The University of Edinburgh

This year's lab development plans

The latest plans for the enhancements to the University's open-access computing labs over the summer vacation have been published in the 'Future Developments' section of EUCSinfo, at **http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/new.html**

While the document describes most of the likely options which will take place, the plans have not been finalised and there is still time for any feedback to be considered. The planned timetable is shown in an appendix, but we emphasise that the dates are current estimates and are under regular review. It is also possible, of course, that the timetable could be affected by technical problems encountered at the point of implementation.

The University's C&IT Committee (formerly the Director's Advisory Group, DAG) has supported our request that departmental course organisers should inform Computing Services of their teaching requirements in time for us to include these in the lab software build which will take place in June 2000. We realise this may be difficult for some academic staff, but it is the only way we can guarantee to have a consistent set-up, tested on all different hardware configurations, by the start of the new session. Obviously, once a release is set up in all labs, we would consider any late requests to see if they could be incorporated without compromising the released system, but there can be no guarantee of implementing such late requests.

Please send any feedback to Christine Rees (email **C.Rees@ed.ac.uk**).

Andrew McKendrick (EUCS)

The new email service

The latest progress report on the enhancement of the University's email service, including the move to the IMAP protocol, is in the 'Future Developments' section of EUCSinfo, at **http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/new.html**

New servers are being installed to handle staff and student email, and new email clients have been chosen for the open-access computing labs (Pegasus for Windows PCs, Outlook Express for Macs). Mail clients being investigated for general use include Outlook, Outlook Express and Netscape Communicator. The new mail servers will be introduced over the summer.

Keith Farvis (EUCS)

Computing Services alerts

The EUCS Web site – EUCSinfo – has a 'Service Alerts' section containing information about scheduled interruptions to lab, computing, network and other services, and progress reports during unscheduled breaks in service.

Mailing lists are available if you would like to receive notifications by email: see the section 'Receiving alert notification by email' at **http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/alerts/**

Graeme Wood (EUCS)

Building faults online

A new online system for reporting building faults came into operation in May, enabling the Works Division to operate more efficiently, and allowing any staff to check on the progress of any building fault report. The new service is at **http://www.ebis.estates.ed.ac.uk/repairs.htm**; click on the 'Access to Repairline...' link to look up an existing fault, or 'Repairs & Defects...' to find out how to become an authorised representative and fault-reporter for your building.

Angus Currie (Estates and Buildings)

[CONTENTS]

Enclosed with this issue:

Software Distributed by Computing Services

Major hardware theft

The University has experienced the downside of being one of Europe's major academic computing centres. During May, thieves broke into EUCS premises at The King's Buildings to steal critical components from computers housed there. Local MIS and Library services were affected, along with various pan-European research collaborations.

The recovery strategy implemented by EUCS was able to get several of the services restored within 24 hours, although operating at reduced capacity utilising lower specification equipment from other systems. Security has always been a priority, but is now being further reviewed to take account of the possibility that professional thieves are being hired to 'steal to order'.

The University has a difficult task in balancing access for its students and staff against the vulnerability of expensive equipment. Your own personal computer is less at risk now than a few years ago when memory and processor chips were rare and expensive, but unpleasant things do still happen – and while your computer can be replaced, information is often the more valuable commodity, and should always be carefully backed up.

We all need to be vigilant, and report suspicious behaviour or incidents to the University's security department (tel 502257, or in a real emergency, simply **2222**).

Brian Gilmore (EUCS)

Were you smitten by the love bug?

PC users throughout the world are still recovering from the effects of the 'VBS worm' sent out into the Internet – accidentally or deliberately – by someone in the Philippines.

As soon as it learned of the problem with this message, with its hallmark 'ILOVEYOU' subject line, EUCS set the local mail server to intercept further arrivals before they could do any harm (and trapped several hundred this way).

This filtering can only be set up once a rogue message has been identified, however, and the 'ILOVEYOU' message is only one of *several hundred* items of 'malware' that are released every month. All computer users should take great care to protect their work against this and the 'copycat' worms it has sparked off. As always, please do not run any unknown email attachment or software unless you are absolutely sure of its origin and safety.

If you don't use antivirus software, you should! The University has a site licence for Network Associates VirusScan, and you can find out how to install it at **http://mft.ucs.ed.ac.uk/ pcvirus/avsoftware.html**

There is general advice about junk email at **http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/ fmd/unix/docs/mail/junk/advice.html**

Garry Scobie (EUCS)

Incident Response Team

The ever increasing incidence of what can generally be called 'hacking attacks' against the University network and attached systems, or exploiting vulnerabilities in those systems to attack others on the Internet, has led Computing Services to set up a more formal system to handle such incidents.

