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Preface

Welcome to the *Edge Manual* for Bright Cluster Manager 9.1.

0.1 About This Manual

This manual is aimed at helping cluster administrators install, understand, configure, and manage the edge computing capabilities of Bright Cluster Manager. The administrator is expected to be reasonably familiar with the *Administrator Manual*.

0.2 About The Manuals In General

Regularly updated versions of the Bright Cluster Manager 9.1 manuals are available on updated clusters by default at `/cm/shared/docs/cm`. The latest updates are always online at [http://support.brightcomputing.com/manuals](http://support.brightcomputing.com/manuals).

- The *Installation Manual* describes installation procedures for the basic cluster.
- The *Administrator Manual* describes the general management of the cluster.
- The *User Manual* describes the user environment and how to submit jobs for the end user.
- The *Cloudbursting Manual* describes how to deploy the cloud capabilities of the cluster.
- The *Developer Manual* has useful information for developers who would like to program with Bright Cluster Manager.
- The *Machine Learning Manual* describes how to install and configure machine learning capabilities with Bright Cluster Manager.

If the manuals are downloaded and kept in one local directory, then in most pdf viewers, clicking on a cross-reference in one manual that refers to a section in another manual opens and displays that section in the second manual. Navigating back and forth between documents is usually possible with keystrokes or mouse clicks.

For example: `<Alt>-<Backarrow>` in Acrobat Reader, or clicking on the bottom leftmost navigation button of xpdf, both navigate back to the previous document.

The manuals constantly evolve to keep up with the development of the Bright Cluster Manager environment and the addition of new hardware and/or applications. The manuals also regularly incorporate customer feedback. Administrator and user input is greatly valued at Bright Computing. So any comments, suggestions or corrections will be very gratefully accepted at manuals@brightcomputing.com.

There is also a feedback form available via Bright View, via the menu icon, following the click-path:

```
≡→Help→Feedback
```

0.3 Getting Administrator-Level Support

If the reseller from whom Bright Cluster Manager was bought offers direct support, then the reseller should be contacted.

Otherwise the primary means of support is via the website [https://support.brightcomputing.com](https://support.brightcomputing.com). This allows the administrator to submit a support request via a web form, and opens up a trouble
ticket. It is a good idea to try to use a clear subject header, since that is used as part of a reference tag as the ticket progresses. Also helpful is a good description of the issue. The followup communication for this ticket goes via standard e-mail. Section 17.2 of the Administrator Manual has more details on working with support.

### 0.4 Getting Professional Services

Bright Computing normally differentiates between

- professional services (customer asks Bright Computing to do something or asks Bright Computing to provide some service), and

- support (customer has a question or problem that requires an answer or resolution).

Professional services can be provided after consulting with the reseller, or the Bright account manager.
1 Introduction

1.1 Cloud Computing Vs Edge Computing

Cloud computing is traditionally about the concept of end users using resources that are located in a cloud elsewhere. The cloud is the central coordinator, and end users use the resources that are in the cloud rather than using their local resources.

As computing power has become cheaper over time, and resource use has grown, it has in many cases become more financially attractive to shift the emphasis of resource coordination, from the center of the cloud (core of the cloud), over to the local resources which are at the edge. These local devices are then called edge nodes.

A strong case for edge computing is when the following resource requirements are easier to provide locally via local devices, than via central processing in the cloud:

- low latency
- high bandwidth consumption
- high CPU cycle consumption

For example, a self-driving car requires a low latency, high bandwidth, and high CPU cycle consumption in order to ensure a speedy and safe response to traffic requirements. Attempting to run a self-driving car via central processing in the cloud would be impractically slow or prohibitively dangerous.

Generally, edge computing is regarded as a way to have a geographically spread-out cluster make more local use of its computing resources. A geographically spread-out cluster typically already has plenty of CPU cycles, bandwidth, and low latency at its regular nodes. So, for such a geographically spread-out cluster, making more local use of its computing resources tends to mean granting extra autonomy to the edge computing devices, and making them more independent of the head node.

