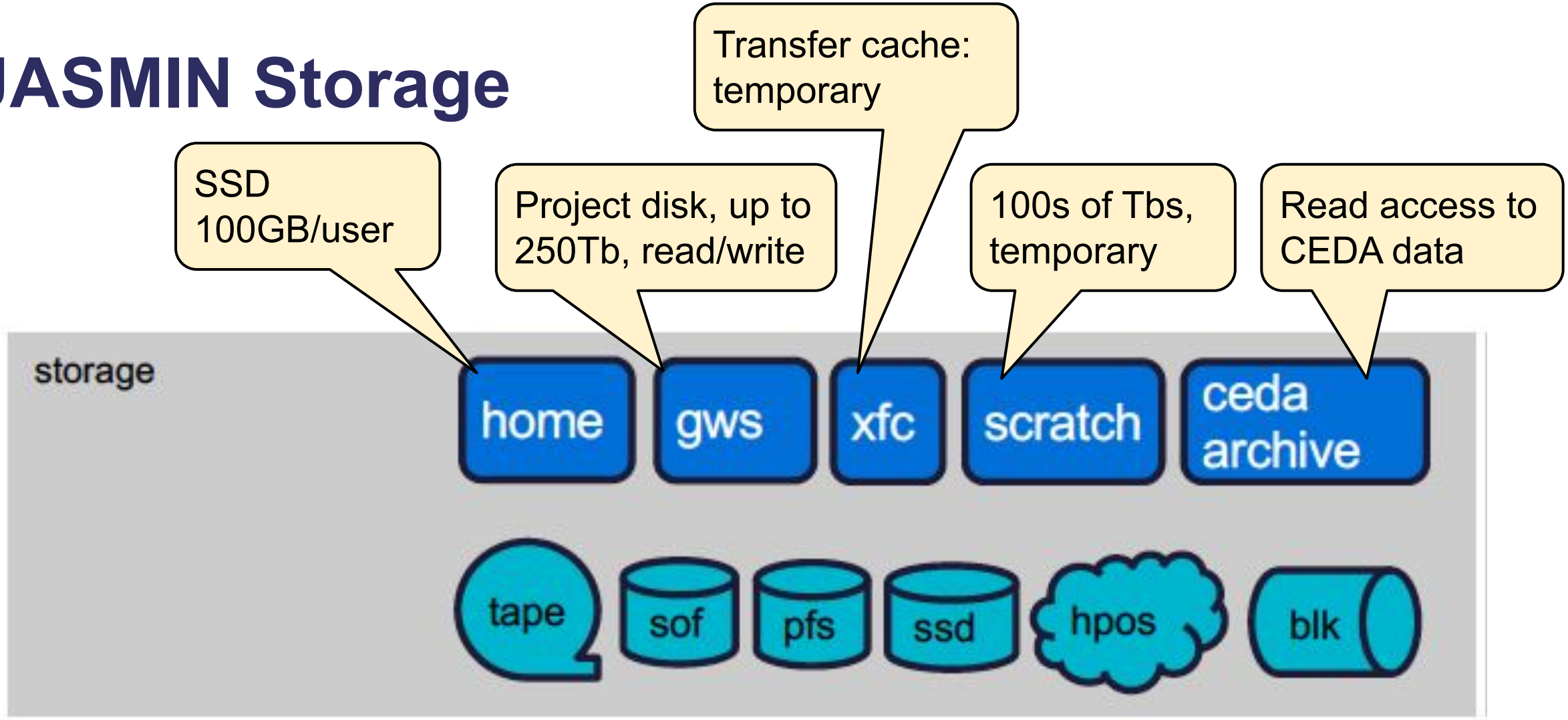
JASMIN Storage



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Issues related to storage

- File-systems mounted across entire platform
- Heterogeneous file-system storage:
  - SSD, SOF, PFS - different properties/strengths/weaknesses
- Limitations on parallel writes
- Small-file (<64Kb) support: e.g. software environments
- Optimising use of storage media for large workflows:
  - Very significant impacts on efficiency
- When to use tape and object store?

The case for object storage

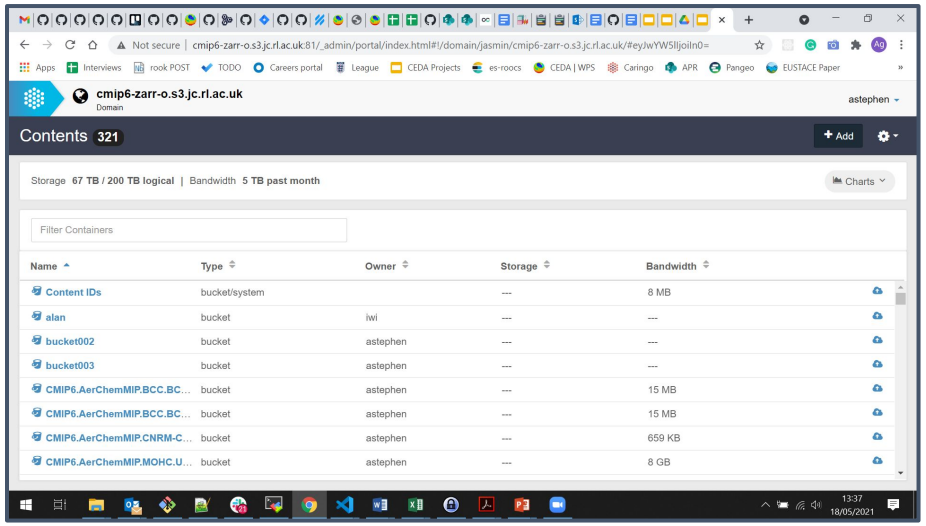
Traditional File Systems (POSIX)

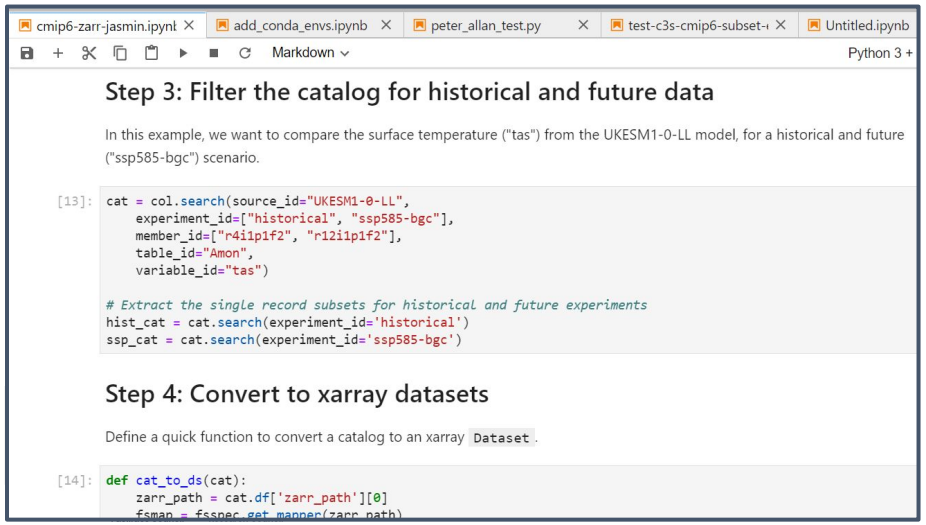
- Access model is limiting – user management fixed to operating system – if you don't have a JASMIN id, you can't access it
- Strain on this model scaling with large file systems

Object Store

- Access is by HTTP so data can potentially be accessed from anywhere
- Provides a way to share data between the External Cloud and other parts of JASMIN
- Naturally scales

CMIP6 in the JASMIN Object Store





- We have developed a tool for converting our CMIP6 holdings to Zarr format written in the JASMIN Object Store.
- Processed as each ESGF Dataset:
  - One variable, model, expt, ensemble
  - All files in a time series
- Zarr files save "chunks" (i.e. sub-arrays) as individual objects.
- Notebook interface uses Intake-ESM catalog, Xarray, Matplotlib (PANGEO stack)
- Available to JASMIN users
- ~70Tb loaded so far
- Prototype stage at present