The IRT (Incident Response Team) activities will be taken on by the Network Support Team under Jim Leitch. This will include logging all suspected incidents, liaising with the national CERT (Computer Emergency Response Team) and the University's Audit and Security Officer, ensuring that incidents get investigated by the appropriate personnel and ensuring that those outwith Edinburgh who report incidents get a timely response.

Normally incidents are reported from external sources, or from network traffic monitoring. If however, you suspect that your system has been attacked, then you should in the first instance report it to your local computing officer or EUCS Support Team (to eliminate simple system faults); they will then inform the IRT (**irt@ed.ac.uk** or tel 507750) if they suspect the system has been compromised.

Scott Currie (EUCS)

PC purchasing

The latest news on the national PC tender (mentioned in April's issue of *BITs*) is that it is likely to go ahead in March 2001. It will be for PCs only, not Macs or UNIX boxes (Sun/SG/ Compaq). Meantime, Edinburgh's tenders for PC and Apple are due for return by 30th May; so far there have been 28 responses from PC suppliers and three from Apple suppliers.

George Reid (Procurement)

Scotsys

Scotsys has dropped "Computers" from its name to reflect its broader interests and services, and revamped its Web site, at **http:// www.scotsys.co.uk/**

While these general pages show the full range of its public services, the information specifically for Edinburgh University is not readily accessible from here. You can reach it through the EUCSinfo or Procurement pages, of course, or go direct to **http://www.scotsys.co.uk/education/ prices/edinburgh/ednotes.html**

Maureen Dolan (Scotsys)

SELLIC

The May issue of news from the SELLIC project is now available, at **http://www.sellic.ed.ac.uk/updates/ update0500.html**

Wilma Alexander (SELLIC)

Oracle Campus Agreement

MIS has signed a Campus Agreement to license Oracle software for the University, permitting academic and administrative use with an unlimited number of users. This agreement allows the University to retain its well-proven Oracle database platform and to extend access to it. As more services move to Web-based delivery the numbers of users are growing rapidly, and without this agreement it would not be possible to meet user demands within existing financial constraints.

If you would like to take advantage of the agreement please look at **http://www.mis.ed.ac.uk/services/** or contact Mark Ritchie, the Infrastructure Manager in MIS.

Simon Marsden (MIS)

Microsoft Windows

The Microsoft Windows operating system first arrived in the University in 1985, and several versions are now in use.

A beginner's guide to each version, and its EUCS support status, is given at **http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/iss/ol/os/windows.html**

Jenny Arnott (EUCS)

GENSTAT and GLIM site licence

EUCS now has site licences for the statistical packages GENSTAT and GLIM.

GENSTAT is a highly flexible and powerful statistical programming language. GLIM is designed to fit generalised linear models. More information is on EUCSinfo at **http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/socsci/stats/**

Both packages are available for Windows 95/98/NT and Solaris, at a cost of £50 p.a. per copy each. Please send orders to EUCS Purchasing, JCMB, The King's Buildings.

Charlotte Moon (EUCS)

Computer-based learning

EUCS is providing several training packages which run on Windows PCs to enable people to learn to use a range of common applications from their own desktop computers. For each title you simply download a self-extracting file from an EUCS server, then run a setup file to install the package on your PC.

The range includes Word, Excel, Access and PowerPoint. You can find them by looking up the package names in the EUCSinfo A-Z index, or by going direct to **ftp://ftp.mft.ucs.ed.ac.uk/iss/**

Jenny Arnott (EUCS)

Teaching with Numeric Data

In both its local and national roles, the Data Library is leading a JISC-funded project to examine problems and solutions in supporting the Use of Numeric Data in Learning and Teaching, with broad participation from national datacentres, local support staff, and academic data users.

Numeric datasets are under-used in teaching and learning, so the project aims to generate knowledge about good practice, and pitfalls faced by teachers, learners and support staff wishing to use national data resources. Partners include the Data Library and EDINA, the British Library of Political and Economic Science at the LSE, The Data Archive and MIMAS.

A Task Force has been established, made up of experienced academic users and supporters from various disciplines. A sample survey of Higher Education departments will be conducted, case studies will be developed and put on a Web site, and a Mailbase discussion list has been established to promote discussion of problems and solutions.

More information about the project is on the Web at **http://datalib.ed.ac.uk/projects/datateach.html**

Robin Rice (EUCS)

AHRB bid success for EdVEC

EdVEC – the University's Virtual Environment Centre – has won major funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHRB) for a collaborative project with the Edinburgh College of Art to explore the use of virtual environment technology in the applied arts. The grant is worth a total of £340k and is to run for four years.

