



Reduced sign-on using EASE – a work-in-progress

EUCS and others are working to move our services towards a reduced sign-on system, where users are required to remember fewer passwords and are challenged less often to enter a username and password to gain access to services. Towards this end two authentication systems are being made available, one on Windows using Active Directory and one for non-Windows systems using MIT Kerberos; the name EASE covers the latter service. Both systems are based on the same Kerberos authentication system. It is envisaged that at some point in the future both systems will interoperate seamlessly, though at the moment this is not technically possible.

Over the coming months EUCS services will start to use EASE rather than local password files to authenticate users. Local web-based services will be added in the near future. Unix services which are not web-based will also make use of EASE through the standard login mechanisms on people’s desktops.

An authentication portal for EASE is being created at <https://www.ease.ed.ac.uk/> with documentation, software downloads and a web-login service. This portal is a work-in-progress, so please bear with us while we add documentation and software download links to it.

Login to Athens with EASE

One of the first services to use the EASE authentication framework is authentication to Athens resources. If you log in using the EASE authentication portal at <https://www.ease.ed.ac.uk/>, you will be able to access any Athens resources licensed to the University which make use of the new Athens Devolved Authentication model, or AthensDA for short. This allows institutions to authenticate their users locally, in our case using EASE, and then to pass a token to Athens to identify the local user as someone who has been authenticated. Athens then issues a browser cookie, which is presented at websites using Athens, allowing the user to enter without any further challenge for identification.

Graeme Wood (EUCS), Keith Farvis (EUCS)

Content Management System for the University’s web pages

In early 2003 the EUCS Software Policy Group set up a working party to examine the current market in Web Content Management Systems (WCMS), and to make a recommendation for the acquisition of such a system for use by webmasters and other content providers throughout the University.

There are over 2,000 WCMSs currently in existence, with widely differing characteristics: some are very basic, others are hugely elaborate, some are free, others can cost more than £500,000. The working party, which currently comprises staff from EUCS, CPA, MALTS and MIS, first considered what specific characteristics the University would require of a WCMS. A preliminary report was produced summarising the working party’s conclusions (available from the project website at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/projects/wcms/>).

The next step, which we are now embarking on, is to compare current products against our requirements and constraints, produce a shortlist of suitable systems, and then examine these in greater detail before making a final recommendation.

If you have an interest in this area and wish to comment on the working party’s preliminary report, or on any aspect of its work, please get in touch with the convener, Charlotte Moon (email C.Moon@ed.ac.uk).

Charlotte Moon (EUCS)

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Closure of Data Preparation Service

Due to the considerable downturn in work coming into our Data Preparation section over the last two or three years, along with the desire of the single employee involved to retire, the service is no longer economically viable and we have no option but to close the service, with effect from 30th November 2003.

As noted above, Margaret Laurence (Rickerby), who has run the service single-handed since 1990 and has given Computing Services 34 years of very loyal service, is heading for a well earned retirement.

Please contact Mike Baillie (tel 504946, email mike.baillie@ed.ac.uk) if you have any queries or want advice on finding an alternative agency. Thanks to all our users for supporting the service over many years.

Mike Baillie (EUCS)



New versions of site-licensed software

We have some new versions of software available by site licence. Please look at the websites listed below for details.

- ▶ Maple 9, for Windows/Mac/Linux
(<http://www.adeptscience.co.uk/>)
- ▶ EndNote 7 for Windows 2000/XP and Mac OS X.
(EndNote 5 is still available for Mac OS 9.x users.)
(<http://www.adeptscience.co.uk/>)
- ▶ Minitab 14 for Windows
(<http://www.minitab.com/>)

Pricing for these packages is given at

<http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/tsd/software/>

Please send internal order forms (GL220) to EUCS Purchasing, JCMB, The King's Buildings.

Personal copies are also available. Please collect an order form from EUCS Reception, Main Library, George Square. Proof of status (i.e. a staff card or matric card) must be provided when ordering personal copies of EndNote.

Microsoft Select Scheme news

A new Select Scheme starts at the beginning of this month. The only important change is that the new agreement lasts for three years instead of two, so purchasers of Software Assurance will be covered for any upgrades issued before 31st October 2006.

If you have bought Software Assurance for your Microsoft products in the last two years, you can choose to renew it for the period of the new agreement, but *you must let us know before 21st November* (email EUCS.Software.Service@ed.ac.uk). An invoice for the three-year fee will then be sent to you. Otherwise you will not be able to renew the cover, and will have to purchase new licences in order to upgrade.