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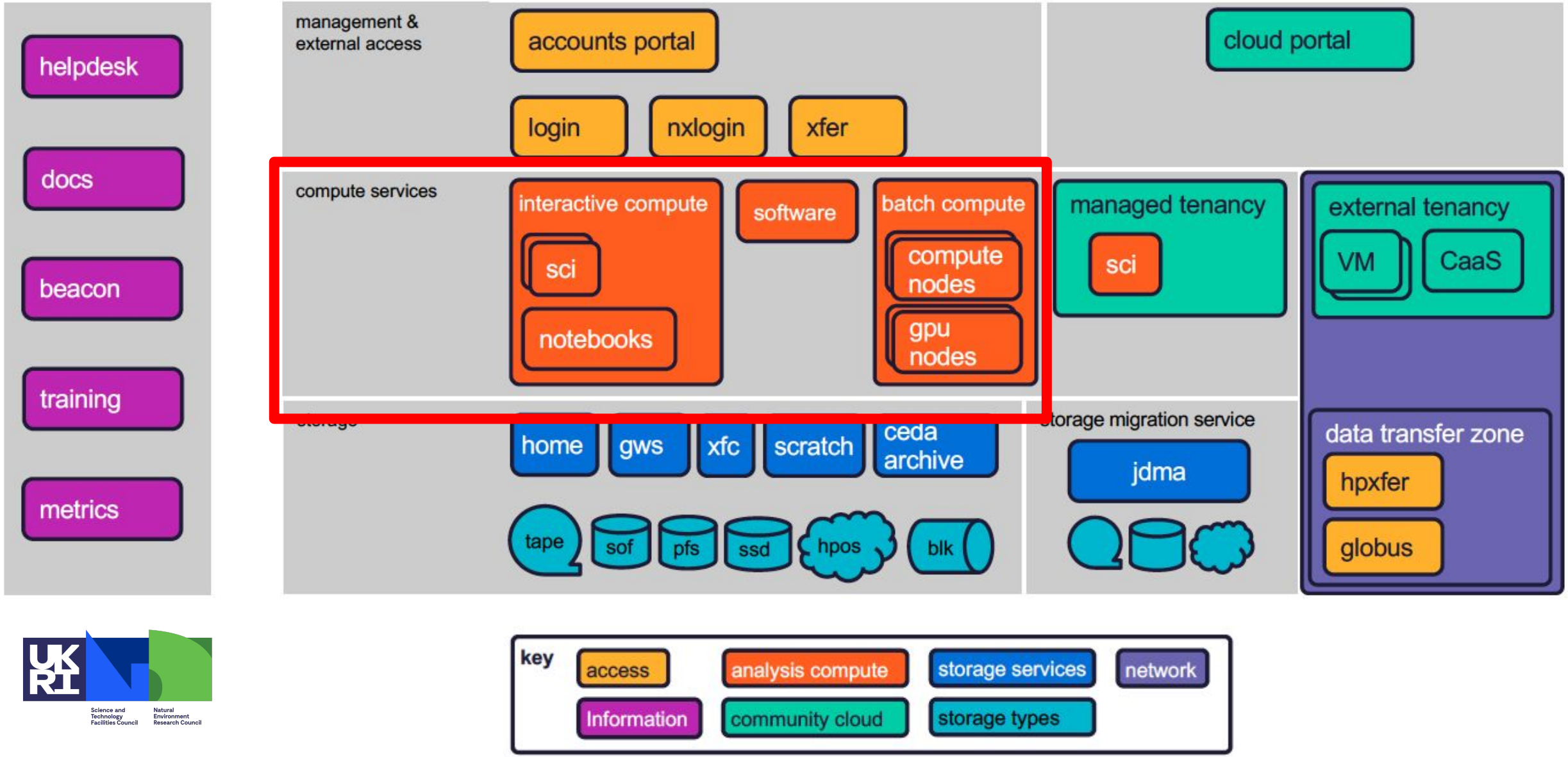

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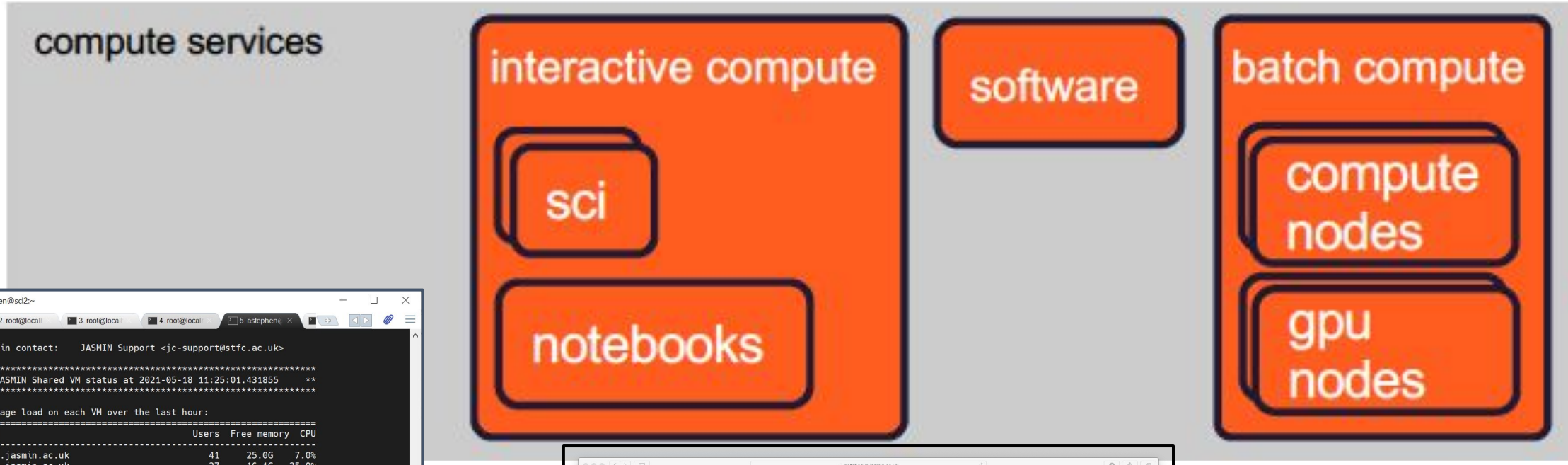
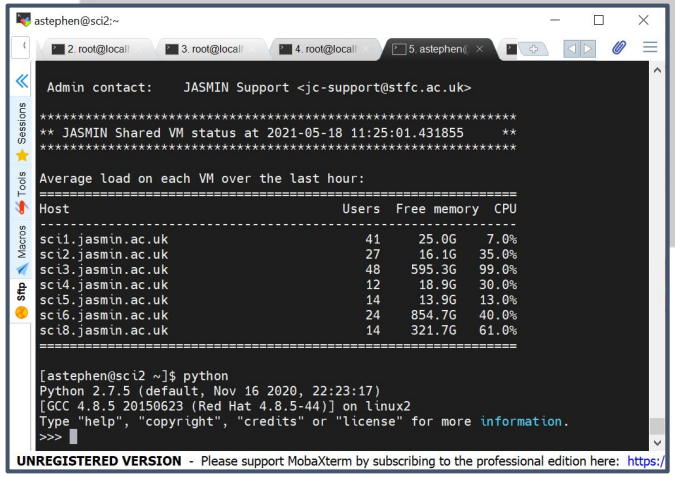
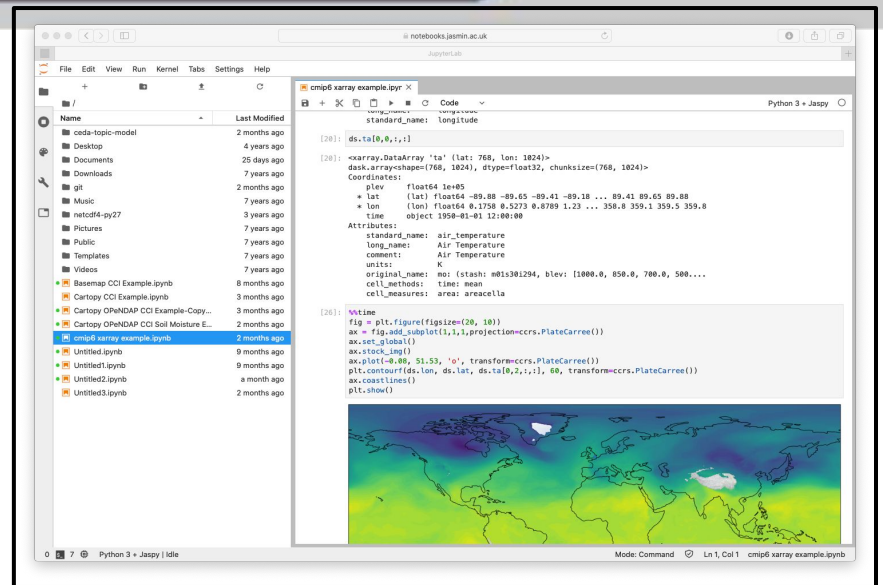
JASMIN Compute







