

SCRAN Millennium Project completed on target

The initial impetus to SCRAN was a massive Lottery grant from the Millennium Commission. The targets set us were to have digitised and loaded 1,000,000 basic records and 116,200 full datasets by the end of August 2001. In fact we exceeded our target, having loaded 1,113,455 basic records and 117,052 full datasets. Loading of new data will continue from now on of course, but at a less frenetic pace.

**Great Scots:
who gets
your vote?**



SCRAN and ICL Scotland are trying to determine the one hundred Greatest Scots of the 20th Century, and every vote counts.

Scottish celebrities and members of the public are being asked to nominate their candidates via traditional ballot boxes in every public library in Scotland, and online at <http://greatscots.scran.com/>

When all votes are cast a panel of well known Scottish celebrities, including Wendy Alexander, Craig Brown, Viv Lumsden, Rikki Fulton and Channel 4's Stuart Cosgrove, will finalise the people's choices. The final 100 will then be immortalised in a unique piece of public art and will be used to create an updated Virtual Frieze on the SCRAN Resource base.

We're hoping for the fullest possible participation, so do please take a moment to ponder your own choice, then simply vote online—before the end of November—at <http://greatscots.scran.com/>

Bruce Royan (SCRAN)

EdVEC steals the scene

EdVEC, the Edinburgh Virtual Environment Centre based in Computing Services, has won a Scottish Enterprise Proof of Concept Award to develop 'virtual film sets' which could eventually replace costly studio sets and reduce the time that film crews spend on location.

EdVEC, in partnership with 3D-MATIC at the University of Glasgow, will use the £200,000 award to exploit its experience with the latest laser scanning and photogrammetry techniques to create a product which could revolutionise film and TV production. The initial aim is to enable 'pre-visualisation' of a complete feature—the stage before any filming takes place. The system will generate 3D models of locations from still photos, video, or laser scanning. Actors will usually be modelled, although it will be possible to include real people and models animated from motion capture. The long-term aim is to transform the way films are made.

The research will provide a powerful tool for directors to plan shots, sets and logistics. The technology will benefit large corporations, semi-professional companies, amateur groups, training organisations, colleges and even schools. Another intention is to provide film-makers with a database of virtual scenes, which could result in Scotland being used as a backdrop in more feature films.

For further information, contact Roy Middleton (email R.L.Middleton@ed.ac.uk, tel 504994), or have a look at the EdVEC Web site at <http://www.edvec.ed.ac.uk/>

Roy Middleton (EUCS)

[CONTENTS]

SCRAN Millennium Project completed on target	1
Great Scots: who gets your vote?	
EdVEC steals the scene	1
Publishing audio and video on the streaming media server	2
Webcasting Fresh Air FM	2
More space on the staff mail server	2
Web access to student mail	
BCS Season opens	2
Upgrades to Toolmaster/Uniras and availability for Windows	2
New MSc in High Performance Computing	3
Results of UK survey on data	3
Shattering experience with CD-ROM	3
Electronic journals: new services	4
ScienceDirect	
Other new services	
On-line registration project	4

Included with this issue:

Software Distributed by Computing Services



The EdVEC/3D-MATIC proposal was chosen for special publicity at the Scottish Enterprise event with Wendy Alexander, here admiring the EdVEC display.

Publishing audio and video on the streaming media server

Would you like to put your lecture slides on the Web and add an audio narration? Or do you have a video that you want to make available to your students over the Web? Or how about combining your video, your narration and your slides into an on-line course? This is already being done, and you can see examples and find out more from the streaming media service webhelp pages at <http://webhelp.ucs.ed.ac.uk/services/media/>

The service is free to departments and units as long as it is used in the support of teaching and learning. If you would like to know more, please send email to stream-media@ed.ac.uk, or contact your Support Team.

Arthur Wilson (EUCS)

Webcasting Fresh Air FM

Throughout October the entire broadcast output of the local student radio station Fresh Air FM (87.7FM) will be available 24 hours a day as a live 'webcast' over the Internet. For details of how to tune in to the broadcast, go to the station's Web site at <http://www.freshairfm.co.uk/>

The complete facility for this online broadcast is provided by Computing Services. For maximum accessibility, the webcast is available as both 24Kbps mono—for modem connections—and 64Kbps stereo for broadband connections or MP3 audio streams.

