



### SpamAssassin

You may recall in last month's *BITs* an article describing a recent spam incident. EUCS has been working hard to provide facilities to lessen the amount of spam entering the University, and on introducing measures to allow users to deal with the problem more easily. From 3rd March we will be running a tool called SpamAssassin on the central mail relays which most of the University's mail passes through. In a similar way to virus scanning programs, this tool scans the incoming message, and based on various rules, tries to judge the likelihood that a particular message is spam. It then places a score in the message header which can be used by your mail server, or by the program you use to read your mail, to separate out the likely spam from legitimate mail. Our experience is that SpamAssassin has the ability to identify spam with about 95% accuracy, and we see it as a major tool for controlling spam. For more details on SpamAssassin and how to set up mail filtering rules for your particular mail server or mail client program, please see: <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/email/SpamAssassin/>

We have been keeping statistics on how much spam and viruses are blocked by different methods and we will soon be publishing these on the EUCSinfo Web site. In the 7 day period from 1st February to 7th February, for example, we blocked 6.1% of all incoming mail using a real-time block list (as announced in the June 2002 *BITs*), 14.7% was blocked by our own local block lists and 0.3% was rejected because it contained viruses. In total 21.1% of all mail was rejected by these measures. Initial indications of running SpamAssassin over what still comes through all these blocks leads us to believe that between 25% and 50% of the remaining mail is probably spam and would be filtered correctly using SpamAssassin if people were using a filtering rule.

EUCS will continue to fight against spammers to ensure a working mail service for all our users. It is likely that we will start to use more real-time blocking lists to prevent even more spam from entering the University's systems. We also intend to add more local blocks where we can reliably identify domains and networks exclusively used by spammers.

However, there is little we can do to prevent third-parties from forging mail addresses that look like Edinburgh addresses in their mail. This practice is routinely used against us and the University suffers the consequences through dealing with all the failed delivery messages, mis-directed complaints and the tarnishing of our good name. We report all such instances to the police and relevant network authorities and will continue to do so. For more information on how to deal with such "collateral spam" attacks, please see <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/email/spam.html>

*Graeme Wood (EUCS), Scott Larnach (EUCS)*

### Access to 'ed.ac.uk' resources from outwith the University

Edinburgh University has negotiated access to many information resources on the Internet for free use by its staff and students. Some can be accessed from anywhere, if you have an Athens username and password, but others require you to be using a computer in the 'ed.ac.uk' Internet domain – which basically means within University premises.

Provided you are a member of the University, though, there are ways of getting to these resources from outwith the University, for example by dialling up from home, or over the Web from another institution. A new page explaining how to do this has been added to the EUCS Web site, and existing pages have been revised to clarify the procedures to be followed: please see <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/ucsinfo/edacuk.html>

*Nick Stroud (EUCS)*

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### ColdFusion

There will be another ColdFusion Users' Group meeting on **Tuesday 25th March**, from 12.30pm to 2pm in the Brenda Moon Room, Wolfson Suite, Main Library.

The aim is to introduce the new MX version of ColdFusion. ColdFusion is a Web application development package which allows you to create dynamic Web pages using databases.

The programme is not finalised, but should include:

- Overview of ColdFusion MX
- ColdFusion Components (CFCs)
- Fusebox 3
- Migrating to ColdFusion MX
- Q & A

Please put the date in your diaries, and email [cold.fusion@ed.ac.uk](mailto:cold.fusion@ed.ac.uk) if you plan to attend. If you don't use the ColdFusion service yet, you are welcome to come along and find out more about it.

*Charlotte Moon (EUCS)*



## Library chooses Digital Object Management System



At the end of December 2002 the University Library placed an order for the ENCompass system from Endeavor Information Systems, Inc. This was the consequence of a procurement exercise begun in the Spring of 2002 for a Digital Object Management System ('DOMS'), in collaboration with the National Library of Scotland (NLS), with whom we had also worked over the procurement of our Library Management System, Voyager – also supplied by Endeavor – four years ago.

We considered three serious tenders in the Autumn, and our evaluation pointed to Endeavor's ENCompass as the best fit for our needs. Accordingly, throughout November we contacted other ENCompass customers in the USA, Australia and New Zealand, and then entered into negotiations with Endeavor in December. This led to the procurement of ENCompass 3.0, the latest release of the software, which has only been available from the beginning of 2003.

Despite being fairly satisfied Voyager customers, it was by no means a foregone conclusion that we would choose ENCompass, and our selection was fully informed by the assistance of the Procurement Office of the University, which acted for ourselves and the NLS as a purchasing consortium. However, it is fair to say that ENCompass is a very strong product, which we consider the best in the market at the present time, and we are delighted at the outcome of this exercise.