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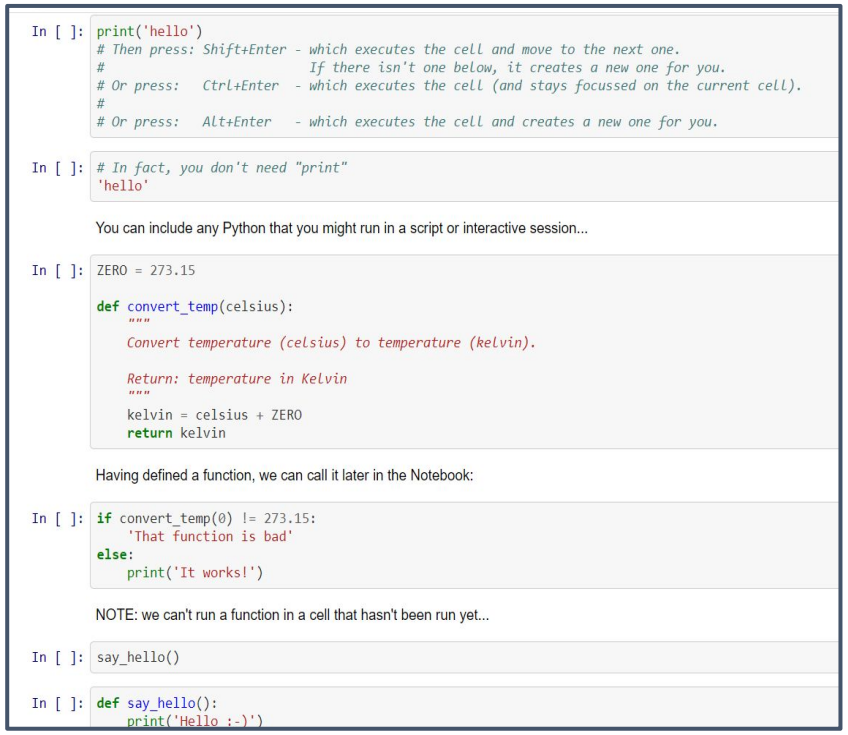
JASMIN Notebook Service



```
In [ ]: print('hello')
        # Then press: Shift+Enter - which executes the cell and move to the next one.
        #                           If there isn't one below, it creates a new one for you.
        # Or press:   Ctrl+Enter  - which executes the cell (and stays focussed on the current cell).
        #
        # Or press:   Alt+Enter   - which executes the cell and creates a new one for you.

In [ ]: # In fact, you don't need "print"
        'hello'
```

You can include any Python that you might run in a script or interactive session...

```
In [ ]: ZERO = 273.15

        def convert_temp(celsius):
            """
            Convert temperature (celsius) to temperature (kelvin).

            Return: temperature in Kelvin
            """
            kelvin = celsius + ZERO
            return kelvin
```

Having defined a function, we can call it later in the Notebook:

```
In [ ]: if convert_temp(0) != 273.15:
            'That function is bad'
        else:
            print('It works!')
```

NOTE: we can't run a function in a cell that hasn't been run yet...

```
In [ ]: say_hello()

In [ ]: def say_hello():
            print('Hello :-)')
```

A Jupyter Notebook is an interactive programming environment that runs in a web browser.

The JASMIN Notebook Service that allows you to:

- Define, edit and run code (in Python)
- Access a common (Jaspy) software environment
- Access data in the CEDA Archive and in your Group Workspaces
- Access data in the JASMIN Object Store

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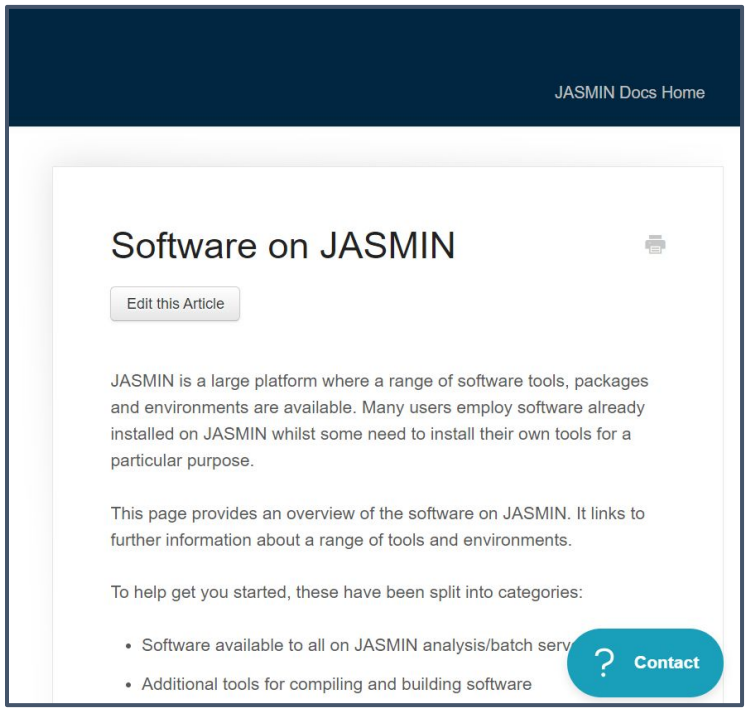
Software on JASMIN



- Software is provided on analysis/batch/notebooks
- Compile / build / install software
- Restricted and server-specific software
- Data movement software

Jaspy environments

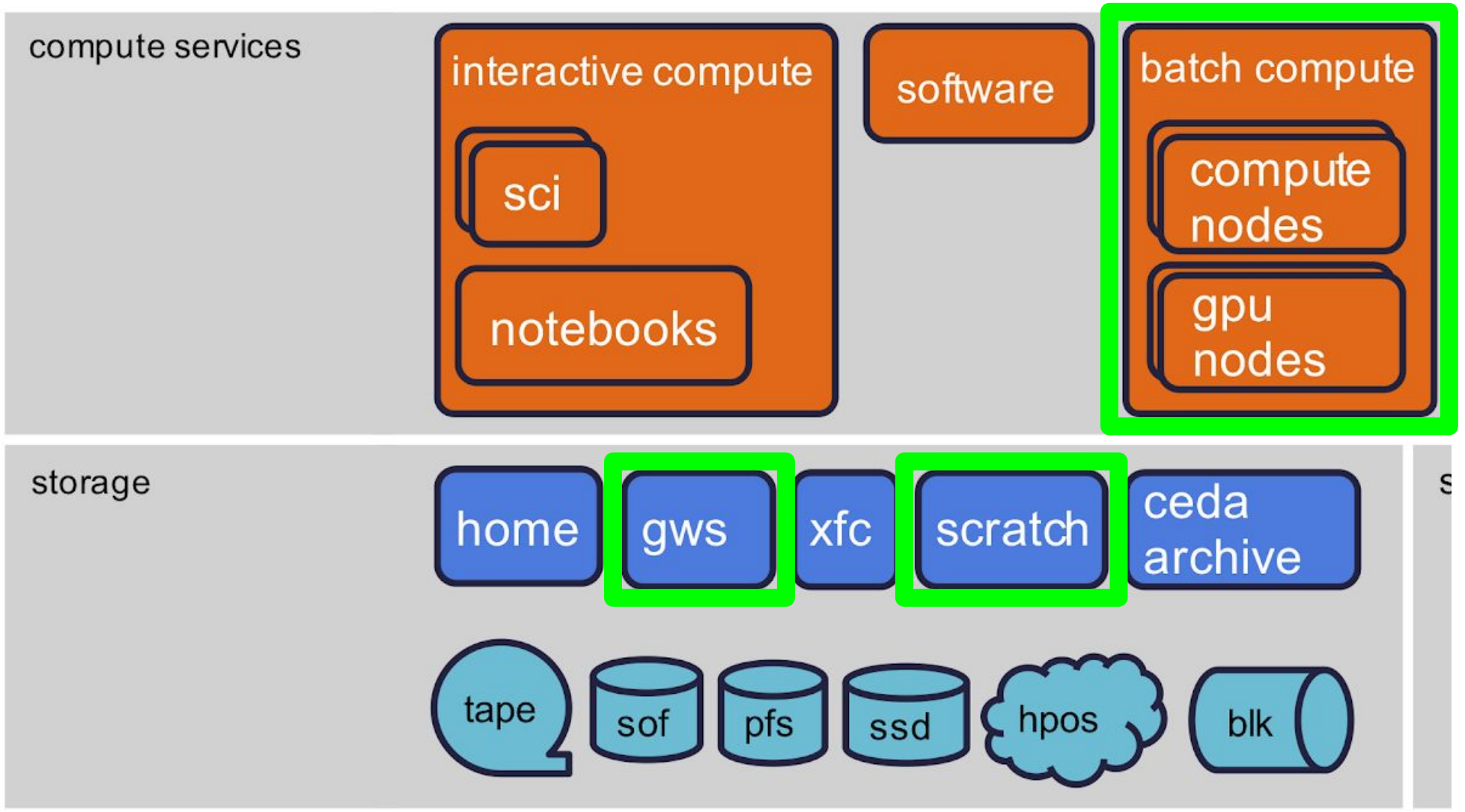
Python2.7 & others
Python3.7 & others

https://help.jasmin.ac.uk/article/273-software-on-jasmin

Issues related to batch compute

- Provide a heterogeneous batch environment:
  - Standard nodes: 16 core, 128Gb RAM
  - 1Tb nodes: 48 core, 1024Gb RAM
  - 2Tb nodes: 48 core, 2048Gb RAM
  - And others…
- Scheduler (SLURM) needs tuning to enable:
  - Prioritisation for major (funded/high-priority) projects
  - Fair-share for general use
- NOTE: users will look for ways of subverting the scheduler rules

