/scratch 30-day auto-deletion policy

What is the /scratch 30-day auto-deletion policy?

The /scratch filesystem in NYU HPC is for computational work storage purposes. It does not have a space limit. According to the HPC file deletion policy, files in /scratch are automatically deleted after remaining inactive for 30 days. Files < 30 days old may be deleted as needed without warning if required for system productivity.

Why does HPC apply this policy?

For several reasons. /scratch does not have a space quota, as a result, it can be easily filled up and prevent all jobs from running if there is no cleanup. The /scratch filesystem also lacks a backup, which means it is not suitable for important or long-term data storage. Since /scratch is always busy in I/O, it might not be as stable as /home or /archive.
How is this policy implemented?

This auto-deletion policy is enforced by the RobinHood Policy Engine, which is a tool for monitoring and purging large filesystems. It will,

1. Scan the filesystem periodically.
2. Store the results in a MySQL database.
3. Start deleting the oldest files according to a policy when the system is getting full.

For more details on the storage policies, please refer to this page.

PBS Script Generator
An interactive tool that generates PBS script based on user's input. Check this page for more details.

Front-Line HPC Consulting
HPC consultations are available once a week, Monday 1-3 PM. Appointments are required. Please make an appointment at hpc@nyu.edu.