The focus will be the development of 'haptic' tools, which provide tactile as well as visual feedback, for applied artists such as jewellery makers and ceramicists. The eventual aim is to develop completely new ways of working using virtual spaces and materials. The proposal was well received academically, being attributed the highest A+ rating and awarded highest priority for funding.

Roy Middleton, Mark Wright (EUCS)

Electronic imaging & Visual Arts
EVA 2000 Scotland, Edinburgh, 26-29 July 2000

This is the 11th Anniversary Year of EVA Conferences, 'the foremost European Electronic Imaging Events in the Visual Arts'. The venues are Abden House and the National Museums of Scotland.

The main aim of EVA 2000 Scotland is to provide a forum for the user, supplier and scientific research communities to meet and exchange experiences, plans and ideas. Participants will receive up-to-date news on new EC and international cultural initiatives and projects.

Further details are available from the organisers, VASARI UK (tel 01252 653049, fax: 01252 679386, email: **jamesrhemsely@cix.co.uk**), or on the Web at **http://www.vasari.co.uk/eva/scotland/index.htm**

Bruce Royan (SCRAN)

The Mondex smartcard

The University and Bank of Scotland have decided not to continue the joint project under which a Mondex electronic purse facility is provided on smart cards issued to students at the University.

The University retains an active interest in smart cards and electronic cash, though, and is continuing to look at ways in which they may become a feature of University life in the future, as costs fall with the wider acceptance of chip cards. As well as new cards for students in October, the plan is to have cards for staff next April, and for all visitors from the following October.

Michael Anderson (Vice Principal)

Paying for printing in the open-access computing labs

A new self-service payment point has been installed in the Main Library foyer, next to the lifts, which allows users to pay into their printing accounts any time during Library opening hours. The machine accepts the following coins: 10p, 20p, 50p, £1 and £2.

Note: Change cannot be given for use in this machine by either Library or Computing Services staff.

This facility is in addition to the existing staffed payment points:
• Appleton Tower level 4, 8am-4pm and 6-8:30pm, Monday to Friday
• Main Library EUCS Reception, 9am-4:45pm, Monday to Friday
• KB Centre level 2, 8am-9:30pm, Monday to Friday
(Note that this method only covers printing in the labs: payment for EUCS service printers such as vc23 and ps15 is not covered by it.)

Norman Douglas (EUCS)

DIY in the Library

The Library has installed three self-issue machines which enable readers to issue and renew books without going to the service desk. The machines provide clear, animated instructions on a colour screen, and having scanned the barcodes on the reader's library card and the book(s) to be issued, they desensitise the book security strips and print out an itemised receipt which includes the due date of each item.

Two machines have been installed in the Main Library and one in the Darwin Library at The King's Buildings. Their use will be closely monitored, as it is envisaged that this will be the start of an ongoing programme, over some years, to introduce self-issue to other parts of EUL.

Pam Clouston (EUL)

Web Corner

The Stationery Office has launched a new portal site to simplify access to official information. **ukstate.com** aims to be a 'trusted partner' for Web access to UK-focused information, people and services connected to government and other official bodies.

This valuable service is well structured for the individual citizen, business manager or for general information about how government works. Links include government information, legislation and regulations, public sector contacts, guidance on government tenders, statistics and answers to frequently-asked questions. Official forms available online include tax, immigration, wills and power of attorney forms. Links to political and legal news stories from a variety of sources are updated daily.

The Stationery Office portal is at **http://www.ukstate.com/**

Clare Powne (EUL)

Software Distributed by Computing Services

This leaflet contains information about the software packages distributed by Computing Services. We can supply these packages because there is an Edinburgh University site licence (code **SL**), or because of special purchase arrangements (code **SP**), or because the software is in the public domain (code **PD**). If you have any of the software on this list, you should note that, just as with software bought commercially, you may not make and pass on copies to anyone unless you have permission to do so. Making copies without permission infringes the conditions of most of the agreements through which this software is supplied, and could lead to the licence being withdrawn.

Some products can only be used on University-owned computers, while others can be purchased or rented for use on your home computer. The latter are indicated with a letter **P** beside the package name. Different pricing and purchasing arrangements may apply to personal copies.

Details of software and hardware requirements, and of the conditions under which the software can be used, are available from the contacts shown. Where no name is given, please contact:

| EUCS Purchasing | tel: 0131 650 4942 |
| EUCS, JCMB, The King's Buildings | email: **EUCS.Purchasing@ed.ac.uk** |

All prices include VAT, and are per copy unless otherwise stated.

We can obtain competitive prices for many other software items also: for a quote, please contact EUCS Purchasing.

