

mrunc tutorial

- on GNU/Linux open up a terminal and type:

```
$ hostname
$ date
```

- what do these programs do?

mrunc

- mrunc (**m**ultiple **r**un) is a program which allows you to run a program on multiple machines
- there is some [documentation](http://floppsie.comp.glam.ac.uk/csn/csn.html) (http://floppsie.comp.glam.ac.uk/csn/csn.html) under sections 8, 9 and 10
- it is hoped that this tutorial will also bootstrap your knowledge

Tiny example

- suppose we have a program `hostname` which we want to run on two different machines in parallel
 - we could use the command line program `ssh` to achieve this end, but it involves much typing and after the *n*th time of running, becomes tedious
- we can use `mrunc` instead, but we firstly need to create a `par` file
- in our tiny example we will call this filename `hostname.par`
- create a file called `hostname.par` using `gedit`

Contents of `hostname.par`

- ```
#
example par file to run hostname on two machines
#
par
 processor 0 (localhost) [::] hostname ;
 processor 1 (localhost) [::] hostname ;
end
timeout 2h ;
terminal 0 1 ;
```

- now open up a terminal and type

## Contents of hostname.par

```

$ mrun -f hostname.par
Password:
press the <enter> key to terminate
<processor 0>:
<processor 0>:fred@j210-03:$ hostname
<processor 0>:j210-03
<processor 0>:fred@j210-03:$
<processor 1>:
<processor 1>:fred@j210-04:$ hostname
<processor 1>:j210-04
<processor 1>:fred@j210-04:$

halting and tidying up.. done

```

- we notice that
  - mrun will prompt us for a password, you need to enter your GNU/Linux password here
  - you need to press the enter key to terminate mrun
  - mrun randomly chooses any machine which is available from the chosen pool
- we stipulated we wanted any localhost processor by the field (localhost)
  - try changing this to (x86\_64)
  - does it still work?

## Contents of hostname.par

## Contents of hostname.par

- the field `timeout 2h` says to stop running after 2 hours and could be replaced by `timeout 5m` if appropriate
- comments in the par file are the # character, anything to the right of this is ignored

## Contents of hostname.par

- try uncommenting the last line, ie remove the '#' on the last line
- run the program again
- ```
$ mrun -f hostname.par
```
- what happens?
- now change the par file to execute the program `date` and run `mrunch` again

Using the for statement in a par file

- now create a new file `hostname2.par`

Contents of `hostname2.par`

```

par
  processor 0 (localhost) [::] hostname ;
  for i in 1 to 6 do
    processor ({i}) (localhost) [::] hostname ;
  end
end
timeout 2h ;
terminal 0 3 4 ;

```

Contents of `hostname2.par`

- run this via:

```
$ mrun -f hostname2.par
```

Contents of `hostname2.par`

- notice that the `{i}` expands to the value of `i` in the for loop

- now change the contents of the file to

```

par
  processor 0 (localhost) [::] echo 0 ;
  for i in 1 to 6 do
    processor ({i}) (localhost) [::] echo {i} ;
  end
end
timeout 2h ;
terminal 0 3 4 ;

```

- the program `echo` just prints to the console

- run this new par file

Contents of `hostname2.par`

- try running `mrunc`
- `$ mrunc --help`
- find out what all the other options do, hint read the online documentation mentioned at the top of this tutorial