

Want to Recycle CPU Time?

Description

Distributed computing has become a valuable tool in analyzing masses of data. One of the first was the [SETI@Home](#) project (about 2.7M years of computing time has been used on this effort), which needed help searching through the volumes of collected radio spectrum data pulled down. Since that project modeled a method to use other computers across a large area network to assist in culling through the info, there are now [protein folding project at Stanford University](#). Here's what they say the work is for:

Our goal: to understand protein folding, misfolding, and related diseases

What is protein folding and how is folding linked to disease? [Proteins](#) are biology's workhorses – its [nanomachines](#). Before proteins can carry out these important functions, they assemble themselves, or "fold". The process of protein folding, while critical and fundamental to virtually all of biology, in many ways remains a mystery.

Moreover, when proteins do not fold correctly (i.e. "misfold"), there can be serious consequences, including many well known [diseases](#), such as [Alzheimer's](#), Mad Cow (BSE), CJD, ALS, [Huntington's](#), [Parkinson's](#) disease, and many [Cancers](#) and cancer-related syndromes.

You can help by simply running a piece of software. Folding@Home is a distributed computing project – people from throughout the world [download](#) and run software to band together to make one of the largest supercomputers in the world. Every computer makes the project closer to our goals.

Folding@Home uses novel computational methods coupled to distributed computing, to simulate problems thousands to millions of times more challenging than previously achieved.

From the [Results page](#), what the project has accomplished already:

2005 First results from Folding@Home cancer project published. We have been studying the p53 tumor suppressor and [our first results on p53 have recently been published](#). You can find a summary and link to the paper on our [papers page](#).

If you're a biology geek, or have an interest in Intelligent Design, there is some really interesting information about proteins at the Stanford site on using nanotubes and the information for help design drugs based on this research.

Who's playing? Look here!

World Map for Protein Folding Project

Just an recommendation to use some of that electricity wisely while youâ€™re not actively using the CPU cycles for your direct useâ€™!

Tracked back @: [Third World County](#)

Category

1. Public Service
2. Scout Sniping
3. Technology

Date Created

March 9, 2007

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