To achieve this greater autonomy, Bright Cluster Manager uses an edge director. This is somewhat similar to the cloud director, but is required to be geographically close to the edge nodes, and is also optimized for edge requirements.

1.2 High Speed Monitoring And Local Processing

The importance of being local and autonomous is often due to the environment that the regular nodes are in. The environment is typically under high speed monitoring by many sensors linked to the regular nodes. The data values obtained by the sensors are processed very quickly by the nodes. Such high speed processing of the monitoring data values can typically only reasonably be achieved by the nodes managing the processing locally as much as possible, rather than having the nodes managed by a head node a large distance away.
2.1 **Bright Edge**

The Bright Edge feature of Bright Cluster Manager allows a single cluster to span many geographical locations ("one cluster, multiple locations"). Typical use cases are:

- **HPC**: organizations that have compute resources located in different cities or countries
- **IoT**: companies that have "edge" locations with the required compute resources at each location

Bright Cluster Manager can be used to deploy and manage resources at edge locations from the central head node.

Bright Edge sites comprise an edge director and edge nodes.

- The edge director must be reachable from the central head node. The edge director forwards requests from the edge nodes to the central head node when required.
- The edge nodes are similar to regular nodes, and are provisioned by them PXE booting off the edge director. Unlike with regular nodes, no direct connection is required between the central head node and the edge nodes.

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Items to check before creating edge sites:

- The Bright Cluster Manager license must allow edge site creation
- The to-be-provisioned edge director must have an IP address that can be reached from the central head node
- Conversely, the central head node must have an IP address that can be reached by the edge director

Creating and deploying edge sites involve the following steps:

- Create the edge site using `cm-edge-setup`
- Create an edge ISO for provisioning the edge director
- Provision the edge director using the edge ISO
- Provision the edge nodes off the edge director

The following sections explain each of the preceding steps in further detail:

### 2.1.1 Defining The Edge Site

Edge sites are defined in Bright Cluster Manager using the Ncurses-based `cm-edge-setup`. This section goes through a `cm-edge-setup` session on the central head node that creates an edge site definition.

**Running `cm-edge-setup` In Interactive Mode**

Running `cm-edge-setup` without any options brings up the main edge setup screen (figure 2.2):

![Edge setup main screen](image)

Figure 2.2: Edge setup main screen

A new edge site can be created by entering a series of parameters (figure 2.3):
Please enter site details below. Not specifying a site secret will require certificate requests to be processed manually from the head node when the edge nodes are booted for the first time. Entering a site secret will require the site secret to be entered on the console of the edge director when it is booted for the first time. Alternatively the site secret can also be added to the edge director’s installation media to allow for non-interactive installation.

A secret for the site should be entered (figure 2.4):

The site secret entry is reconfirmed by the administrator in a subsequent entry screen.

The next screen after that asks how the external network for the edge director should be set (figure 2.5):

- If networks defined as type EdgeExternal are found, then these networks are presented for selection (figure 2.6).
- If no networks of type EdgeExternal are found, then the only option is to create a new network (figure 2.7).
Similarly to the external network configuration for the edge director, a screen comes up next that asks how the internal network for the edge director (figure 2.8):

- If networks defined as type EdgeInternal are found, then these networks are presented for selection.
- If no networks of type EdgeInternal are found, then the only option is to create a new network (figure 2.9).
The next screen (figure 2.10) allows edge director parameters to be entered:

In the next screen (figure 2.11) Edge director High Availability (HA) can be enabled:

The next screen (figure 2.12) allows secondary edge director parameters to be set:
Shared IP settings for edge directors can be entered in the next screen (figure 2.13):

![Figure 2.13: Entry of shared IP settings for edge directors](image)

The edge nodes can now be configured. Individual nodes (figure 2.14), or a range of nodes (figure 2.15), can be configured:

![Figure 2.14: Definition of single edge node](image)

![Figure 2.15: Define multiple edge nodes](image)

**Running cm-edge-setup In Batch Mode**

In the preceding section `cm-edge-setup` was used interactively to define edge sites. It can also be used non-iteratively for the same purpose. This is done by saving a site configuration file at the end of the interactive setup. This is a YAML file, and it can be used to re-create the edge sites, or it can be used as a template to create new sites.

