



Help

Table of contents

[Frequently asked questions](#)

[User Forum](#)

Frequently asked questions

1. What is NVIDIA Parabricks?

Parabricks is [a software tool for speeding up DNA and RNA analysis](#).

2. Where does the name come from?

We started building small components that could be used to speed up computation much like you'd use bricks to build a house. Those "bricks" developed into larger components, which eventually became Parabricks.

3. What hardware and software do I need?

For hardware, at least one supported GPU. How much memory you need depends on how many CPU cores you have. See [Hardware Requirements](#) for more details.

For software, Parabricks comes as a Docker container so you'll need nvidia-docker2 and an OS that supports it. You'll also need an NVIDIA driver, version 525.60.13 or later. See [Software Requirements](#) for more details.

That's all - because Parabricks comes as a Docker container no additional software installation is required.

4. How do I ensure that my Parabricks analysis won't terminate if I lose my SSH connection?

This is only a problem if you're running on a remote computer - an AWS instance, for example. It's not specific to Parabricks; it can happen with any program being run on the remote computer.

A simple option is to preface your command with [nohup](#):

```
$ nohup docker run ...options... pbrun <Your Command> &
```

This will run your command in the background in a way that ignores all "hangup" signals (i.e. loss of SSH connection) and saves all output to a file called `nohup.out`.

Another option is to use a program that supports persistent sessions such as [screen](#) or [tmux](#).

5. Parabricks does not run when a system is initialized using Singularity containerization; Singularity does not load all `nvidia` modules.

Do this if you see an initialization error:

```
$ nvidia-modprobe -u -c=0
```

This is only a concern with versions of Parabricks prior to v4.0.

6. Can I use Parabricks on my video card?

Probably not. Parabricks requires at least 16 GB of GPU memory (24 GB for fq2bam, unless you use the `--low-memory` option), and runs on 'data center' GPUs. See the [Hardware Requirements](#) for more details.

User Forum

- We're here to help! Please reach out to us on our [Developer Forums](#) if you are having trouble using the software.

Note

- User guides and Reference manuals can be found on the [NVIDIA Parabricks documentation page](#).
- Answers to many other FAQs can be found on the [developer forum](#).

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