ENCompass comes in three modules:

- *ENCompass for Resource Access* allows libraries to offer a single portal search service to a range of repositories both locally created and provided under licence by third party vendors (as are most of our subject databases).
- *LinkFinderPlus* is a linking module which allows us to determine which targets are activated by links within the resources we offer, and to offer associated services. For example, we could give users the chance to search Web database resources associated with their current search focus, such as biographical dictionaries or bookshop databases.

- *ENCompass for Digital Collections* is a module which will permit us to build our own repositories of digital objects. These are likely to be based upon our own collections, both of heritage material (images of special library collections and museum objects) and of other digital material which the Library has not traditionally had a role in collecting, such as satellite images.

We expect that the use of ENCompass will bring to light a potentially large quantity of already digitised learning and resource objects (which can become repositories within it), and will encourage academic staff to suggest many more. Its flexible search facilities mean that objects can be combined and recombined as often as required in virtual collections, based upon files held only once within the system. ENCompass will also integrate seamlessly with Voyager databases, so offering one-stop access to digital objects and to physical objects with digital metadata.

ENCompass will be led and managed by the University Library working in close collaboration with colleagues in the Colleges and in other support services. An ENCompass Implementation Project is being set up, based on a core team of staff who will be charged with achieving a number of objectives, including the launching of a live service in time for the start of the 2003/04 academic session.

Those wishing to see what other organisations have done with ENCompass might wish to look at the National Library of New Zealand site, <http://www.natlib.govt.nz/en/digital/index.html>, which concentrates particularly on 'ENCompass for Digital Collections'. 'ENCompass for Resource Access' can be seen by kind permission of the University of Kansas, at their site at <http://www.diglib.ku.edu> This site is password protected: please contact me ([John.MacColl@ed.ac.uk](mailto:John.MacColl@ed.ac.uk)) if you would like to gain access.

Any comments on ENCompass, or suggestions of resources to incorporate within it, should be made to me.

*John MacColl (Library)*

## Macromedia Software Price Increase

The education pricing for Macromedia software (such as ColdFusion, DreamWeaver, Flash and FreeHand) is going up by 20% from 17th March. To buy at the existing price (see <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/tsd/software/> for details) please place orders with EUCS Purchasing ([EUCS.Purchasing@ed.ac.uk](mailto:EUCS.Purchasing@ed.ac.uk)) by 12th March.

*Charlotte Moon (EUCS)*

## Edinburgh BCS Meeting

The Edinburgh BCS talk in March will be on *Unlocking Customer Value through CRM* and will be given by Gary Brown of Xansa. (CRM stands for 'Customer Relationship Management'.)

It will be held at 6.30pm on **Wednesday 26th March** at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 36 York Place. All are welcome, whether members or not.

*David Muxworthy (EUCS)*

## Jedi Religion and other Census information

On 13th February 2003, the three Census agencies for England & Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland joined up to publish the 2001 Census Key Statistics, and produce a report of all of the questions asked, by local authority and by health board areas. The basic headcounts were released last Autumn. The Census Area Statistics (CAS), which cover detailed tables for output areas, postcode sectors and wards, are yet to be released: Scotland plans to publish the CAS in March, England and Wales in May, and Northern Ireland states that the CAS will be ready 'in the second half of 2003'.



**Scotland's  
CENSUS**  
29 APRIL 2001

The religion question, which was not asked in 1991 in England & Wales or in Scotland, was the object of an Internet campaign to establish the Jedi Warrior religion (yes, from Star Wars) as an 'official religion' by the government. This failed, despite responses outnumbering some major religions. The wording

of the religion question differed in the three UK censuses, as did the ethnic minority categories. There was a new question on general health and also on caring. Despite heavy lobbying by some groups, there was no income question in 2001.



Each Census agency has a Web site for the dissemination of publications and information about the 2001 Census outputs:

- England & Wales: <http://www.nationalstatistics.gov.uk/census2001/>
- Scotland: <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/grosweb/grosweb.nsf/pages/censushm/>
- Northern Ireland: <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/census/start.html>

For assistance in using Census and other population data, please contact the Data Library, email [datalib@ed.ac.uk](mailto:datalib@ed.ac.uk). We are on the Web at <http://datalib.ed.ac.uk/>

*Robin Rice (EUCS)*

## New release of Toolmaster/Uniras

The Toolmaster/Uniras software on **holyrood** has been upgraded to version 7.2 and the interactive Gsharp to version 3.2. This software is available by using the command:

```
. /usr/local/uniras/base/uni.profile
```

The emphasis in this release is on usability. To find out about the new features please refer to the following Web page: <http://www.avsuk.com/pages/upgrade.htm>

This general scientific graphics software is also available for Windows and is mounted in the open-access computing labs.

