



## Chipster Information Sheet

Chipster is an open source application for DNA microarray analysis. It provides access to R/Bioconductor and other tools through an intuitive graphical user interface.

Sydney Bioinformatics “hosts” a Chipster server. This means we have downloaded and installed the Chipster application on our servers, providing faster analysis times for Australian users. We also maintain and upgrade the installation as the CSC in Finland (the authors of the software) release new versions.

Access to Chipster is on a subscription basis, in conjunction with BioManager. Although Sydney Bioinformatics provides access to Chipster, the development and maintenance of the software package is performed by the CSC in Finland (<http://www.csc.fi/english/csc>).

### Frequently Asked Questions

*How do I use Chipster?*

An online manual for Chipster can be found at <https://extras.csc.fi/biosciences/chipster-manual>. Several tutorials involving Affymetrix and Illumina data can be found at <https://extras.csc.fi/biosciences/chipster-manual>. In addition, Sydney Bioinformatics periodically runs introductory courses in microarray analysis using Chipster. Information regarding courses can be found at <http://www.usyd.edu.au/sydneybioinformatics/training.shtml>.

*What microarray platforms and chip types are supported in Chipster?*

A list of currently supported microarray chips can be found at <https://extras.csc.fi/biosciences/chipster-manual/supported-chips.html>. Please especially note that Chipster does NOT currently provide full support for Affymetrix Gene ST arrays. Although, normalisation and statistical tests can be carried out on Gene ST arrays, quality control and annotation based analyses are not currently available.

*Who should I contact if I encounter an error?*

If your analysis results in an error, please copy the error message and send it, accompanied by a description of what you were trying to do to [sonia@sydneybioinformatics.org](mailto:sonia@sydneybioinformatics.org).

*What if I my microarray chip is not supported by Chipster? What if I want a feature or functionality added to Chipster?*

Requests for new features, functionality, or support for other types of microarray chips may be forwarded to Sydney Bioinformatics ([sonia@sydneybioinformatics.org](mailto:sonia@sydneybioinformatics.org)).

While we will provide as much support as possible, it is important to note that, in most cases, Sydney Bioinformatics is unable to add new features, functionality, or support for additional chips. All development of the application is undertaken at the CSC in Finland. Sydney Bioinformatics will forward requests to the software development staff at the CSC in Finland. Unfortunately, since we are not responsible for the development of Chipster, we cannot usually provide information regarding whether and when requests will be implemented.

In addition to Chipster, Sydney Bioinformatics also undertakes collaborative research projects in the area of microarray analysis. You may wish to explore this option further if Chipster does not currently support your chips or proves unsuitable for your particular project. Please contact Sebastien Gerega ([sebastien@sydneybioinformatics.org](mailto:sebastien@sydneybioinformatics.org)) for information on collaborative research projects.

*Why does Sydney Bioinformatics charge for access to Chipster & BioManager?*

Sydney Bioinformatics is not run for profit. All subscription monies for Chipster and BioManager go to *partially* meet the operating costs of BioManager and Chipster, including maintaining and upgrading the high-end computational servers hosting the application and installing and troubleshooting upgrades to the Chipster software itself.

The Chipster software is open source and can be downloaded for free from the CSC website and installed on a Linux based computer. Sydney Bioinformatics cannot provide support for other installations of Chipster.