



The University of Edinburgh

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New Dialup Service

The new dialup service is now operational: its number is **473 0000**. This service will run in parallel with the old dialup service until the end of January to ensure that there are no serious outstanding problems.

If you use the existing service, you can get your new username and password from the Web page at <http://dialup-auth.ucs.ed.ac.uk/>

This asks for your username and password for the old dialup service before providing your new ones. If you use the old service and have not yet registered for the new one, you will be asked for your staff reference number or student matriculation number and an email address. If you have forgotten your old username or password, contact Alan Reid (tel 504932).

If you are retired or not a member of staff, or are not a currently matriculated student, then you have to get written permission from the Head of your old department to use the dialup service. Once you have this written permission, fill in an EUCS Service Registration form, available from EUCS Receptions or online (look up 'Registration' in the EUCSinfo index), and send the form and letter of permission to User Registration, Computing Services, James Clerk Maxwell Building, The King's Buildings, Mayfield Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JZ.

You can change your password, and get information on the new service, on the above Web page. If you have problems with this and still want to change your password, contact Alan Reid.

Please report any problems with the new service to your Support Team.

Jim Leitch (EUCS)

University Web Site Editor

Bryan Martin is the new University Web Site Editor, and took up his duties at the end of October. This post is now based in the University Library, within the Online Services Division, although it reports to an Advisory Committee made up of representatives from Academic Services, Communications & Public Affairs and other parts of the University.

Bryan comes from a varied IT background, most recently in Computing Services where he was involved with Web development for the Law and Social Science Faculties and the Law and Social Science support team.

Bryan's immediate priority is to improve and expand the information available from the University's central Web pages, for both internal and external users. There is also a considerable amount to be done in working with Web site editors across the University to promote guidelines for site development which are flexible enough to meet the needs of a wide range of providers, while recognising the need for the University to present itself consistently and appropriately.

This is a task which will include staff development and training. The task is a huge one, which can only be successfully achieved by the Editor working in partnership with many individuals and teams throughout the University. Bryan is therefore looking forward to working closely with colleagues across all faculties, divisions and departments. The Library is delighted to welcome him on board.

Bryan can be contacted at

Bryan.Martin@ed.ac.uk.

John MacColl (EUL)

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Happy New Year and Real Millennium, at the start of the 21st Century!!

Software news

New SAS deal

We have renewed our CHEST site licence for the statistical package SAS for another three years.

The new deal includes extra modules, such as SAS/LAB for engineers and scientists, SAS/SpectraView for data visualisation and analysis, and SAS/GIS, an interactive Geographical Information System (all available for Windows).

For Solaris, SAS/AF (interactive application development), SAS/Insight (dynamic analysis), SAS/ETS (time series analysis and forecasting), SAS/OR (project management) and SAS/QC (quality control) are now available at no extra cost.

You can buy SAS for Windows or Solaris, at a cost of £150 per copy p.a. We are also introducing a departmental licence option, at £1,000 p.a., for which you can have as many copies as you need within a single department. For compatibility with the S-Plus pricing, there is also a network server option, at £300 p.a. for up to five users on a network.

Existing SAS users will be sent information on the new options with their renewal notice. New users can order by sending an internal order form (GL220) to EUCS Purchasing, JCMB, The King's Buildings. The SAS Web site (<http://www.sas.com/>) has full details of SAS and its modules, including system requirements.

Windows ME

Microsoft's latest upgrade to the Windows 95/98 line, Windows Millennium Edition (ME), is now available under the Microsoft Select Scheme (Windows 2000 would be the equivalent for PCs running Windows NT). EUCS will be supporting Windows ME at P3, but is not recommending that existing 95/98 systems be upgraded until the machine is replaced.

An upgrade from Windows 95/98 costs £37.45 (including CD and VAT). If you have Maintenance for your copies of Windows 95/98, you can upgrade for just the cost of the CD (£11.85 inc VAT). Please send internal order forms to EUCS Purchasing, JCMB, The King's Buildings.

Charlotte Moon (EUCS)

Sharing files and data

Sharing computer files – whether they contain documents, data or pictures – is a fundamental IT skill. Most people know a way to share a file with others, but not so many know that there are many different ways to do so.

At the basic level EUCS offers the new document *File Transfer*. This deals with giving a file to someone so they can use it, covering file types and the mechanics of moving a file from machine A to machine B. The document is available from all our documentation points, and is also online: look up 'File Transfer' in the EUCSinfo A-Z index, or go straight to <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/iss/ol/comms/filetransfer.html>

If you need more in-depth detail about file sharing, with particular emphasis on sharing files over the network, you may be interested in <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/scisup/faq/filesharing.html>

James Jarvis, Helen Talbot (EUCS)

Plague of unwanted faxes?

