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The Nectar National Node

A New Foundation for Scalable, Secure, and Collaborative Research



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About the speaker



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- I'm Bryce Torcello

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- Currently a DevOps engineer in the ARDC Nectar Cloud Services team

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- Currently a DevOps engineer in the ARDC Nectar Cloud Services team
- Previously a HPC sysadmin at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
- Provided me valuable insight into how researchers operate



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- Currently a Senior DevOps engineer in the ARDC Nectar Cloud Services team
- Previously worked at University of Melbourne
- Focusing on the developing the Research Computing portal
- A service similar to our Virtual Desktop Service



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Session purpose



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- How the Nectar National Node aims to address these challenges
- How this further develops a cloud designed for researchers



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What Nectar & OpenStack are



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- Nectar is Australia's national research cloud federated across partner institutions

What Nectar & OpenStack are

- **Nectar is Australia's national research cloud federated across partner institutions**
- **OpenStack is an open source cloud platform controlling compute, storage & networking for self service VMs & services**



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Node partners



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- **Distributed in data centres across the Australia & New Zealand**
 - **Pawsey Supercomputing Centre**
 - **University of Adelaide**
 - **University of Melbourne**
 - **Swinburne University**
 - **Monash University**

Node partners

- **Distributed in data centres across the Australia & New Zealand**
 - **QCIF**
 - **Intersect**
 - **University of Tasmania**
 - **The University of Auckland**



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 - Provides more than 2 petabytes of object storage
 - A capacity of over 5 petabytes of file storage
 - More than 248 vGPUs available



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The present challenges



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 - **The Nectar Cloud services team manages a different cloud platform stack**
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 - **Lack of standardisation between node deployments**



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Improving Nectar for researchers



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- Further commitment to researchers outside of a organisation hosting a node
 - Additional capacity to the national pool of allocations
 - More support from the Nectar Cloud Services team
 - Allow for secure workloads with ISO 27001 certification



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Improving the cloud federation



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 - **Provides more thorough testing from experts in the Nectar Cloud Services team**
 - **A collaboration between AARNet & ARDC**



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The services the node will provide



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 - **Virtual Desktop Service**
 - **JupyterHub Service**
 - **BinderHub Service**

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- The Nectar National Node first launched in March 2025
- Services The Nectar National Node provides outside of traditional infrastructure
 - Virtual Desktop Service
 - JupyterHub Service
 - BinderHub Service
- Visit our booth any time during the conference to demo our services



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 - Jake Yip's effort leading ISO certification
 - Sam Morrison's effort leading AARNet deployment
 - Matt Armsby's contributions towards Puppet code standardisation
- Importance of what the Nectar Cloud community can achieve through collaboration