Charlotte Moon (Software Co-ordinator, EUCS)

Microsoft Select Scheme   SP

This is a special purchase arrangement with Microsoft, which covers a range of popular Microsoft products. Full price and ordering information is available online, at

http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/tsd/software/Special/msoft_menu.shtml

FileMaker Volume Licence   SP

This is a special purchase arrangement with FileMaker (formerly Claris), which covers FileMaker and Claris HomePage. Full price and ordering information is available online, at

http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/tsd/software/Special/claris.shtml

Cherwell Frame Agreement   SP

This is a special purchase arrangement with Cherwell, for selected products including EndNote, ChemDraw and ModelMaker. Full price and ordering information is available online, at

http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/tsd/software/Special/cherwell.shtml

Corel Academic Licence   SP

Special packs and licence-only copies for a range of Corel products. Full price and ordering information is available online, at

http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/tsd/software/Special/wp.shtml

Adobe Education Purchase Plan   SP

Flexible purchase of media, manuals and licences for selected Adobe products. Full price and ordering information is available online, at

http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/tsd/software/Special/adobe.shtml

SPSS Science Products Deal   SP

Purchase or rental options for a selection of specialised packages from SPSS, including Systat. Full details are online at

http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/tsd/software/Special/spss_sci.shtml

CAL

Learning to Learn   SL

Self-teaching package covering exam and study techniques.

Platforms: Windows

Contact: Christine Rees, EUCS (tel 503335)

Communications

eXceed P SL

An X-server for PCs.

Platforms: Windows 3.11/95/NT

Price: Windows 95 and NT – £50; Windows 3.11 – £60; Licence-only copies – £20.

Documentation: From supplier

LAN Workplace Pro   P SL

Allows PCs on a Novell Netware fileserver or EdLAN to communicate using Telnet with Edinburgh's mainframes or world-wide.

Platforms: Windows 95/NT, DOS

Price: £50 p.a. per department, or £20 per copy.

Documentation: EUCS Sales Points

Data analysis & extraction

Oxford Molecular Software   SL

A range of packages for molecular modelling and structural analysis is available, plus a protein database. Please ask for a current list.

Platforms: Various

Price: POA

Documentation: From supplier

SASPAC91   SL

For the interrogation and analysis of the 1991 Census Small Area and Local Base statistics.

Platforms: DOS

Price: £50 per copy, plus £25 p.a.

Documentation: Included

Database software

OpenIngres   SL

Relational database management.

Platforms: Sun

Price: POA

Documentation: EUCS Sales Points

ORACLE   SL

Relational database management.

Platforms: Sun

Price: POA

Documentation: From supplier

Contact: Ed Dee, EUCS (tel 503312)

Geographic and mapping

ARC/INFO   P SL

Geographical information system (GIS).

Platforms: Windows, Various

Price: £70 p.a.

Documentation: From supplier

ArcView   P SL

Enables exploration of geographic databases in various formats.

Platforms: Windows, Sun, Mac

Price: £70 p.a. for ARCView. Add-ons Spatial Analyst, Network Analyst and 3D Analyst £20 each p.a. (Sun & Windows only).

Documentation: From supplier

Graphics

AVS   SL

Comprehensive 3D scientific visualisation package.

Platforms: Various

Price: POA

Documentation: From supplier

AVS Express   SL

Comprehensive 3D scientific visualisation package.

Platforms: Windows 95/NT, Irix, Digital Unix, Linux, Sun

Price: POA

Documentation: From supplier

Deltagraph   SL

Graphics package for Windows and Mac.

Platforms: Mac, Windows 95

Price: Licence £30, disks £10

Documentation: Manuals from supplier – POA

Imagine   SL

Remote sense image processing for spatial/GIS applications.

Platforms: Various

Price: POA

Documentation: From supplier

Imagine Orthomax   SL

Add-on to Imagine for basic photogrammetry projects.

Platforms: Various

Price: POA

Documentation: From supplier

PV Wave   SP

Data analysis and visualisation.

Platforms: Sun

Price: POA

Documentation: From supplier

Toolmaster/Uniras   SL

Technical presentation and data analysis application.

Platforms: Irix, Digital Unix, Sun

Price: Sun: £250 p.a. per department. Other platforms: £450 p.a.

Documentation: From supplier

xv   P SL

Interactive image manipulation program for X Windows.

Platforms: Sun

Price: Free

Documentation: Included with product

Contact: Download directly from **ftp.cis.upenn.edu**

Mathematics

Maple V   SL

Mathematics package which can perform many symbolic and numeric calculations; also has a library of functions for visualisation and programming.