As described in the previous article, EUCS provides a streaming media service—as used for Fresh Air FM—to support research and learning. Further details are at <http://webhelp.ucs.ed.ac.uk/services/media/>

John Smith (EUCS)

More space on the staff mail server

More file space has been added to the staff mail server—staffmail.ed.ac.uk—so the default quota for users' mailboxes has been increased to 40 megabytes. This does not affect any users whose quotas are already higher than this.

Web access to student mail

Following a successful pilot trial over the summer, EUCS has opened full Web access to the student mail service. Students therefore, like staff on the staff mail server, can now access their University mail from anywhere in the world. The student mail quota has been increased to 24 megabytes per student. A login alert message has been put in place in the open access labs announcing this to the students, and the online documentation has been updated.

Graeme Wood (EUCS)

Upgrades to Toolmaster/Uniras and availability for Windows

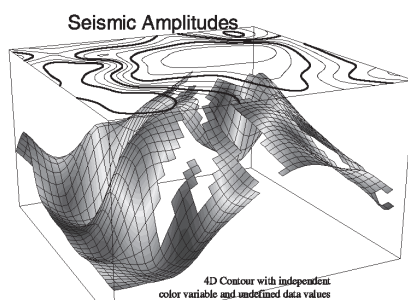
The Toolmaster/Uniras software on **holyrood** has been upgraded to version 7.2 and the interactive Gsharp to version 3.2. This software is made available with the command `. /usr/local/uniras/base/uni.profile`

To find out about new features look at the Web page

<http://www.avsuk.com/pages/upgrade.htm>

A full description of the capabilities of the Toolmaster/Uniras software is available at http://www.avs.com/software/soft_t

This software is now available for the Windows platform as well as Sun/Solaris, and may be obtained through EUCS Purchasing. Pricing for the Windows platform has been set to be the same as for the Solaris platform at £250 per department, or £50 for a single copy. Pricing for other Unix platforms is available on request.



The interactive Gsharp is available now in the open-access labs, replacing the DeltaGraph package on Windows PCs. It is a scientific graphing and 2D visualisation tool, and replaced the earlier Uniras interactives unigraph, unimap, and uniedit. A full description of its features is given at http://www.avs.com/software/soft_t/gsharp.html

John Blair-Fish (EUCS)



BCS Season opens

The Edinburgh branch of the British Computer Society has two meetings in October:

3rd: e-Business in Scotland,
Dr Robert Crawford
(Scottish Enterprise).

17th: Will it be intelligent
machines or cyborgs?,
Prof Kevin Warwick
(Reading University).

Both these meetings start at 6.30pm, at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 36 York Place, Edinburgh. Note that this is a *new venue* for this session. Full details are provided at <http://www.cce.hw.ac.uk/~bcsed/01-02/>

David Muxworthy (EUCS)

New MSc in High Performance Computing

EPCC is the focus for the University of Edinburgh's work in high-performance computing. The Centre's task is to accelerate the effective exploitation of high-performance parallel computing systems in academia, industry and commerce. It houses an exceptional range of computers, with over 45 staff committed to the solution of real-world problems. EPCC supports a range of activities spanning undergraduate and advanced training programmes, service provision, industrial affiliation and contract work, and participation in European and UK government funded collaborations.

From October EPCC is offering an MSc in High Performance Computing (HPC). This new postgraduate qualification extends EPCC's existing training courses, covering topics of key relevance to academia and industry, and with a strong practical focus. Students will have access to an impressive range of leading-edge HPC platforms and technologies. They will acquire an extended skills base and expertise relevant to a wide spectrum of careers, including computational science research and commercial software development. This is one of the few university-accredited postgraduate HPC qualifications in Europe.