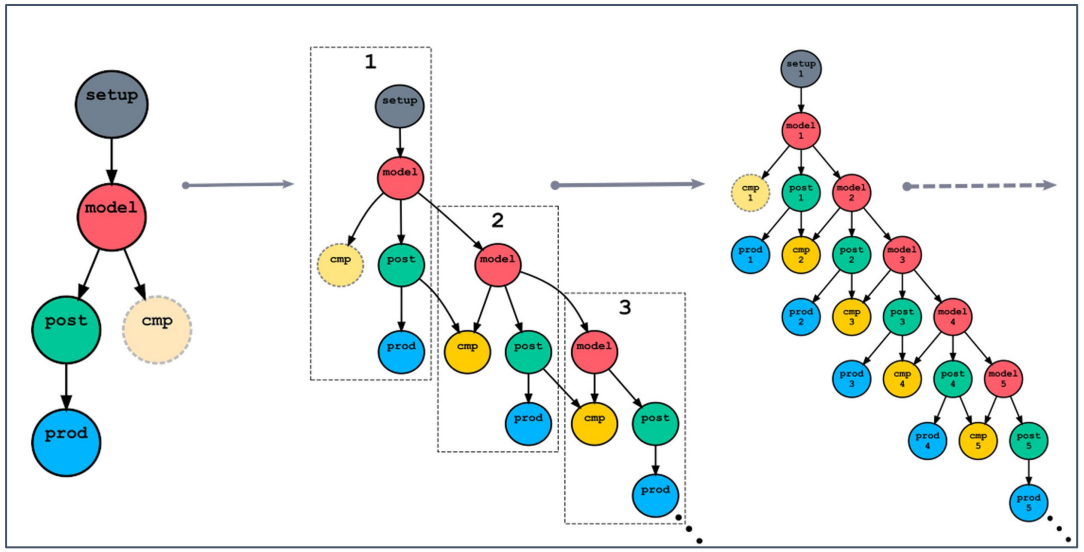
User workflows



Workflow tools - Rose/Cylc

On JASMIN, we have installed **Rose/Cylc** (Met Office/NIWA):

- very good for multi-step workflows
- Includes a graphical interface
- talks to LOTUS
- sophisticated workflow management (retries etc)
- dedicated server



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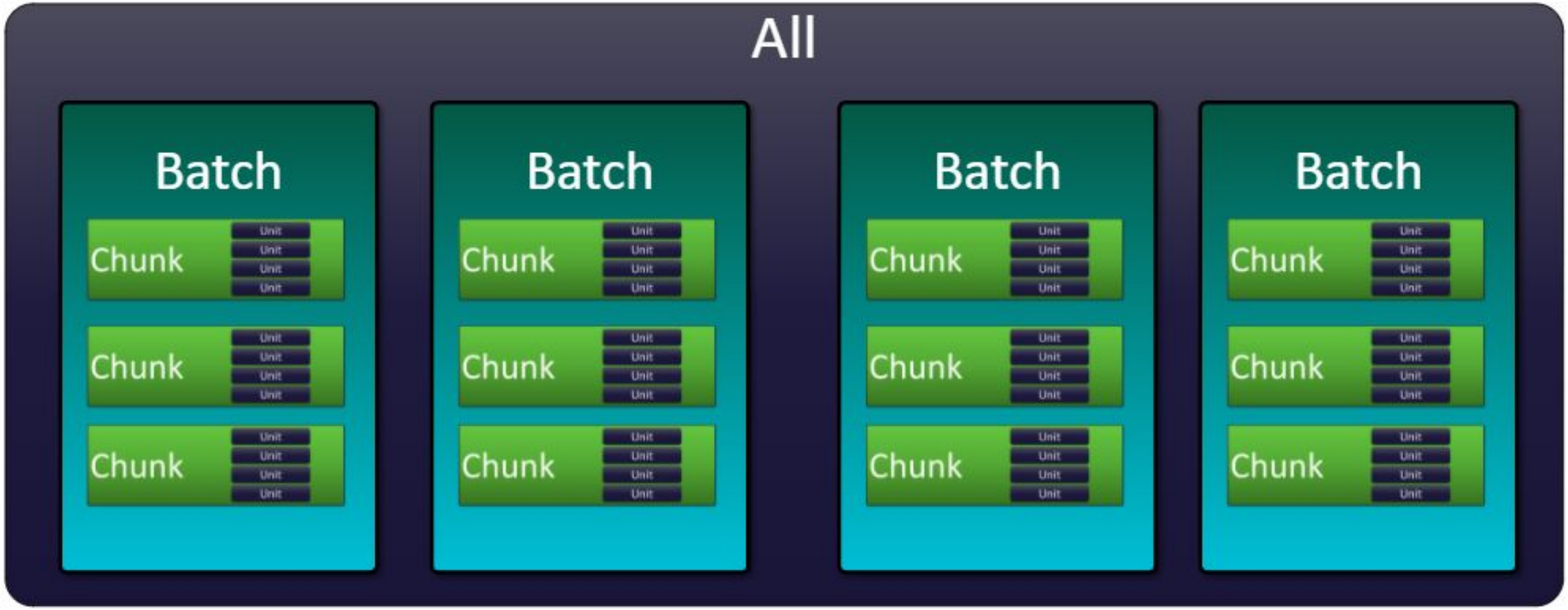
Encouraging good practice



https://github.com/cedadev/abcunit-cmip5-stats

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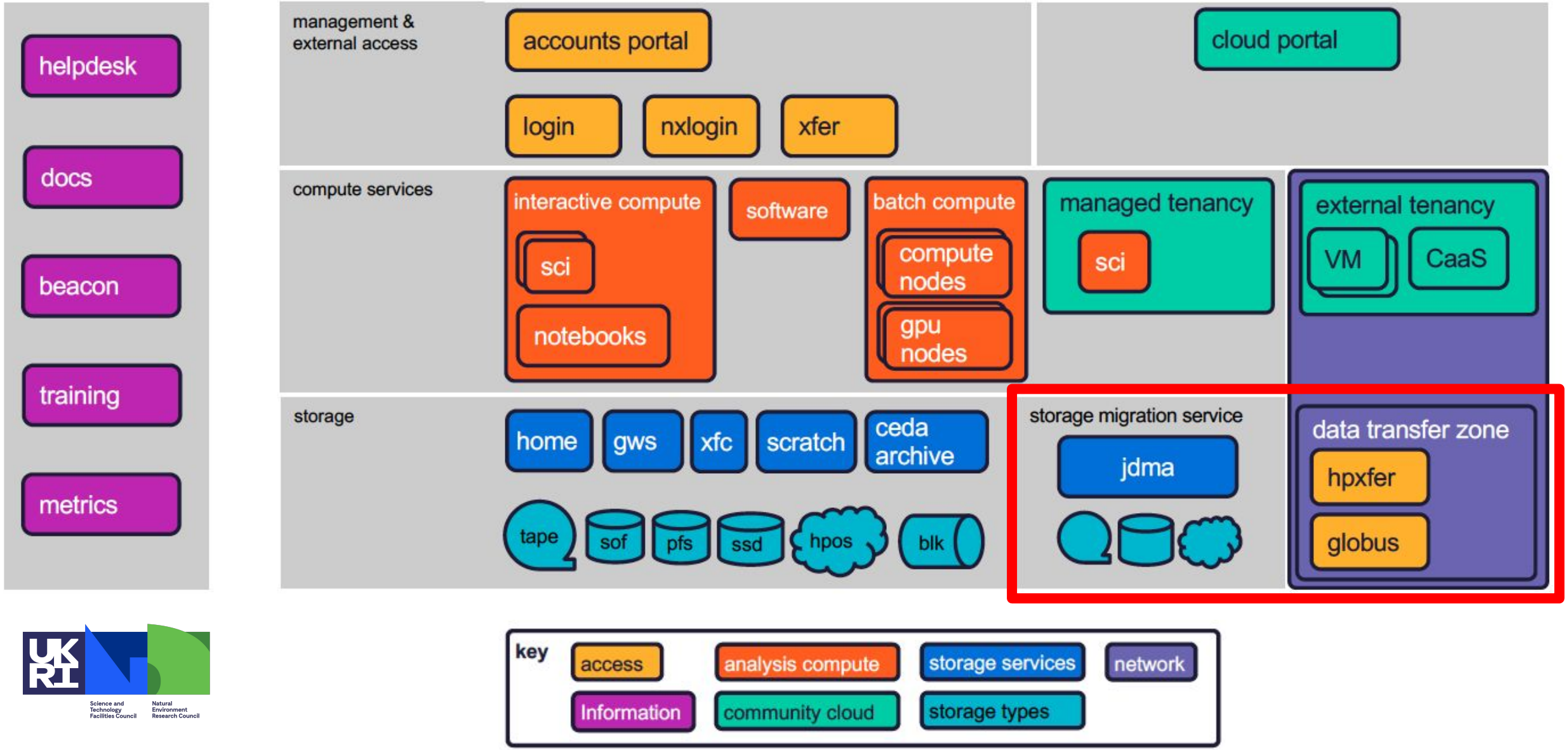

