



### SUNCAT – national union catalogue of serials data

EDINA will lead a two-year, £700k project with Ex Libris and Edinburgh University Library (EUL) to set up and deliver SUNCAT, the national union catalogue of serials data for the UK.

Funded by the JISC and initiated as part of the Research Support Libraries Programme, SUNCAT will have two main functions: it will help researchers and students find serial publications held in the UK's leading research libraries; and it will be a central source of high-quality records which staff in contributing libraries may use to update their own catalogues. These will be derived from the ISSN register and the CONSER database of high-quality serials records as well as from the catalogues of contributing libraries.

EDINA's partner in developing SUNCAT will be Ex Libris, a leading supplier of automated library systems. SUNCAT will be a deployment of ALEPH 500, software that has been used to build national union catalogues throughout the world and the new catalogue for the California Digital Library Catalogue, Melvyl.

SUNCAT will be designed to help staff and students. User-requirements analyses and liaison with the library community are priorities. Liz Stevenson (EUL) will lead the work in this area, in partnership with Tony Kidd of Glasgow University Library.

EDINA's Associate Partners, the National Library of Scotland and the Libraries of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, will also be actively involved in the initial stages of the project by contributing data and acting as alpha and beta test sites.

SUNCAT will be developed in three phases. In Phase 1 (2003–2004), it will include a critical mass of records on current Scientific, Technical & Medical titles from the catalogues of 22 of the UK's largest University and Research Collections. Phase 2 (2005–2006) will extend coverage to 200 libraries and include specialist collections, including older and rarer materials. Phase 3 (2006–) will be a period of consolidation to ensure the long-term stability of SUNCAT.

For more information contact Leah Halliday (Project Manager) or Peter Burnhill (Director of EDINA) via the EDINA helpdesk (tel 503302) or look at the EDINA Web site: <http://edina.ac.uk/>

*Leah Halliday (EUCS)*

### Second Annual Conference on Information Technology at the University of Edinburgh

The second annual Information Technology conference, organized by the "star gazing group" set up by the University's Communications and Information Technology Committee (see <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/ucsinfo/cttees/citc/sgg/>), took place on the afternoon of 9th April in New College Lecture Theatre. The Web site for the conference (<http://www.hcrc.ed.ac.uk/~john/itc/>) has been updated with reports of the proceedings and slides used in the presentations.

*John Murison (EUCS)*

### Local Linux mirror

We have added Red Hat 9 to our local distribution site of Linux software. More details may be found on the Web at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/unix/platforms/linux/>

*Graeme Wood (EUCS)*

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### New Web-database services PHP4 and MySQL

EUCS Information Tools Team offers two new services for Web publishers with virtual Web servers on **morse**:

- ▶ PHP4 scripting language: PHP provides Web publishers with an easy-to-use, script-based programming environment.
- ▶ MySQL database hosting service: MySQL provides simple relational database management for Web-based applications.

Together these provide Unix-based services on **morse** to complement the Cold Fusion/SQL-Server services existing in a Windows environment. For users setting up new Web-based applications, the PHP4/MySQL combination is more suited to those with a programming background.

For further information please refer to: <http://webhelp.ucs.ed.ac.uk/services/phpservice/> and to <http://webhelp.ucs.ed.ac.uk/services/phpservice/mysqservice/>

*Ed Dee (EUCS)*



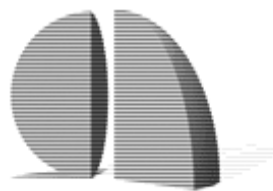
## Trial access to MIT CogNet

The University Library has set up trial access to MIT CogNet at <http://cognet.mit.edu/>. The trial lasts until the end of May, and no password is required for on-campus access.