The course will be taught as a series of intensive modules, each typically lasting around three days, with associated tutorials, course work and examinations. Modules offered include:

- Fundamental Concepts of High Performance Computing
- Principles of Parallel Programming: Theory and Practice
- Software Development: Methodologies, Tools and Techniques
- Object-Oriented Programming for HPC Applications
- Applied Computer Science: Architectures, Compilers and Algorithms
- Applied Numerical Algorithms
- Exploiting the Computational Grid

This year's course is already full, but applications to join the course in October 2002 are encouraged from graduates of all areas of science, engineering, computer science and mathematics, and from those currently working in a relevant field. The entrance requirement is a good honours degree or equivalent work experience. No prior knowledge of HPC is assumed, but candidates must be competent programmers in Java, C++, C or Fortran.

Several EPSRC studentships are available which cover all fees and maintenance for UK nationals, or fees only for European nationals.

For more information and application details see

<http://www.epcc.ed.ac.uk/msc/>

Judy Hardy (EPCC)

Results of UK survey on data

A nationwide survey of the use of numeric data in teaching—led by Edinburgh University Data Library and reported in April's issue of *BITs*—has led to the following recommendations:

1. A broad initiative is needed to promote subject-based statistical literacy for students, with support for teaching staff who wish to incorporate empirical data into courses.
2. The development of high-quality teaching materials for major UK datasets needs to be funded adequately, in order to provide salience to subject matter and demonstrate relevant methods for coursework.
3. The national data services need to improve the usability of their datasets for learning and teaching.
4. A more coordinated promotion of the national data services should then follow.
5. Universities need to develop IT strategies that include data services and support for staff and students.

To request a copy of the printed report write to datalib@ed.ac.uk. More information is on the project Web site, at <http://datalib.ed.ac.uk/projects/datateach.html>

Robin Rice (EUCS)

Shattering experience with a CD ROM

As mentioned in last month's *BITs*, there is a danger that a CD-ROM will shatter in very-high-speed drives. This has now happened to someone in the University, who put a new CD in the drive, heard a suspicious 'crack' as the CD started spinning, then found the drive door 4' in front of his PC, surrounded by fragments of the CD. On dismantling the drive he found the inside was full of bits of the CD, some of them lodged in the front bezel.

We now know that the problem arises with LG 48* and 52* speed drives. RM has been very open about this, and will issue shields to be glued inside the drive to contain the fragments if a CD shatters. Viglen has supplied a general CD safety awareness handout, and says that no fragments were expelled from their PCs in five known cases of CDs breaking up. Dell says their PCs are not affected since their drives come from a different supplier and anyway have reinforced doors. There is a possibility that DCS used LG, though not necessarily any of the offending drives. Apple Macs are not affected.

You can find out more about this problem at <http://www.procure.ed.ac.uk/computer/ordering/new.htm>

George Reid (Procurement)

Electronic journals: new services

ScienceDirect:

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/>

Edinburgh University Library has signed a three-year site licence for ScienceDirect, providing access to over 1,000 journals published by Elsevier Science B.V., with full text content available from 1995 onwards. Most of the subject coverage is scientific, technical or medical, but ScienceDirect also includes titles in arts and humanities, business management and accounting, economics, psychology and social science.

The organic chemistry backfiles have also been acquired, providing full text access to the complete archives of the following titles:

- Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry
- Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters
- Carbohydrate Research
- Journal of Fluorine Chemistry
- Phytochemistry
- Tetrahedron
- Tetrahedron Letters
- Tetrahedron: Asymmetry

No password is required on campus: just select the group-wide login. A registration ID and password is required for off-campus access: contact eishelp@ed.ac.uk for details.

Most of the titles included in ScienceDirect do not yet appear in either the catalogue or the

electronic journals listings on Library Online, but it is possible to identify titles available to the University of Edinburgh. Once logged on to ScienceDirect, select the browse option, and then select subscribed titles from the drop down menu to see a complete list of titles available in full text, arranged by either subject or title.

Other new services

Nature:

<http://www.nature.com/nature/>

The weekly journal is now available online, with access to full text content from June 1997 onwards. Journal content is available on publication. The site licence does not cover access to the Reviews or other associated Nature titles.

New Scientist archive:

<http://archive.newscientist.com/>

The weekly journal is now available online, with access to full text content from 1988 onwards. Journal content is available a week after publication.