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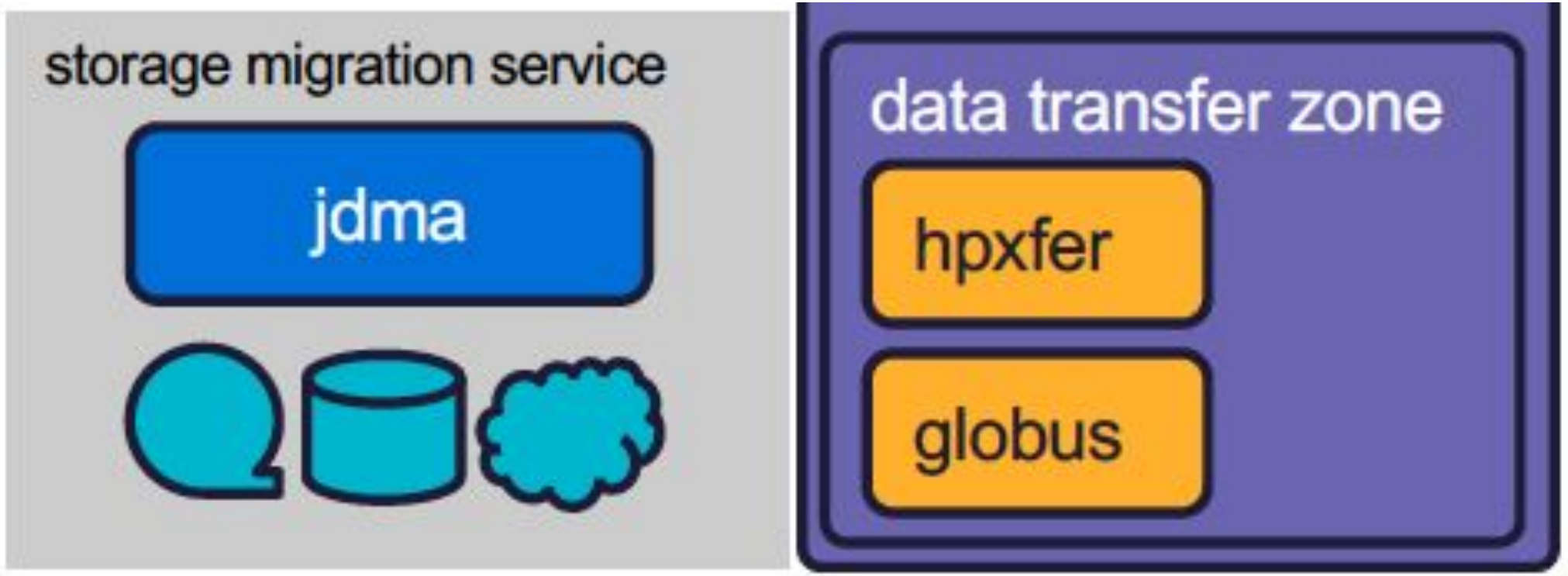
JASMIN: data transfer and migration



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Issues related to data transfer and migration

- Use the best tool for the job
- Use the best transfer protocol
- Use the best server/service
- Incremental backup is required:
  - But hard to provide
  - Requires walking of the file-system (expensive because of parallel disk management of file-system metadata)
- Important question: "Do you need to move the data at all?"
- Can we reduce volumes using WPS subsetting, opendap etc?

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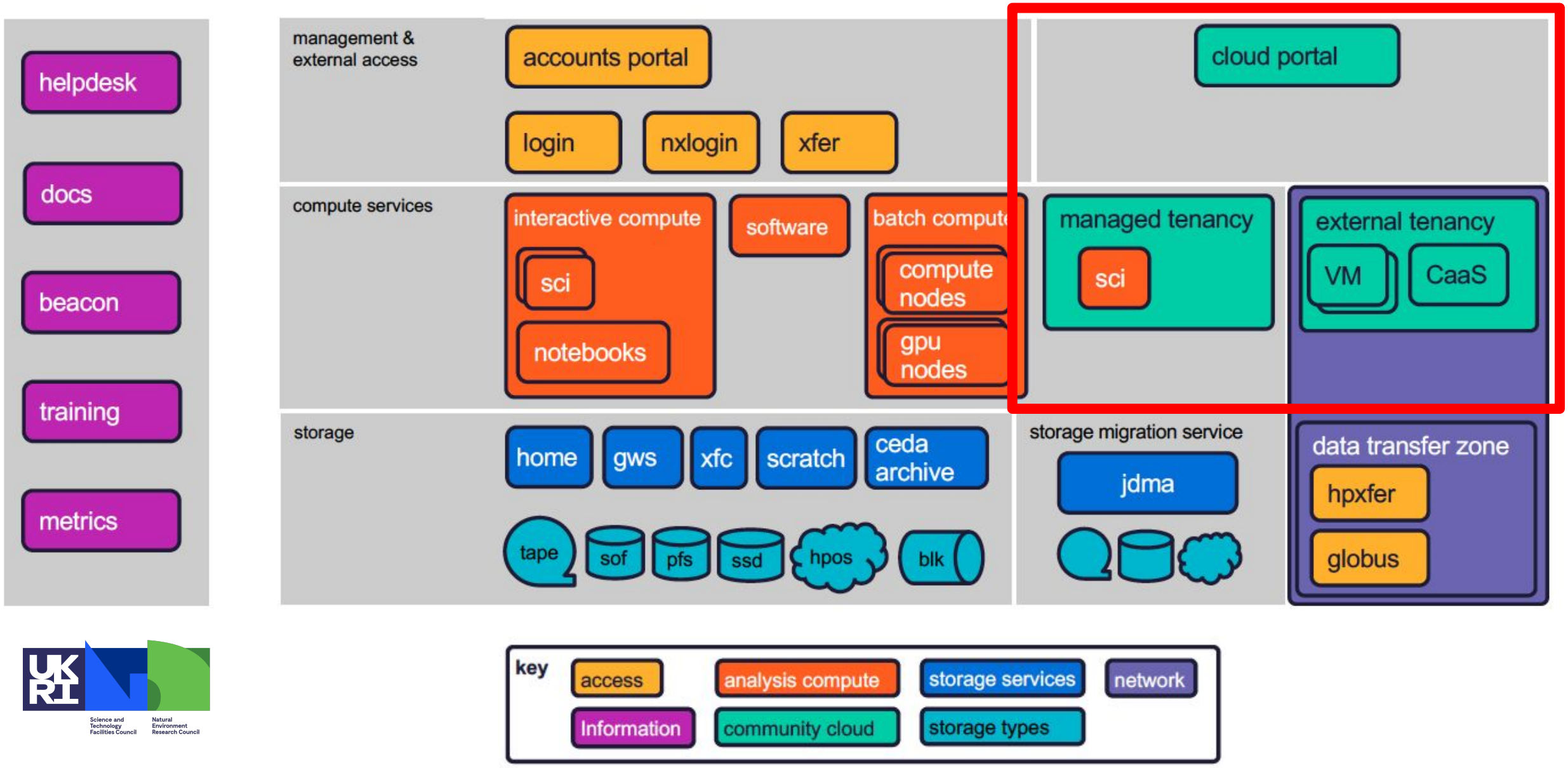