Recently many fax machines in the University have been plagued by a plethora of unsolicited and unwanted faxes. You do not have to accept this.

If your department is troubled by unwanted and unsolicited telephone sales calls or "junk" faxes, you can register the numbers in question with the fax or telephone preference

schemes which are accessible through http://www.oftel.gov.uk/releases/2000/pr35_00.htm

(There is a link to this page from the University Telephones home page.)

I should point out that taking such action will block faxed and telephoned information from *all* marketing organisations, including ones from which you might wish to hear.

Murray Clayton (EUCS)

University computer supplier in provisional liquidation

We have been informed that Datalink (formerly known as DCS), which is one of the suppliers on the University framework agreement for PCs, have gone into "provisional liquidation".

We are waiting for one of the directors to contact us regarding exactly what this means, and the implications it has for the University's support arrangements.

We will post any information as we receive it on the Web at <http://www.procure.ed.ac.uk/computer/ordering/new.htm>

In the meantime, please note the following:

- *do not* send any orders to Datalink.
- if you have sent orders to Datalink and are awaiting delivery of the goods, please contact George Reid (email George.Reid@ed.ac.uk, tel 508035, fax 502826) as soon as possible.
- any service requirements, whether under warranty or not, should be communicated to EUCS or MIS helpdesks as appropriate.

There are three other computer suppliers on the PC framework agreement to whom new orders can be sent. See details at <http://www.procure.ed.ac.uk/computer/>

Karen Bowman (Procurement)

EUCS courses

The course timetable for the second half of this session, from February to September, is now on the Web, at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/iss/courses/>

It will also be circulated shortly in the *Staff Development Opportunities* booklet, and be available from EUCS receptions in our catalogue *Computing Publications*. Bookings for these courses are now being taken (please use the booking form provided in the paper publications and on the Web site). A new course being offered this time is on EndNote, the bibliographic database package.

We find that some participants on our courses are interested in using typing tutors. We no longer offer a scheduled course on this subject, but we do provide learning packages which you can use yourself, when it suits you. For further details, see the item 'Learn at your own desktop!' on page 4, or look in the 'General' category at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/iss/ol/>

Tracey Athay (EUCS)

Management Information Services – MIS

Management Information Services is planning to move its desktop service users from Windows 95 and Office 97 Professional to Windows 2000 and Office 2000 Professional. This will take place early in 2001.

For this reason we are not publicising a timetable of courses at this stage. However, we are planning a timetable to coincide with the move which will contain courses in the new applications, including FrontPage 2000 at both Introductory and Advanced levels.

This schedule will be published on the MIS Web site at <http://www.mis.ed.ac.uk/services/>

Pat Jackson (MIS)

Data Protection compliance

Sheelagh Keddie of The Data Compliance Centre will give a talk entitled "Balancing business needs with Data Protection requirements" at 6:30pm on Wednesday 17th January at the Apex Hotel in the Grassmarket.

This British Computer Society talk is open to all; an abstract will be published at <http://www.cce.hw.ac.uk/~bcsed/00-01/meets.htm>

David Muxworthy (EUCS)

S-Plus jumpstart workshop

There will be a one-day workshop to introduce the main features of S-Plus, in the Main Library, on 31st January. It will concentrate on the Graphical User Interface of S-PLUS 2000 for Windows. If you would like to attend, please send email to Frances.Provan@ed.ac.uk.

Frances Provan (EUCS)

UAUUG technical briefing day

The UK AVS plus Uniras User Group, UAUUG, is organising a hands-on Technical Briefing Day in Manchester on 6th February. The day will focus on getting data into AVS/Express and Gsharp, and integrating Gsharp on PC with other office products. There will be two sessions, one on AVS/Express and one on Gsharp, together with an 'open surgery' for user problems. Further details are available at <http://www.uauug.org.uk/events/>

John Blair-Fish (EUCS)

Help for online teachers

Question Mark online testing

Question Mark Perception is a Web-based objective testing system which allows participants to do tests and surveys, and users to create schedules and report on results. It is now installed locally for University use. Eight different styles of questions are offered, and the

system is robust and tailorable. Demo tests can be seen at http://www.qmark.com/perception/online_examples.html

WebCT workshop

There will be a workshop on 'Managing Learning Environments with WebCT' for University staff on 7th February (in a venue yet to be arranged). It will be a practical workshop aimed at lecturers who have used the Web for learning and teaching, and who wish to explore the sophisticated features offered by managed learning environments, in particular WebCT.

In both cases, please contact MALTS for further details (email malts@ed.ac.uk).