MIT CogNet is an electronic community for the cognitive and brain sciences. It includes:

- ▶ Full text of major reference works and over 250 MIT Press cognitive science books
- ▶ Full text of MIT Press journals in the field of cognitive and brain sciences
- ▶ A growing collection of other relevant abstracts, books, journals, and reference works from other participating publishers
- ▶ Institutional profiles of graduate programmes in cognitive science and related disciplines
- ▶ Perspective editorials by scientists on groundbreaking or controversial aspects of new research
- ▶ Open forum
- ▶ News and current research notes
- ▶ Jobs listings and recruitment postings
- ▶ Virtual poster sessions
- ▶ A collection of conference proceedings and 'grey' literature
- ▶ A seminar manager with information about current seminars and lecture series at participating academic institutions.

Queries, comments and feedback should be addressed to: Jenny Flemington, Engineering & Informatics Librarian, University of Edinburgh  
(email: [J.Flemington@ed.ac.uk](mailto:J.Flemington@ed.ac.uk) tel: 506474)



# MIT CogNet

*Jenny Flemington (Library)*

## Mac OS X

As anyone who has recently taken delivery of an Apple Macintosh computer will know, new Macintoshes will only start up using the Mac OS X operating system. Mac OS 9 can still be used to run older applications, but cannot be used to boot a new machine.

Mac OS X (pronounced 'macos ten') is entirely different from previous versions of Mac OS, and in fact has a version of Unix running at its heart. Mac users switching to Mac OS X therefore have some learning to do. What is Computing Services doing to help them, and indeed about support for Mac OS X generally? The answer is – plenty:

- ▶ Most importantly, Mac OS X queries are accepted and handled by the EUCS Service Support teams as part of their normal support activities. (In some cases queries may be passed on to an internal 'second-level' Mac support team.)
  - ▶ Mac OS X is formally supported at the 'P2' level by EUCS. (For details of EUCS support levels, see <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/tsd/software/intro.shtml>)
  - ▶ A two-part 'Introduction to Mac OS X' course is now offered, as part of the EUCS IT training programme, to staff and postgraduate students wishing to convert from Mac OS 9 to OS X, or to begin working with Macintosh computers. For details, please see <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/iss/courses/courselist.shtml#F>
- Web pages containing supporting material for the courses are available at [http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/iss/ol/os/mac\\_osx/](http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/iss/ol/os/mac_osx/)
- ▶ A mailing list for Mac OS X users has been set up to which anyone can subscribe: send an email message with the body **subscribe ed-mac** to [majordomo@lists.ed.ac.uk](mailto:majordomo@lists.ed.ac.uk)

*Gillian Kirkwood (EUCS), John Murison (EUCS)*

## eLearning Courses at OLL: Web Design and Accessibility

From 17th April the Office of Lifelong Learning (OLL) will start delivering online courses in addition to its face-to-face Open Studies courses, in order to provide students with more choice, variety, and control of their own learning.

The first course in the series is entitled "Principles for Designing Accessible Web Pages" which runs this term, 17th April–13th June 2003. The course looks at the basic principles of designing accessible Web pages. Students will learn how to design a Web site that:

- ▶ focuses on the users' needs
- ▶ is easy to navigate, quick to download, and accessible to everyone, regardless of disability.

The entire course takes place online, so students learn at times and in places that suit them. They study for around 10–11 hours each week for 9 weeks, and progress by reading the Web-based course materials, completing a variety of individual learning activities and taking part in collaborative work. There is at least one activity in every section of the course. At the end of the course they submit an assignment.

Students will need:

- ▶ Access to a reliable computer
- ▶ Some prior experience of creating Web pages using either HTML or a Web design package such as Dreamweaver or FrontPage
- ▶ Convenient home or work access to the Internet.

This course will be repeated in Autumn/Winter 2003. For further information please contact Dr Cuna Ekmekcioglu (email [cuna@lifelong.ed.ac.uk](mailto:cuna@lifelong.ed.ac.uk)).