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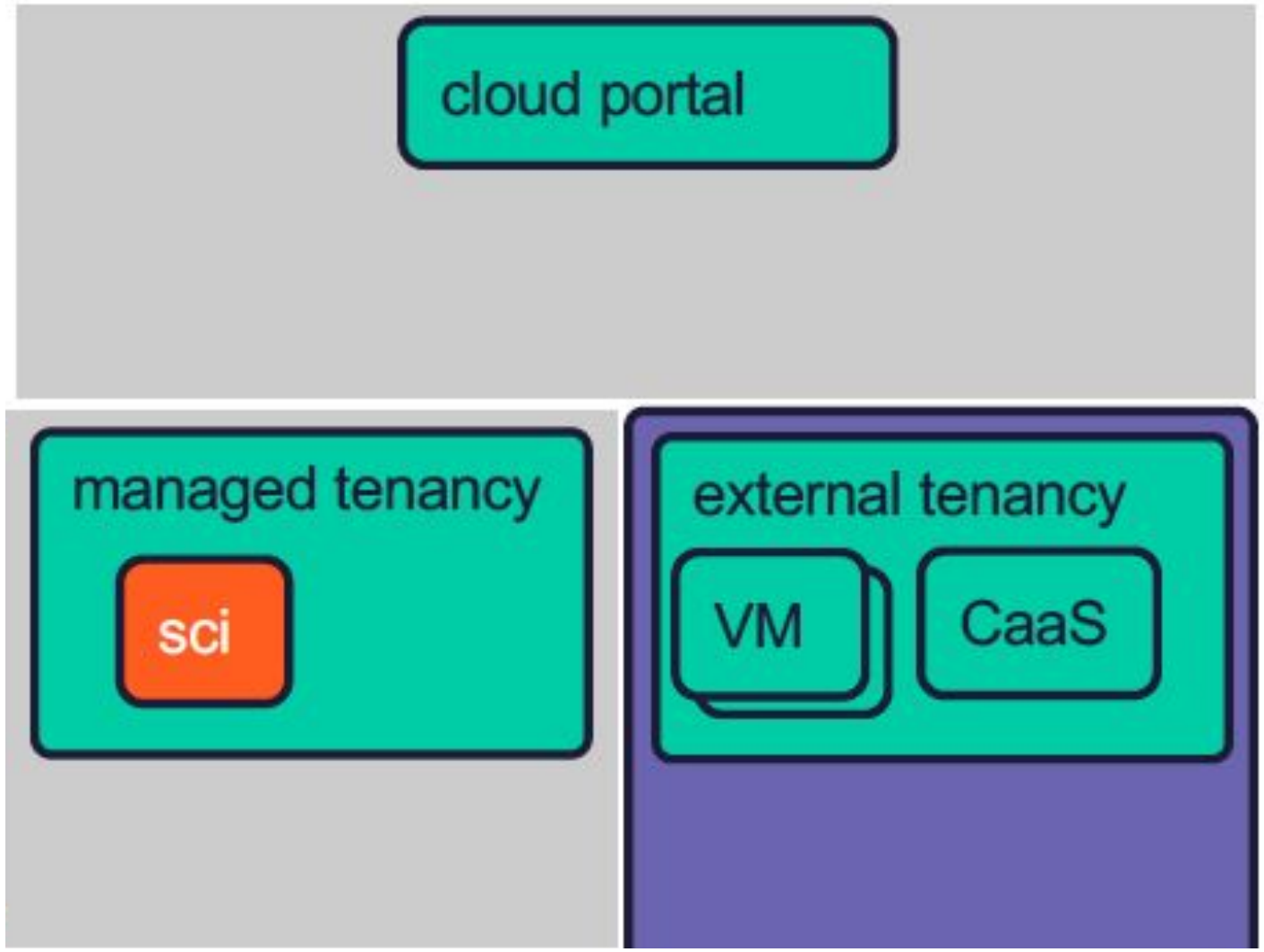
JASMIN: cloud



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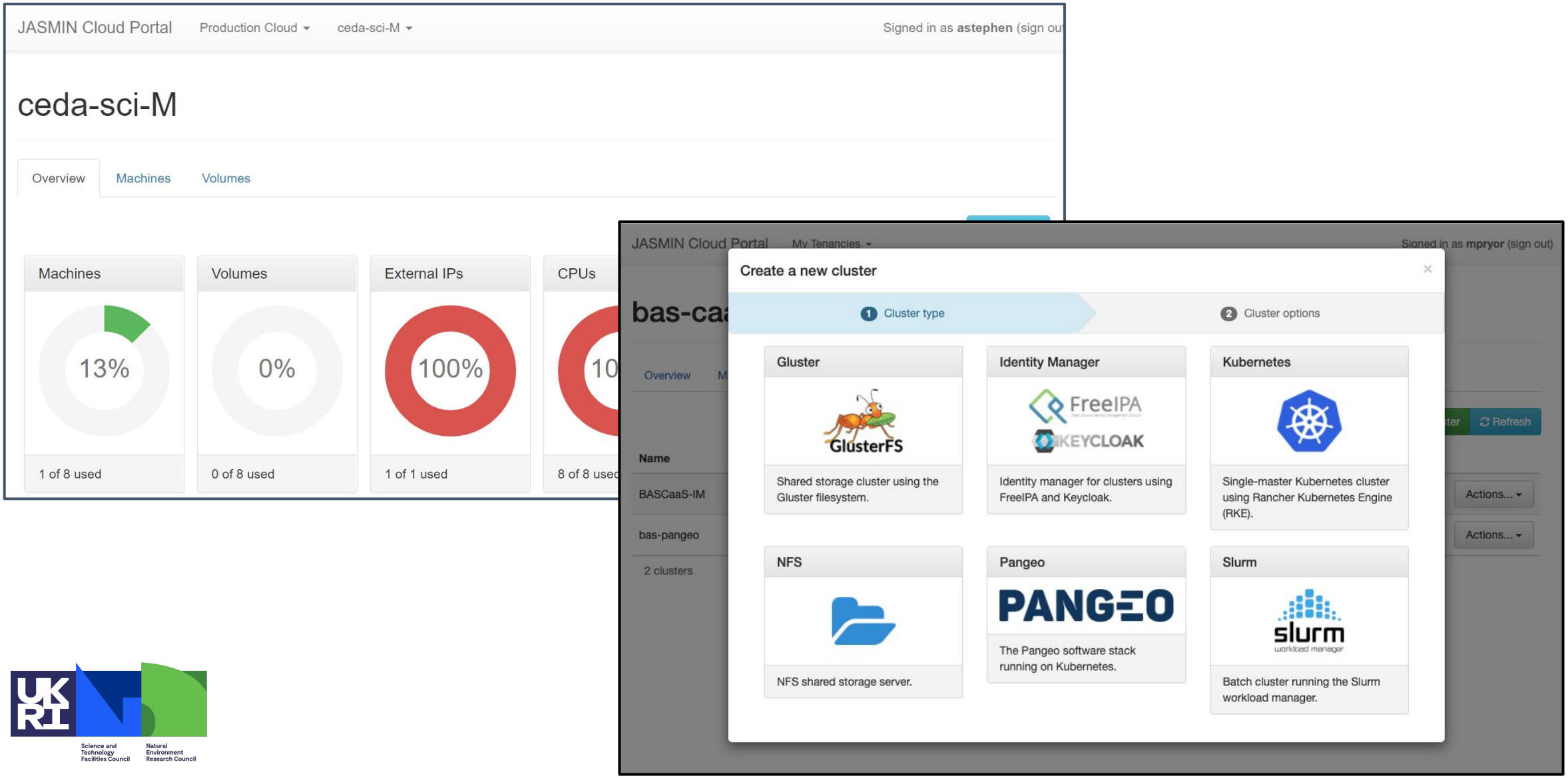
JASMIN: cloud



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Benefits of CaaS

- Dedicated clusters for your project
  - No competing for job slots with other users
- Clustering software like Kubernetes and Slurm is difficult to configure
  - Let CaaS do it for you!
- Cluster manager still gets root access
  - Apply customisations on top of CaaS-managed clusters
- Your users do not have to be JASMIN users
  - CaaS provides an identity management portal for your tenancy
  - Identities are integrated across all clusters in a tenancy
- Supports additional functionality
  - Use Kubernetes to build services for end users
  - Run a Jupyter notebook platform for your project