Platforms: Sun, Various

Price: £25 p.a. for departments. £25 one-off for students and staff requiring home use.

Documentation: From supplier

Miscellaneous

Inside Information   SL

Monthly index of articles about PC software and hardware in a range of popular computing magazines.

Platforms: Windows

Price: £35 p.a.

Programming languages

EPC Fortran 77 SL

Validated native-code Fortran 77 compiler with full support for the ANSI X3.9-1978 Standard.

Platforms: Sun

Price: £75 per copy, plus £15 p.a. maintenance

Documentation: EUCS Sales Points

EPC Fortran 90 SL

A full implementation of the new ISO standard.

Platforms: Sun

Price: £500 per department, plus £75 p.a. maintenance

Documentation: From supplier

Salford FTN95 compiler   SL

Fortran 95 compiler for Windows 32-bit computers.

Platforms: Windows 95

Price: £250 p.a. per department, or £50 per copy.

Documentation: From supplier

Sun Products   SL

Sun compilers and tools.

Platforms: Sun

Price: Free, but must have Sun maintenance contract.

Documentation: From supplier

Programming libraries and tools

NAG C Header Files   SL

Provide support for users wishing to call the NAG Fortran, Foundation or Graphics Libraries from C.

Platforms: Windows 95/NT, Sun

Price: £15 p.a.

Documentation: From supplier

NAG C Library SL

A library of numerical and statistical subroutines in C.

Platforms: Sun, Windows 95/NT

Price: £50 p.a.

NAG fl90 Library   SL

Fortran 90 subroutine library.

Platforms: Sun

Price: £50

Documentation: From supplier

NAG Fortran Library   SL

Comprehensive collection of Fortran 77 routines for the solution of numerical and statistical problems.

Platforms: Windows 95/NT, Digital Unix, Sun

Price: £50 p.a.

Documentation: From supplier

NAG Graphics Library SL

Library of Fortran 77 graphics routines.

Platforms: Unix

Price: £15 p.a.

Documentation: From supplier

Statistics

BMDP SL

Comprehensive set of statistical analysis programs.

Platforms: Sun

Price: £75 p.a.

Documentation: EUCS Sales Points

Clustan Graphics   SL

Data clustering program.

Platforms: Windows 95

Price: CD-ROM £10

Documentation: From supplier, £5 inc p&p

DataDesk   SP

Data analysis package suitable for a wide range of statistical analyses.

Platforms: Mac, Windows 95

Price: £75 licence plus CD-ROM, £50 licence only

Documentation: From supplier, £19.50

Genstat   SL

GENSTAT is a highly flexible and powerful statistical programming language.

Platforms: Sun, Windows

Price: £50 p.a. per copy

Documentation: From supplier

GLIM   SL

Interactive statistical modelling and data manipulation.

Platforms: Sun, Windows 95

Price: £50 p.a. per copy

Minitab   P SL

Easy to use statistical analysis.

Platforms: Windows 95, Mac

Price: Windows: £75 per copy; Mac: £55 per copy

Documentation: Included

SAS   SL

Data access, management, analysis and presentation (including graphics).

Platforms: Sun, Windows

Price: Windows: £150 p.a. for all modules. Sun: £150 p.a. for core modules, additional modules POA.

Documentation: From supplier

SPSS   SL

Data analysis package suitable for a wide range of statistical analyses.

Platforms: Sun, Mac, Windows 95

Price: £50 p.a. per copy

Documentation: From supplier – £35

SPSS additional modules   P SL

Additional modules for use with SPSS (Amos, Answer Tree, Data Entry, TextSmart, Trial Run).

Platforms: Windows 95

Price: £20 p.a. each or £50 p.a. for all five

Documentation: From supplier

Text editors

MicroEmacs   P PD

Full-screen text editor, also available on most other systems in the University.

Platforms: Sun, DOS

Price: Free (please supply a formatted disk)

Documentation: EUCS Sales Points

Contact: Keith Nicol, EUCS (tel 504926)

VUED   P PD

Front-end for MicroEmacs to allow the use of menus and function keys.

Platforms: Sun, DOS

Price: Free (please supply a formatted disk)

Documentation: EUCS Sales Points

Contact: Keith Nicol, EUCS (tel 504926)

Utilities

Lasergraphics WinRascol BLL generator driver   SL

Allows any Windows application to produce a .BLL file for the Lasergraphics 35mm camera in Medical Illustration.

Platforms: Windows 95

Price: £20

Documentation: Included

VirusScan   P SL

Anti-virus software.

Platforms: DOS, Windows 95/NT, OS/2, Mac

Price: Free to EU staff and students

Documentation: EUCS Sales Points