

Computer Cluster

Amman (Jordan)
23 - 27 November 2025



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Introduction

Computer clusters play a crucial role in modern computing, enabling organizations to harness the combined processing power of multiple interconnected computers. Whether it's high-performance computing, high-availability systems, or load-balancing clusters, understanding how to effectively leverage their capabilities is essential in today's technology-driven landscape.

Throughout this course, we will explore the key concepts, architectures, and software involved in building computer clusters. You will gain hands-on experience through practical exercises, learning how to optimize performance, troubleshoot common issues, and ensure fault tolerance and high availability.

Course Objectives

- Understand the fundamental concepts and principles of computer clusters.
- Learn the benefits and challenges associated with building and managing computer clusters.
- Gain hands-on experience in designing, configuring, and optimizing computer clusters.
- Develop the skills to troubleshoot and resolve common issues in computer clusters.
- Acquire knowledge of advanced topics such as load balancing, fault tolerance, and high availability in computer clusters.

Course Outlines

Day 1: Introduction to Computer Clusters

- Overview of distributed computing and parallel processing.
- Types of computer clusters: High-Performance Computing HPC clusters, High-Availability HA clusters, and Load Balancing clusters.
- Cluster hardware: Servers, networking equipment, and storage systems.
- Cluster software: Operating systems, middleware, and cluster management tools.
- Cluster architectures: Shared-memory vs. distributed-memory architectures.

Day 2: Designing and Configuring a Computer Cluster

- Cluster design considerations: Scalability, performance, and fault tolerance.
- Network topologies for clusters: Bus, ring, mesh, and tree architectures.
- Cluster interconnect technologies: Ethernet, InfiniBand, and Fibre Channel.
- Cluster storage options: Direct-attached storage DAS, Network-attached storage NAS, and Storage Area Networks SAN.

Day 3: Cluster Management and Administration





- Cluster installation and setup: Operating system installation, network configuration, and software installation.
- Cluster management tools: Job schedulers, resource managers, and monitoring systems.
- User and group management in clusters: Access control and security considerations.
- Performance monitoring and tuning in clusters: Identifying bottlenecks and optimizing resource utilization.

Day 4: Advanced Topics in Computer Clusters

- Fault tolerance and high availability in clusters: Redundancy, failover mechanisms, and data replication.
- Load balancing techniques in clusters: Round-robin, weighted round-robin, and dynamic load balancing.
- Cluster file systems: Distributed File Systems DFS and Parallel File Systems PFS.
- Virtualization in clusters: Benefits and considerations for virtualizing cluster resources.

Day 5: Troubleshooting and Performance Optimization

- Common issues and challenges in computer clusters: Network congestion, resource contention, and software compatibility.
- Debugging and troubleshooting techniques in clusters: Log analysis, performance profiling, and benchmarking.
- Performance optimization strategies in clusters: Parallelization, workload distribution, and algorithmic improvements.
- Cluster security considerations: Protecting data and resources in a shared cluster environment.





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