*John Blair-Fish (EUCS)*

## EDINBURGH BITS

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NB: if you fail to access a URL specified in BITS please email [BITS@ed.ac.uk](mailto:BITS@ed.ac.uk)

Contributions to *BITS* are welcomed.

Copy deadline for April *BITS*:

**Tuesday 18th March**

## Making eCPD work

The Office of Lifelong Learning (OLL), MALTS and TLA have recently been awarded funding from the Knowledge Transfer Fund for an electronic Continuing Professional Development (eCPD) project.

The aim of this project is to provide a support service to University of Edinburgh staff who are involved in the development and delivery of eCPD. This will be achieved by:

- creating eCPD support materials.
- setting up a coherent and user-friendly eCPD Web site using these eCPD materials.
- adding continuing support to existing OLL small grant holders by assisting them to turn their CPD offerings into eCPD.
- producing an on-line postgraduate certificate in eLearning, targeted at academic staff in Higher and Further Education Institutions in the UK and globally.

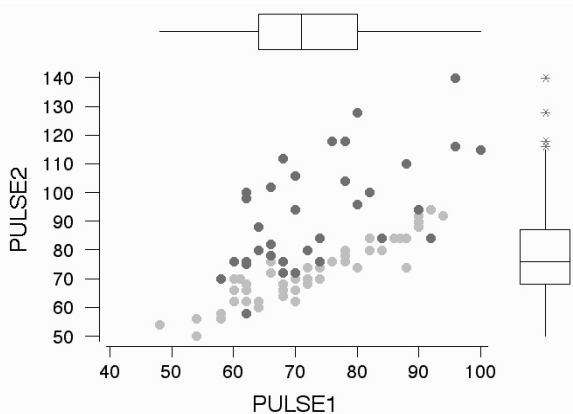
The project brings together a team from OLL, MALTS and TLA and runs initially for 12 months. Further information about the project can be found at <http://ecpd.ed.ac.uk/> or by contacting Dr Con Gillen on [c.gillen@ed.ac.uk](mailto:c.gillen@ed.ac.uk).

*Cuna Ekmekcioglu (Office of Lifelong Learning)*

# [ Computing ] Services ]

The University of Edinburgh

## Need a Statistics Package?

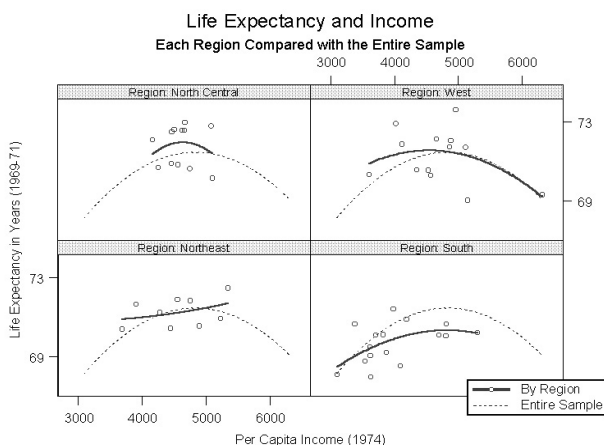
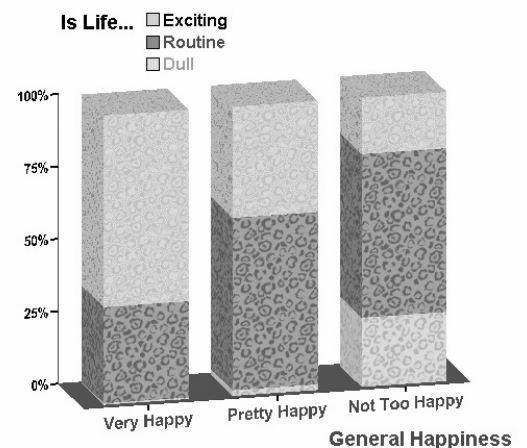


### ← Minitab

A general-purpose statistics package used extensively for teaching statistics in the sciences.

### SPSS ▶

A widely available general-purpose statistics package, particularly suited to social sciences and survey data.



### ← S-Plus

A flexible statistical environment for data manipulation, graphing, analysis and statistical programming.

Computing Services provides training, documentation and support for these statistical packages. For information about them, and others available in the University, have a look at the Statistics Web Page: <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/stats/>

This page includes information about several sources of help in the University for statistical computation.