*Cuna Ekmekcioglu  
(Office of Lifelong Learning)*



## Open Access Computing Labs—on the move from Appleton Tower

In the next phase of the School of Informatics move to Appleton Tower, following the South Bridge fire, the Open Access Computing Lab on level 4 (AT4) is shortly to be rehoused, partly to a newly developed area on level 1 of the Erskine Medical Library (EML) and partly to an equally new facility on level 3 of the Main Library. The split will be 68 PCs and 8 Macs to EML and 24 PCs to the Main Library.

We will also be relocating most of the PCs moved from AT5 in December from their temporary locations on levels 1 and 2 of the Main Library to the new area on level 3, although the Library has kindly agreed to let us retain 20 computers on level 1.

We don't have exact timescales but we would expect to be out of AT4 by the middle of May. Given that this is not a good time to take open access seats out of operation we will endeavour to keep the disruption down to the very minimum.

When this operation is complete, we will have relocated all of the open access computers from Appleton Tower, thanks to the support of our colleagues in the Main and Erskine Libraries and

the sterling efforts of Estates & Buildings. The different opening hours of the Library buildings compared to AT means a reduction in Open Access Computing Lab seats on Friday evenings, but it also means a substantially increased availability at weekends.

The exact timescales of the moves will be advertised locally.

### Staff moves

As a further consequence of the exodus from Appleton Tower a number of Computing Services staff will be rehoused in EML: Norman Douglas, the Operations Manager, will move to an office on level 1 along with Margaret Laurence who runs the Data Preparation service. The central area Operations Staff, Ewan Ashton, Billy Duff, Donald Macgregor, Norrie Scott, Ian Stenhouse and Alex Stevenson, will be located on the ground floor. A new Lab Supervisor office to house the ex-AT4 supervisors, Peter Lithgow and Stuart Pettigrew, has been developed beside the new Lab.

All these staff will retain their existing telephone extensions. The move will take place around mid-May.

*Mike Baillie (EUCS)*

## Summer software changes in the Open Access Computing Labs

*The following text was sent by email to every University student at the end of April.*

During the Summer a number of changes will be made in the University's Open Access Computing Labs as a consequence of our switching them from Windows NT to Windows XP. Unless you are graduating and leaving the University this Summer, these changes will affect you, so **please read all of this message**.

### Profile Service

The Profile Service enables personalised information, such as **Desktop background**, **Internet Favourites** and **My Documents**, to be stored for each student. This service is being *switched off* at the end of July, and any items which you leave in **My Documents** or on the Windows NT Desktop will be irretrievably lost. You must therefore move items that you wish to preserve to another storage device, such as your Home Directory (the M:\ drive) or a floppy disk or a CD/RW.

A new Windows XP-based Profile Service will be available from the beginning of September.

### Pegasus Mail

The mail client program Pegasus Mail will be removed from the Open Access Computing Labs during the Summer. (The Web-based student mail interface will continue to be available, and will be upgraded to a newer version this Summer.)

If you have Pegasus Mail 'local folders' stored in your Home Directory (M:\ drive) then you probably first matriculated before October 2000. Such local folders must be moved before 1st August to your Student Mail Service, or you will lose them. For details of how to do this, see <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/labs/>

### Open Access Computing Labs – August 2003

During the month of August most of the Computing Labs will be closed for system upgrade, and there will be a minimal service only as we make the switch from Windows NT to Windows XP. Please refer to the Web site <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/labs/>, which will be kept up to date with details of Computing Labs available and other current information.

### New Windows password

When the Computing Labs reopen for business at the beginning of September, you will require to use a new Windows XP password. The coloured sheet entitled *Central Computing Services for Students* given to you when you matriculate (in early October) will include your new password. If you need to use the Computing Labs in September, however, note that in each Computing Lab there will be at least one 'Password Lookup Station': this will enable you to use your username and current password to obtain your new XP password. Detailed instructions will be available at the Password Lookup Station.

*Garry Scobie (EUCS), Graham Newton (EUCS)*

### BITs address List

We have encountered some problems with the address list which we use to circulate *BITs*, and offer our apologies if recent updates to the list appear to have been ignored. Please bear with us as we try to correct the situation.