**Example**

```
[root@headnode ~]# cat /root/cm/edge/ams-west.yaml
#
# This config file should be used with cm-edge-setup tool
# Example:
#   cm-edge-setup -c <filename>
#
# Generated by:
#   cm-edge-setup
#   cluster-tools-8.2-112301_cm8.2_b7ed6dbd8a
#   cmdline: /cm/local/apps/cm-setup/bin/cm-edge-setup
#   Generate on host:
```
### edge_sites:
- address: Kings
  admin_email: admin@bright
  city: Amsterdam
  contact: admin
  country: Amsterdam

#### edge_director:
- category: edge-director
- hostname: ams-west-director
- interface_name_external: eth0
- interface_name_internal: eth1
- ip_address_external: 10.2.125.125
- ip_address_internal: 10.161.255.254
- mac_address: ''

#### secondary:
  externally_visible_ip: ''
  hostname: edge-director2
  interface_name_external: eth0
  interface_name_internal: eth1
  ip_address_external: 10.2.125.126
  ip_address_internal: 10.161.255.253
  mac_address: ''

#### shared_ip:
  ip_address_external: 10.2.125.127
  ip_address_internal: 10.161.255.252
  primary_interface_name_external: eth0:ha
  primary_interface_name_internal: eth1:ha
  secondary_interface_name_external: eth0:ha
  secondary_interface_name_internal: eth1:ha

#### software_image: default-image

### edge_nodes:
- category: edge-director
- hostname: ams-west-node001
- interface_name_internal: eth1
- ip_address_internal: 10.161.0.1
- mac_address: ''

#### external_network:
  base_address: 10.2.0.0
  domainname: brightcomputing.com
  name: externalnet
  netmask_bits: 16

#### internal_network:
  base_address: 10.161.0.0
  domainname: ams-west-internal.cluster
  name: ams-west-internal
  netmask_bits: 16
  notes: ''
  secret: xxxxxx
2.1.2 Adding Nodes To Pre-existing Edge Sites With cmsh

Edge nodes can also be added to an existing edge site. This is typically required when no edge nodes were added during cm-edge-setup, or if the site is being expanded by adding more nodes. The addition can be done in the usual way, which is to first add the required node object with cmsh (section 2.5.3 of the Administrator Manual). The nodes are then added to the relevant edge site(s).

Adding nodes to an edge site can be done as follows:

Example

```
[root@smcluster ~]# cmsh
[smcluster]% edgesite
[smcluster->edgesite]% use ams-west
[smcluster->edgesite->ams-west]% append nodes edge-node005 edge-node006
[smcluster->edgesite->ams-west]% commit
[smcluster->edgesite->ams-west]% list
Name (key)  Director          Nodes
------------ ------------------- ------------------------------------------------------------
ams-west    ams-west-director ams-west-node001,ams-west-director,edge-node005,edge-node006
dell-edge  dell-edge-director  dell-edge-director
```

2.1.3 Viewing Edge Sites Using cmsh

Edge sites can be viewed from the edgesite mode of cmsh

Example

```
[root@smcluster ~]# cmsh
[smcluster]% edgesite
[smcluster->edgesite]% list
Name (key)  Director          Nodes
------------ ------------------- ------------------------------------------
ams-west    ams-west-director ams-west-node001,ams-west-director

dell-edge  dell-edge-director  dell-edge-director
[smcluster->edgesite]% show ams-west
Parameter       Value
---------------- ------------------------------------------
Address         Kings
Administrator e-mail  admin@bright
City            Amsterdam
Contact         admin
Country         Amsterdam
Director        ams-west-director
Name            ams-west
Nodes           ams-west-node001,ams-west-director
Notes
Revision
Secret **********
```
2.1 Bright Edge

2.1.4 Viewing Edge Sites Using Bright View

Edge sites can also be viewed via the clickpath Datacenter Infrastructure → Edge Sites (figure 2.16). Properties of an edge site can be managed via editing a particular edge site.

