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Supercomputer to get \$4 million upgrade

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The Ohio Supercomputer Center will be adding a \$4 million expansion to its supercomputing system because of high research demand.

"The supercomputer is used primarily to calculate formulas dealing with bioscience and research efforts," said Doug Johnson, senior systems engineer.

He said that with such a large research community at Ohio State, center administrators were forced to upgrade.

The current version of the supercomputer exceeded memory capacity in just three months, and with the upgrade, Johnson said, the supercomputer will become more competitive with other supercomputers across the country.

"The most important facet is the increase in memory," Johnson said. "The memory will be very important when doing calculations in order to store results." The upgraded supercomputer will have three times the amount of memory, computational capacity and power.

"It would take the old version months or years to compute something," Johnson said. "It should only take the upgraded version days, hours or minutes to compute something."

Biomedical informatics professor Dan Janies said the new upgrade will help his research tremendously.

"The computer takes a large problem, separates it into different processors and puts it back together," Janies said. "The update is so great because now I will have results in a day."

The upgrade, which will be fully operational this summer, might also create more jobs.

"Research dollars generate jobs," said Stan Ahalt, the supercomputer center's executive director. "We are hoping the new upgrade will allow companies to grow, which in turn will employ more people."

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