

Pittsburgh Center Unveils a Bigger, Faster Supercomputer Called 'Big Ben'

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Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center (PSC) now has its own "Big Ben" -- only this technological bellwether rings out in teraflops. PSC acquired Big Ben, the first XT3 system to be shipped from Cray, Inc., with a \$9.7 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Image: Big Ben, Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center's Cray XT3, high-performance computer can perform 10 trillion calculations per second.

Credit: Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center

Big Ben can perform 10 teraflops, or 10 trillion calculations, per second, making it 2.4 times faster than PSC's former high-performance

computing leader, LeMieux. But like LeMieux, Big Ben will serve as an integral component in the NSF-supported TeraGrid, the world's largest, most comprehensive cyberinfrastructure for open scientific research.

A host of dignitaries attended the July 20 ceremony, including NSF Director Arden L. Bement, Jr. and the foundation's assistant director for Computer and Information Science and Engineering, Peter A. Freeman.

[Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center](#)

Source: NSF

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