Issues related to cloud compute

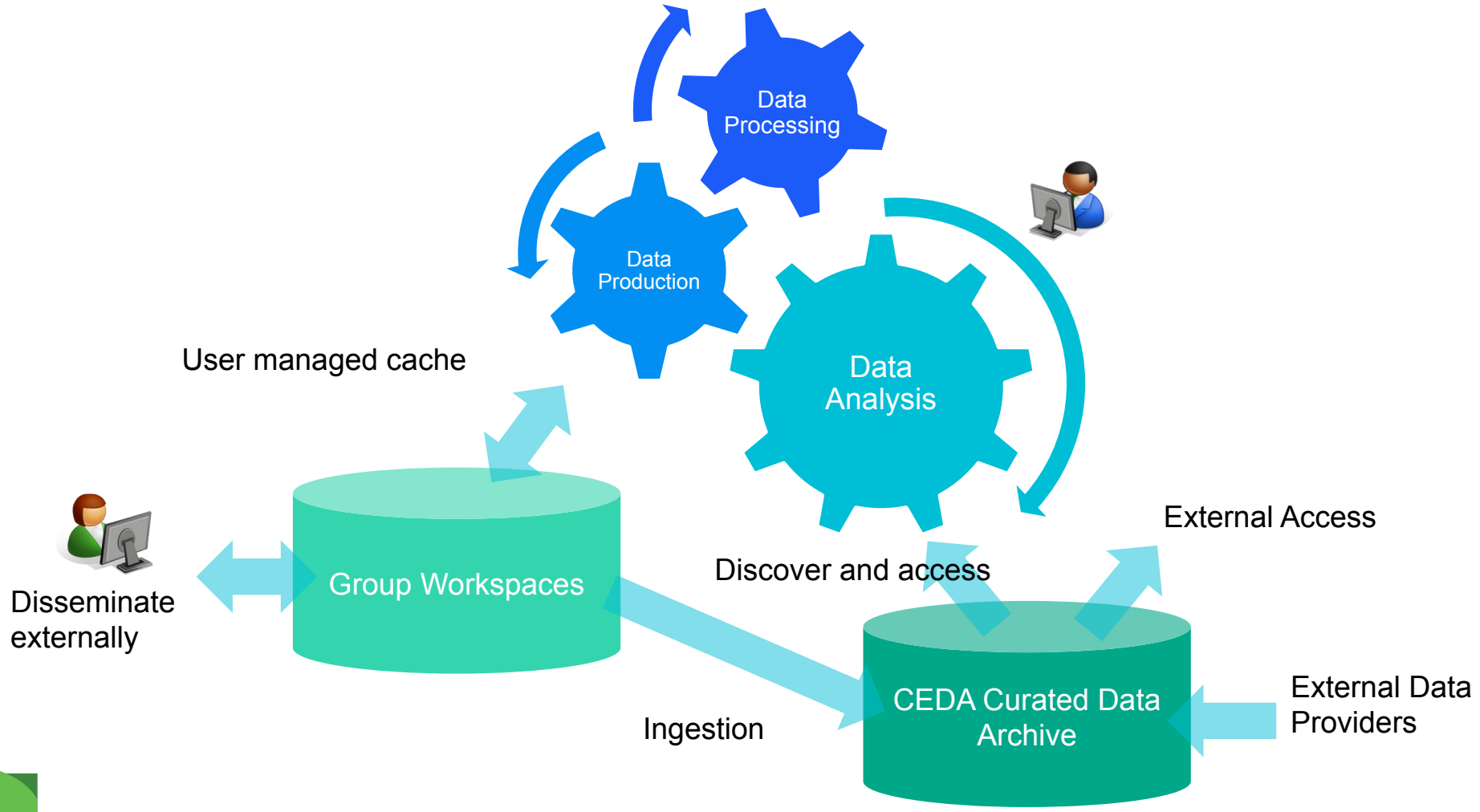
Background:

- Compute-as-a-Service (CaaS) environments in JASMIN Cloud
- Users running PANGEO and other Notebook environments
- Local storage and access to the JASMIN Object Store

Requirements:

- Provide scalable clusters for processing - e.g. enabling Dask for high-performance parallel data access and processing
  - In reality: resource implications to meet a range of different usage modes

Common use case: Data Analysis and Sharing



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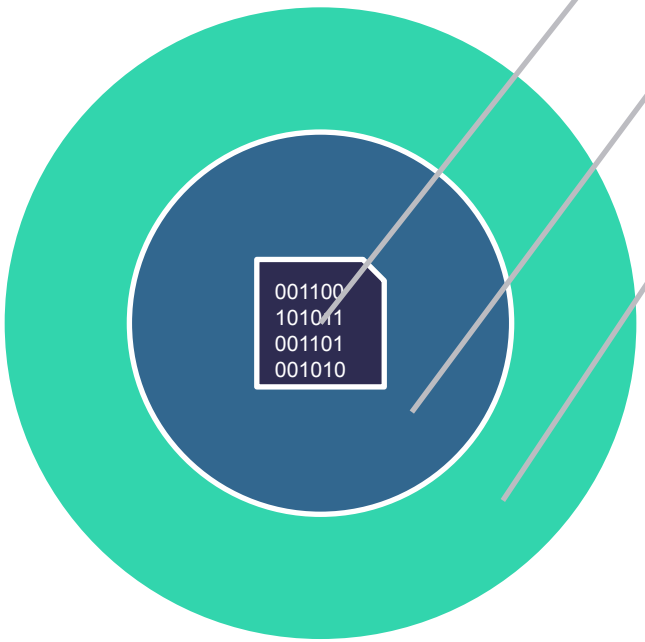
Customisation and Environments



My code - I can control it ☺

Operating System - I can access a limited set of functionality from

JASMIN Infrastructure – fixed set of services providing resources that I can use

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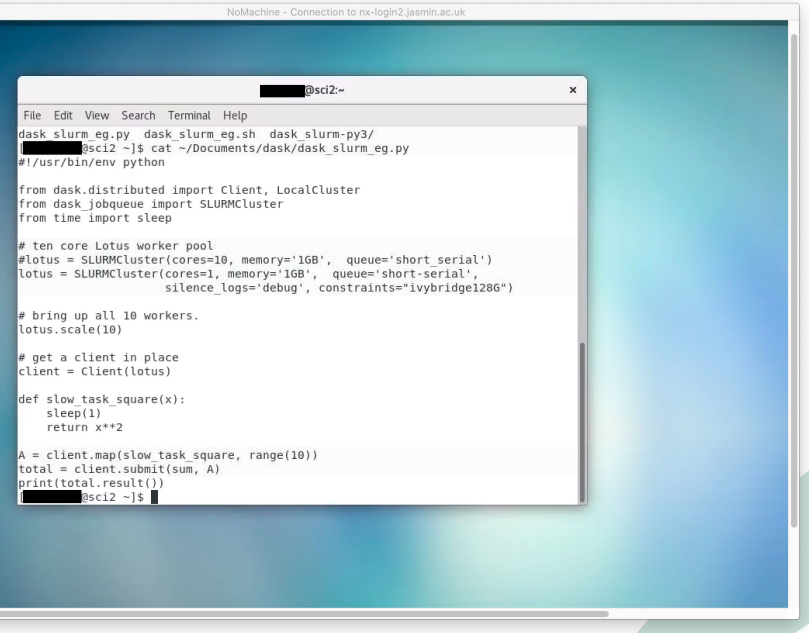
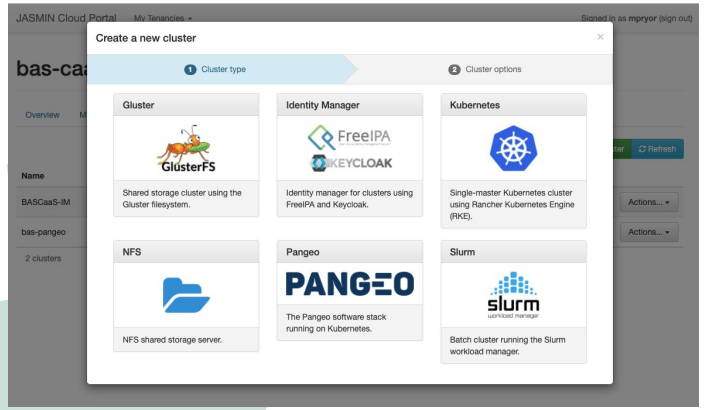
Customisation Evolution