![Figure 2.16: Edge sites in Bright View](image)

2.1.5 Create Edge ISO

The next step in the deployment is to create the edge ISO on the head node. Typically, the edge ISO is configured so that the edge director boots from it the first time, and carries out a FULL install using the ISO for its source of files that will be installed on the edge director. The edge director is also configured to allow a boot from the hard drive.

If booting from the ISO after the first time, and if the partitions on the edge director have not changed, then a SYNC install is carried out against the central head node. If booting after the first time, and if there is no ISO, then the edge director simply boots from its local hard drive, and no files are synced with the central head node.

There are two ways to create the edge ISO:

1. The edge ISO can be created with a site-specific auto-generated wrapper script. This is the recommended approach. When an edge site is created, CMDaemon on the head node creates a wrapper script at `/var/spool/cmd/edge/create-<site-name>-iso.sh`. The wrapper script then provides all the site-specific information that needs to be provided for the edge node-installer. The behavior of the wrapper script depends on whether the setup was done with edge director HA enabled.

   - The wrapper script that is generated when edge director HA configuration is enabled, can be used as follows:

     - The following command produces an ISO that can be used for booting the primary edge director:

       ```bash
       /var/spool/cmd/edge/create-dell-edge-iso.sh --primary
       ```

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- The following command produces an ISO that can be used for booting the secondary
  edge director:
  
  `/var/spool/cmd/edge/create-dell-edge-iso.sh --secondary`

- The following command produces two ISOs, one for the primary and one for the sec-
  ondary:
  
  `/var/spool/cmd/edge/create-dell-edge-iso.sh --both`

- The following command produces an ISO that can be used to boot both the primary and
  secondary edge directors, but the correct option for the edge director IP must be manually
  chosen in the node-installer screen:
  
  `/var/spool/cmd/edge/create-dell-edge-iso.sh`

- The wrapper script that is generated in the case when no edge director HA configuration is
  selected, takes no additional arguments. It produces an ISO that is used to boot the single
  edge director, and is invoked as:

  `/var/spool/cmd/edge/create-dell-edge-iso.sh`

2. Alternatively, the edge site ISO can be created manually by setting the options to `create-edge-iso`:

**Example**

```
[root@headnode ~]# create-edge-iso --help
                   [-e EDGEDIRECTORIP] [-m HEADNODEIP] [-g DEFAULTGATEWAY]
                   [-k KERNELIMAGE] [-i IMAGENAME] [-s] [-p PATHTOISOFILE] [-n]

Create edge iso

optional arguments:
  -h, --help           show this help message and exit
  -v, --verbose        Turn on verbose logging
  -d, --debug          Turn on debug mode, iso work directory will not be cleaned up
  -c, --includecmshared Include /cm/shared on iso
  -f EDGEINTERFACE, --edgeinterface EDGEINTERFACE
                        Name of interface on edge node
  -e EDGEDIRECTORIP, --edgedirectorip EDGEDIRECTORIP
                        IP[/:Netmask bits] of edge director
                        If Netmask bits is not specified, defaults to /16
  -m HEADNODEIP, --headnodeip HEADNODEIP
                        IP[/:port] of head node
                        If port is not specified, defaults to :8081
  -g DEFAULTGATEWAY, --defaultgateway DEFAULTGATEWAY
                        Gateway for edge director to reach central head node
  -k KERNELIMAGE, --kernelimage KERNELIMAGE
                        Name of image whose kernel will be used for booting iso
  -i IMAGENAME, --imagename IMAGENAME
                        Name of software image to include on iso
  -s, --sitesecret     Prompt user to enter Edge site secret
  -p PATHTOISOFILE, --pathtoisofile PATHTOISOFILE
                        Path to iso file name
  -n, --donotstoresecret
                        Inform node-installer not to store the secret on the edge director
```

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2.1.6 Edge ISO Node Installer

The edge ISO is used to provision the edge director. The node installer displays the following screens when booting from the edge ISO:

Figure 2.17: Edge node-installer ISO boot menu

Figure 2.18: Edge node-installer select interface
Figure 2.19: Edge director IP Static/DHCP selection

