

# Western Research Cloud

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## WESTERN RESEARCH CLOUD

The Western Research Cloud provides peta-scale data storage, research computing and technical support to over 400 Western Sydney University researchers and their external collaborators. The service was established in 2015 through a collaboration between Western Sydney University's (WSU) ITDS, the central Research Management Office (REDI) and Intersect.

From small beginnings, the service has flourished to be an integral part of the research support landscape at Western Sydney. This presentation will tell the story of how Western Sydney University established the service, and how with continued engagement we evolved and matured the offering to be fit for purpose for both the research community and ITDS.

The initial set of standard offerings of compute and storage proved very popular, and soon paved the way for a much more diverse set of offerings, to meet the equally diverse needs of our researchers. As the service grew in size and complexity, it became critical to have robust governance and granular monitoring and reporting tools to ensure the most efficient allocation of the available resources, while still delivering on demands in a fast, responsive manner. For our IT department, detailed, live, custom reporting created by Intersect has allowed under-utilised machines to be identified and downsized, as well as enable capacity planning based on expansion trends.

“The services and flexibility offered by the Intersect have been key in managing the demand within the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, and importantly, it is the close coupling of this compute with the terabytes of actively managed data in our research data store that has enabled high-impact research within the institute.” Gerry Devine, Data Manager, HIE.

In addition to the petabyte-scale technical resources, the consulting capability of Intersect provides a critical connection between the IT-based research support teams, the researchers and research data managers, and the Western Research Cloud.

This presentation will discuss real situations that have required the evolution of the Western Research Cloud to meet the needs of both the researchers and ITDS, and explore potential future directions for this vital capability.