

NCBI 2018 BLAST Survey

We want to improve NCBI's products and services. We would like to learn more about how this site helps you with your work, and what we can do better. Please click "next" below to get started.

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1. Which professional category best describes you? Please select only one.

- Bioinformatics professional
- Educator
- Healthcare professional
- Librarian / Information Specialist
- Other (please specify)
- Life Science Researcher
- Student
- Technician
- Computer Scientist / Software Developer

2. Please pick one category that best describes your organization.

- College or University
- Commercial / Industry
- Non-profit Organization
- Other (please specify)
- Research Institute
- Government
- Hospital/health care organization

3. How frequently do you use each of the following services on the BLAST web service (<https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>)?

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Less than monthly	Never
Nucleotide BLAST (blastn)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protein BLAST (blastp)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Translated BLAST (blastx, tblastn, tblastx)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. Why do you use BLAST? Please check all that apply.

- Identify unknown mRNA transcript
- Identify unknown proteins
- Annotate novel genomic sequences
- Search for homologs in other organisms
- Other (please specify)
- Identify organisms (taxa) in environmental / metagenomic samples
- Screen for contamination
- Verify identity of a query sequence
- Education/Instruction

5. How often do you search with multiple sequences in a single BLAST search?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Less often than monthly
- Never

6. Do you run BLAST searches for others in your organization, for example, as a service?

- Yes
- No

7. How do you run BLAST searches? Please check all that apply.

- BLAST website and upload files and/or paste sequences in the sequence field
- Standalone BLAST+ with the **remote** option to submit BLAST searches to NCBI
- Standalone BLAST+ applications with my own/custom databases
- Standalone BLAST+ with downloaded BLAST databases/FASTA provided by NCBI
- Scripts that access the BLAST URL API
- BLAST on a cloud provider, such as Amazon, Azure, Google, etc.
- Through a third-party software. Please specify name of software in the comment field below.

Name of third party software and/or cloud provider

8. How often do you use the standalone BLAST+ applications?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Less often
- Never

9. How strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements about the standalone BLAST+ applications?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	N/A
The BLAST+ package is easy to download and install	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Appropriate databases are easy to find and download	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Available formatting options work well for me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. What is your approach to managing BLAST+ software updates?

- I only update when it is absolutely necessary
- I update when ever new versions are announced
- I update yearly
- Other (please specify)
- I have a script that regularly downloads the BLAST+ software
- I use BLAST+ but someone else manages the installation and updates of the software

11. Why do you use BLAST+ instead of the BLAST web pages?

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12. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the BLAST web service?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	N/A
Knowing which BLAST databases to choose is easy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Finding BLAST databases for a specific organism is easy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
BLAST results return quickly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
BLAST results are easy to read and understand	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Downloading my results is easy and provides what I need	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Descriptions table has a clear and understandable layout	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Descriptions table has all the fields I need	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. Please list any additional fields you would add to the Descriptions table

14. Please indicate your level experience with the following technologies.

	Don't know about it	Know of it, but do not use it	Am planning to use it	Have used it	Use it regularly
Amazon Machine Image (AMI)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Google Virtual Machine (VM)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Docker	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Common Workflow Language (CWL)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GitHub	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Python	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
EDirect / E-Utilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
BLAST+	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kubernetes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bioconda	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jupyter notebook	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Perl	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Building automated bioinformatics pipelines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
NCBI BLAST URL API	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. Do you use BLAST+ as part of an automated pipeline?

Yes No

16. Have you had any difficulty incorporating BLAST+ into this pipeline?

- Yes -- please give details below No

Please provide details of problems incorporating BLAST into your pipeline.

17. What databases do you use with BLAST in your pipeline? Please check all that apply.

- Pre-formatted BLAST database (nr, nt, others from BLAST FTP site)
 Other NCBI databases
 Your own databases

18. When running your pipeline which of the following technologies or services do you use?

- Python
 Amazon Machine Image (AMI)
 Google Virtual Machine (VM)
 Common Workflow Language (CWL)
 Docker
 GitHub
 NCBI EDirect or E-Utilities
 NCBI BLAST URL API
 Other (please specify)

19. How often do you use your pipeline?

Hours per day

Days per week

20. What changes would you like us to make to BLAST to make it more compatible with your pipeline?

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21. How likely is it that you would recommend NCBI BLAST to a friend or colleague?

Not at all likely

Extremely likely

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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22. If there was one thing you could change about BLAST, what would it be?

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