Figure 2.20: Edge director IP address and netmask

Figure 2.21: Central head node IP address and port
2.1 Bright Edge

2.1.7 Edge Directors

Edge directors can be provisioned from the head node, but are normally provisioned using the software image on the edge ISO/USB. This means:

- The ISO/USB should have a software image included in it
- The ISO/USB should have /cm/shared included in it

If the edge director is booting from the ISO/USB, it means that:

- There is a minimal overhead when only updates, rather than an entire firestorm, are synced from the head node to the edge director
- A FULL install of the edge director only takes place during the first installation of that director, or if the director disk partitions have changed.
- If the edge director has already been installed previously, and its disk partitions are unchanged, then a SYNC install is carried out, so that local files on the edge director can get updated against the head node

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If there is no ISO/USB available to the edge director, then the director simply boots off its local drive, and no SYNC install is followed. An explicit `imageupdate` can however be carried out afterwards when needed, if connectivity is there, to update the software image.

Once the edge director is in the `UP` state, it is responsible for the following local operations:

- Ramdisk creation for the edge nodes
- Power control for itself and the edge nodes
- Device state (UP, DOWN) check via ICMP ping to the edge nodes
- Monitoring for the edge nodes

### 2.1.8 Edge Nodes

Edge nodes must PXE boot off the edge internal network. The edge director provisions edge nodes in the same way that the head node provisions regular nodes.
Installing Slurm To An Edge Site

On some edge sites there may be a need to run a workload manager. The Slurm workload manager can be run on an edge site if the cluster is prepared and software installed as in sections 3.1 and 3.2.

3.1 Preparation

1. The edge director must be UP according to cmsh or Bright View.
2. The mariadb-server package must be installed on the edge director, and in the edge director software image.
3. After the mariadb-server package is set up, it needs to be started. It is recommended to add the mariadb service to the edge director. This can be done using cmsh or Bright View. Setting autostart=yes and monitored=yes for this service is also recommended.

Example

[root@bright91 ~]# cmsh
[bright91]% device use edge-director
[bright91->device[edge-director]]% services
[bright91->device[edge-director]->services]% list
Service (key) Monitored Autostart
------------------------ ---------- ----------
... mariadb no no
... [bright91->device[edge-director]->services]% set mariadb autostart yes
[bright91->device*[edge-director*]->services*]% set mariadb monitored yes
[bright91->device*[edge-director*]->services*]% commit

4. If the MySQL root password has not yet been set for the MySQL instance, then the script mysql_secure_installation can be run. The script is provided by the mariadb-server package. The script asks the administrator some security-related questions, and asks for a password to be set. The password must be remembered by the administrator for further steps in setting Slurm up.

5. The slurmd template must be copied over from the head node to the corresponding location on the edge director:

scp /cm/shared/apps/slurm/var/etc/slurm.conf.template edge-director:/cm/shared/apps/slurm/var/etc/
This file is in the exclude list of /cm/shared directory synchronization. This is because the configuration file may contain a MySQL Slurm user password.

6. On the edge director, the Bright Cluster Manager script
/cm/shared/apps/slurm/var/cm/cm-restore-db-password
is run. It generates a new MySQL Slurm user password. The script also updates the template file with the new password. The MySQL root password from step 4 is needed for the script. The script adds a new user to MySQL.

3.2 Installation

- The Bright Cluster Manager script cm-wlm-setup (Section 7.3 of the Administrator Manual) is then run on the head node.
  - The Step by Step option must be chosen for Slurm setup. This is because the express setup option does not do edge configuration.
  - At the Select installation type screen, the edge name should be selected, and the edge director should then be specified as only server role node.

- By default there are no user home directories on the edge director or edge nodes. These must therefore be mounted or created, otherwise jobs cannot run on the edge nodes. This is true for all WLMs running on edge nodes.

- The srun utility, or any other interactive submission utility, cannot submit to the edge nodes if they are run from the head node. This is because such utilities require a direct access to the edge compute nodes from the submit host.