Let me know if the address which we are using for you is out of date or wrong in any way, by email to [T.Cairney@ed.ac.uk](mailto:T.Cairney@ed.ac.uk)

*Tricia Cairney (EUCS)*

## Software news

### Macromedia Contribute

Macromedia's new product, Contribute, is designed to make it very easy for non-technical users to update content on Web pages. Users can browse to a Web page which they have permission to edit, and click to update the page in a WYSIWYG environment, without having to know any HTML. Full information is on Macromedia's Web site at <http://www.macromedia.com/software/contribute/>

However, the current release of Contribute does not work well with Server-Side Includes (SSI). SSIs are used in many University Web pages to provide a standard template. Contribute handles them in some cases, but in others can actually delete lines of code from the original file. We recommend that you make sure it will work with your departmental templates and Web pages before purchasing it. You can try Contribute free of charge by downloading it from Macromedia's Web site.

Contribute is available from EUCS Purchasing at £59 plus VAT for a boxed copy, or £39 plus VAT for a licence. Please send internal order forms (GL220) to EUCS Purchasing, JCMB, The King's Buildings.

### StarOffice

EUCS now has a distribution licence for Sun's StarOffice. StarOffice is a suite of office tools, including word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, graphics and database. It runs on Solaris, Linux and Windows, and can read, write and edit Microsoft Office files.

A CD for StarOffice costs £2.35 and can be bought from EUCS Reception in the Main Library. Departments wishing to buy multiple copies can order on a GL220 from EUCS Purchasing, JCMB, The King's Buildings. We are investigating options for selling copies at King's Buildings, and also for StarOffice to be made available via our network servers.

Both staff and students can purchase the CDs, and use of StarOffice on your own computer is permitted.

*Charlotte Moon (EUCS)*

## Events at the National e-Science Centre

The following events are due to take place at the e-Science Institute, 15 South College Street, Edinburgh.

- 2 May Second International Lattice Grid Workshop.
- 13-15 May Essential .NET: building applications and components with C#.
- 14 May Visit from Julia Goodfellow, Chief Executive of the Biotechnology & Biological Sciences Research Council.
- 16 May Schemas and Ontologies: Building a Semantic Infrastructure for the GRID and Digital Libraries.

For further information on our programme of events, and to apply to attend events, please see: <http://umbriel.dcs.gla.ac.uk/NeSC/general/esi/esi>

*Gill Maddy (NeSC)*

## eProcurement update

The pilot of the SciQuest Web-based SelectSite catalogue is now live for laboratory supplies in three Schools. Although volumes are small so far, they have doubled in the last month. Over 25 supplier catalogues with University pricing are available online.

Testing of the online ordering of stationery and computer consumables from our two key suppliers is progressing at three purchasing locations in the College of Science and Engineering, as well as via our office in Infirmary Street.

A short report on our eProcurement experience has gone to the HE eProcurement advisor. If you would like a copy please let me know (email [Karen.Bowman@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Karen.Bowman@ed.ac.uk)).

*Karen Bowman (Procurement)*

## The 2003 Milner Lecture

The Laboratory for Foundations of Computer Science presents the 2003 Milner Lecture. Professor Frank Kelly, University of Cambridge, will speak on "Fairness and stability of end-to-end congestion control", at 5:15PM on **Wednesday 21st May**, in George Square Lecture Theatre. Details are at <http://www.lfcs.informatics.ed.ac.uk/events/milner-lecture/>

This is a public lecture, open to all. It is one of a range of events comprising the University of Edinburgh Informatics Jamboree, 21st to 23rd May 2003; see <http://www.informatics.ed.ac.uk/events/jamboree/2003/>

*John Longley  
(Division of Informatics)*

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Contributions to *BITS* are welcomed.

Copy deadline for June *BITS*:

**Monday 19th May**