Nora Moge (MALTS)

Census classes and workshops

Edinburgh University Data Library is hosting two half-day classes in February: 'Introduction to Census Data' and 'Mapping Census Data', given by the Census Dissemination Unit (MIMAS) and UKBORDERS (EDINA). Contact the Data Library to reserve a place or to find out more (email datalib@ed.ac.uk).

Also, a consultation workshop will be held in London on 31st January 2001, at the Royal Statistical Society, on the subject of 'Teaching with Contemporary and Historical Census data'. There is no registration fee, and lunch is included. More information and a booking form can be found at <http://www.chcc.ac.uk/>

Robin Rice (EUCS)

Media Technology Forum

The Media Technology Forum announced in November's *BITs* has had to be postponed due to staff illness. It was to take place on 21st February. A new date in the Summer will be announced as soon as possible.

John Blair-Fish (EUCS)

Learn at your own desktop!

If it's a fact of life for you that you can't find the time to go on a course, it is now possible to learn a selection of Microsoft PC applications without moving from your desk. EUCS provides computer-based learning material for Access97, Excel97, Internet Explorer, Outlook, PowerPoint97, Project98 and Word97. (Arts Faculty PC users with the latest desktop will find them already installed: select START/PROGRAMS/Application Tutorials.)

If you would like to try any of these you need to copy the course of your choice over to your own PC – and will need Windows 95/98 or Windows NT 4.0 (these packages will not run under 3.1 or WinNT 3.51). The material is at <ftp://ftp.mft.ucs.ed.ac.uk/iss/>

Select 'Computer-Based Learning' and follow the instructions to download the course to your computer.

Unfortunately it is not possible to use this material with a Macintosh.

Jenny Arnott (EUCS)

Midwinter solstice in Orkney

The winter solstice sunset as seen from Orkney's most spectacular chambered cairn, the 5,000 year-old Maes Howe, is being broadcast over the Internet between 2:30pm and 3:45pm until 2nd February.

The precise reasons for the alignments at Maes Howe may never be unveiled, but the connection with the winter solstice sunset is unlikely to be a coincidence. So the Neolithic people that lived in the neighbourhood of this megalithic mound must have been aware of other things between Heaven and Earth than simple survival.

This year three cameras have been installed inside the chamber, probably making this the oldest building in the world connected to the Internet. See the Maes Howe Web page at <http://maeshowe.mypage.org/>

Bruce Royan (SCRAN)

Edinburgh streaming gets Real

The latest edition of the British Universities Film and Video Council's magazine 'viewfinder' contains an article on the streaming media service provided by Computing Services (see <http://webhelp.ucs.ed.ac.uk/services/media/>).

If you have RealPlayerG2 or better installed on your computer, you can listen to this article being read as a RealAudio stream from the streaming media service, at <http://webhelp.ucs.ed.ac.uk/services/media/bufvc.html>

For content developers, the BUFVC's Web site provides links to many useful services such as the NISS Avance and TV Indexes, and the BUFVC's Off Air recording and Backup Service.

Any recognised University department or organisation interested in using the local streaming media service should send mail to stream-media@ed.ac.uk.

John Smith (EUCS)

A seasonal ... virus

A virus called 'W32/Hybris.gen@m' is currently circulating. It arrived in my own mailbox a few weeks ago, as an attachment with the name 'midgets.scr'. The Subject Heading was 'Snowwhite and the Seven Dwarfs – The REAL story!'

If you receive this message, just delete it and its attachment.

Details of this virus and many others can be found at McAfee's Virus Information Library at <http://vil.nai.com/vil/default.asp>

Always remember that new viruses appear almost every day, so be wary of running email attachments if you don't know where they've come from, and do keep an antivirus utility installed and up-to-date. More information can be found in EUCSinfo, for example at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/tsd/software/Solomons/>

Garry Scobie (EUCS)

Intellectual Property Portal

The Patent Office has launched the UK Intellectual Property Portal, after the recommendation to the Government's Creative Industries Task Force that "A single Web site containing basic information about intellectual property should signpost users and creators appropriately, so that they can obtain licences for particular use and information to enable them to protect their rights...". The Portal is at <http://www.intellectual-property.gov.uk/>

Bruce Royan (SCRAN)

Holiday arrangements

The University will close at 5pm on 22nd December and reopen at 9am on 4th January. EUCS Receptions and the Library will be closed and there will be no telephone operator service.

Support teams, Resource Centres and Computing Labs will not be staffed; there will be no operator cover on the 25th, 26th, 1st & 2nd, and only day-shift cover on the 27th, 28th, 29th & 3rd.

David Muxworthy (EUCS)

Edinburgh BITS

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Contributions to BITS are welcomed from all readers.

Copy deadline for February BITS:
Wednesday 17th January