Science:

<http://www.sciencemag.org/>

All full text content of Science is now available online. The archive, covering the period 1880 to 1995, is part of the General Science Collection from JSTOR. Current content, from October 1995 to date, is available from the publisher.

Liz Stevenson (EUL)

On-line registration project

This project, joint between the Office of Lifelong Learning and MIS, began in the Spring of 2001, and was tested in the environment of Summer School enrolments. The aim is to permit e-enrolment and e-payment from a remote site using Web-based technology. Further developments will include e-access to student data.

The next phase of the project is to extend the remit to cover the CPD activity of OLL. This month we welcome eight new members of staff, including two with special responsibility for e-learning, to develop the whole area of open and distance learning (working with MALTS, the Library and ERI). We plan to organise a series of seminars and workshops over the next few months: watch out in *BITS* for announcements.

The OLL Web site will become the main vehicle by which we announce our programmes, at <http://www.lifelong.ed.ac.uk/>

Con Gillen (OLL)

Edinburgh BITS

Editor:

Nick Stroud, EUCS.

Published by:

Computing Services
The University of Edinburgh
for the Edinburgh IT community.

Contributions:

Email: BITS@ed.ac.uk
Telephone: 0131 650 3345

Distribution queries:

BITS is distributed through departmental offices; departmental secretaries please notify changes in requirements to:
David Muxworthy
Email: D.Muxworthy@ed.ac.uk
Telephone: 0131 650 3305

Printed on chlorine-free paper from sustainable forests by:

University of Edinburgh Printing Services,
<http://www.printing.ed.ac.uk/>

BITS on the Web:

<http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/bits/>

Some acronyms explained:

<http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/ucsinfo/acronyms.html>

Contributions to *BITS* are welcomed from all readers.

Copy deadline for November *BITS*:

Tuesday 16th October



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. These 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.

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>

Corel Academic Licence

SP

Special packs and licence-only copies are available for a range of Corel products. Full price and ordering information is 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 98/2000/NT
 Price: £50 per copy; 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

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

Ingres 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: Windows, Mac
 Price: Licence £30, disks £10
 Documentation: Manuals from supplier – POA

Gsharp SL

Creates technical charts and graphs from almost any data source and publishes them via the Web or high-quality printer.
 Platforms: Windows, Sun
 Price: £250 p.a. per department or £50 p.a. per copy
 Documentation: from supplier

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 SL

Mathematics package which can perform many symbolic and numeric calculations; has a library of functions for visualisation and programming.
 Platforms: Sun, Various

Price: £25 p.a., £25 one-off for students and staff requiring home use.
 Documentation: From supplier

Programming languages

Salford FTN95 compiler SL

Fortran 95 compiler for Windows 32-bit computers.
 Platforms: Windows 95/NT
 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 p.a.
 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, DOS, Windows
 Price: £75 p.a.
 Documentation: EUCS Sales Points

Clustan Graphics SL

Data clustering program.
 Platforms: Windows 95
 Price: CD £10
 Documentation: From supplier – £5 inc p&p

DataDesk SP

Interactive data analysis and statistics.
 Platforms: Windows 95, Mac
 Price: £75 licence plus CD, £50 licence only
 Documentation: £19.50 from supplier

Genstat SL

A highly flexible and powerful

GLIM SL

Interactive statistical modelling and data manipulation.

Platforms: Sun, Windows 95

Price: £50 p.a. per copy

Documentation: From supplier

Minitab P SL

Easy to use statistical analysis.

Platforms: Windows 95, Mac, Sun

Price: Windows: £75 per copy,
Macintosh: £55 per copy

Documentation: Included

S-Plus P SL

Data analysis, visualisation, modelling and statistical data.

Platforms: Windows 95, Unix

Price: Single copies £100 p.a.,
departments £1,000 p.a. for unlimited copies,
network licences £200 p.a. for up to 10 users

Documentation: From supplier

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

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 & Builder Station, TextSmart, Trial Run).

Platforms: Windows 95

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

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 WinRascal 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 for personal computers.

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

Price: Free to EU staff and students

Documentation: EUCS Sales Points