Cluster-as-a-Service

- custom environments from building blocks
- On top of JASMIN Cloud

Jupyter Notebook Service

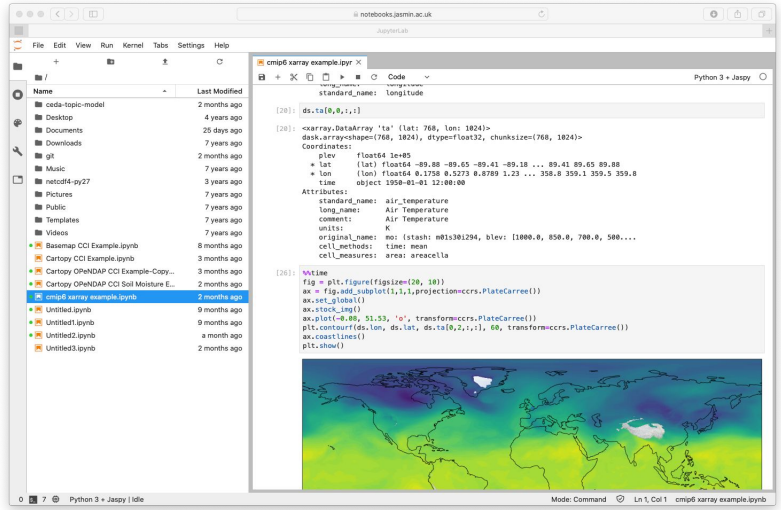
- Per user resources

Manage-your-own Sci Analysis VMs

- Dynamic but fixed configuration
- Uses JASMIN Cloud

Sci Analysis VMs

- static resources



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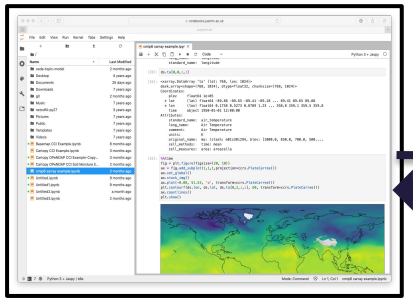
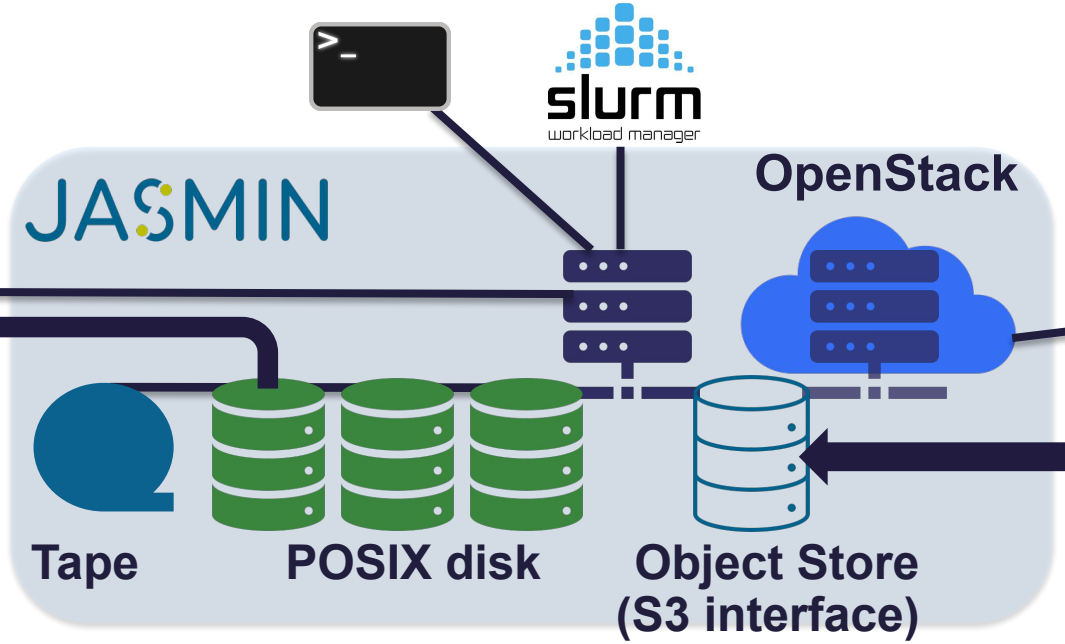
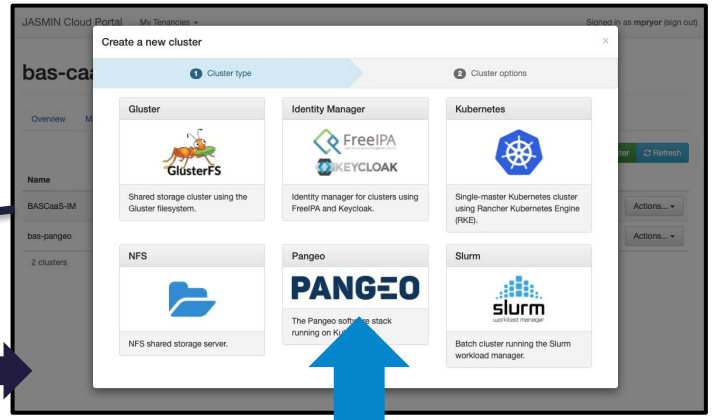
Bringing it all together: DTEP Climate Impact Explorer

Notebook Service





JASMIN Cluster-as-a-Service (CaaS)



CLIMATE IMPACT EXPLORER
DIGITAL TWIN EARTH PRECURSOR

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Summary

- In the last decade, JASMIN has gone from an idea to a major platform in the UK scientific computing landscape
- Co-location of data and code is key
- Providing a variety of storage and processing solutions:
  - meets the needs of many users
  - requires significant effort (and therefore funding) to maintain/develop
- Tensions when supporting scientific users:
  - Must be flexible/scalable: we want to facilitate cutting-edge science
  - Must be pragmatic: users will generate requirements + find loopholes
- The future:
  - Mix of POSIX, object store and tape
  - Mix of traditional batch and new scalable processing (cloud)
  - More solutions that don't need to access the files until required: improved search and lazy evaluation

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Thank you!

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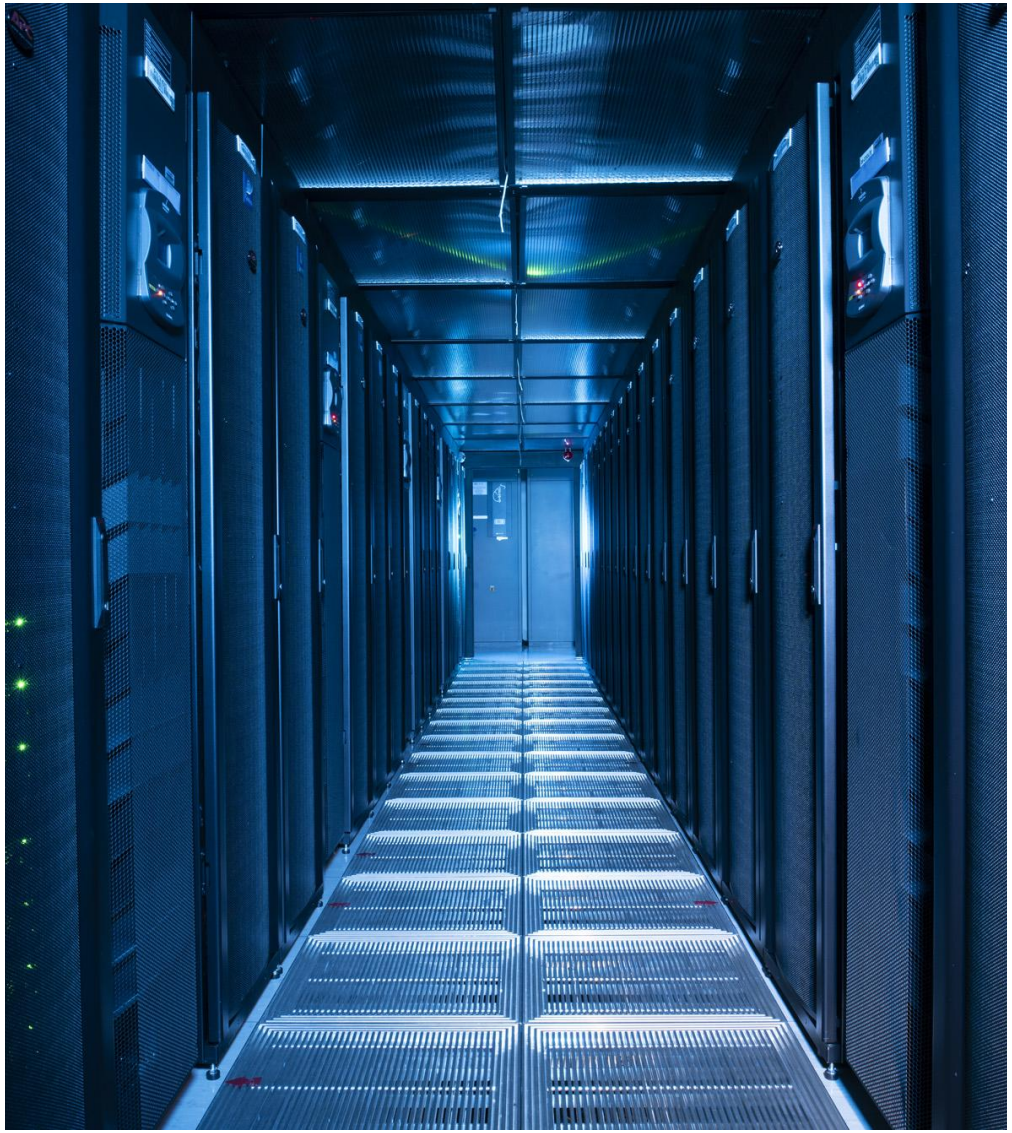
Websites:

- www.ceda.ac.uk
- www.jasmin.ac.uk



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