The new version of Office, Office 2003, is available now. Please see Microsoft's Office 2003 home page (<http://office.microsoft.com/home/>) for product information and system requirements.

Charlotte Moon (EUCS)

OtherSides 2003

A reminder that OtherSides 2003 will open on **Wednesday 12th November**. The exhibition is more than just art: we want to show the many talents and activities of the people who work in the Information Services Group. Exhibits from previous years can be seen on the Web, at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/exhibit/>

Both the exhibition and the opening reception will be located in the Exhibition Hall, Main Library concourse (note: this is a change of venue). Please join us from 12:30pm for viewing and light refreshments, before the official opening by Ms Helen Hayes at 1:30pm.

Jenny Arnott (EUCS)

Disk quota usage on staffmail and SMS mail

The webmail system shows you your disk quota usage in the title bar at the top of each mailbox window. However, if you do not use the webmail system but some other mail client to access your mail, finding out your current disk usage is difficult.

We have now introduced an auto-responder system that you can query to find out your current usage. By sending a mail message to quota@staffmail.ed.ac.uk (quota@sms.ed.ac.uk for SMS users), and including in the text of the message the keyword `quota` followed by your mail system username, you will get sent an email message listing your current disk usage.

For example, if your username were `myname` on staffmail (this is the same as your universal username), you would send the following one-line message to quota@staffmail.ed.ac.uk:

```
quota myname
```

Requests to this service are logged to provide an audit trail in the event of abuse.

Graeme Wood (EUCS)

Active Directory

The Microsoft Windows PC environment in the University includes behind the scenes a structure of servers where users' home directory files are stored, where passwords are checked, and where documents are queued for networked printers. During 2003 the University embarked on a project to change the system which manages this structure to Microsoft's Active Directory.

The major benefits of Active Directory are in the management of a complex environment. It allows us to delegate authority to local Computing Officers in Schools and Colleges, and to create and close accounts automatically, based on the latest contents of central University databases, such as the Staff Database and the Student Database. The creation of these accounts is undertaken by a related development called the Automation Server, which has just been made available to Computing Officers. Please refer to <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/projects/activedir/> for further information on Active Directory, and to <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/projects/activedir/as/> for information on the Automation Server.

Scott Currie (EUCS)

SIR withdrawal

EUCS currently provides a relational database package called SIR on holyrood. See <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/tsd/infotools/db.section.shtml#sir> for details.

Usage of SIR is very low, and has been for some time—in fact we are aware of only one active user. It costs £3,000 per annum to run the software on holyrood. EUCS therefore proposes to withdraw the SIR service with effect from 1 December 2003.

Anyone with important data stored in SIR is invited to contact the EUCS Information Tools Team (email db.hd@ed.ac.uk) to discuss how to migrate their data.

Chris Adie (EUCS)

Email – The way forward

Background

The use of email is now a part of most people's lives, for research, business or personal purposes. For the University, it is not only being used for communication, but for registration or access to web-based corporate and collegiate systems.

To help manage the various email systems and providers (EUCS, MIS or local computing personnel), the HRMS Application supported by Human Resources has been used to hold the preferred corporate email addresses. As examples, this information has been used in the rollout of the HR self-service facility, the registration mechanism for WebCT and distribution of the Staff Newsletter.

Current position

EUCS and MIS developed an automated mechanism in April 2002, to upload core information from the Edinburgh University Email Directory. At present, the HRMS Application holds email information for approximately 80% of the University employees who have access to email as part of their working environment. To get the efficiencies and gain the benefits hoped for by having a complete central copy of employee email information, we need to increase the numbers held.

Way forward

To move towards a more complete central record of emails, HR has been working with EUCS and MIS to understand the reasons behind the current status and to plan the steps needed to get us to our preferred position. The key point coming from the discussions was the need to publicise the importance of having this complete central record of emails and the work that would be starting in this area by HR, EUCS and MIS.

The existing process for assigning email addresses to employees was found to be sufficient for the purpose; however there was no documented information available to allow a consistent and streamlined approach.

Over the next few months, the existing process will be documented and guidelines produced for the key roles involved. College and school representatives will be contacted to assist in the promotion and coordination of the rollout of the process. An exercise will also be carried out to identify missing emails for employees and have them stored in the HRMS Application.

For individuals who do not have an email address stored in the central records, a representative from your College or Support Group will be in touch in the near future, to ask for your assistance in providing a preferred Edinburgh mail address for storage in the HRMS Application.

If you have any queries or require more information, please contact SSHR.support@ed.ac.uk or Susan McLaren in Human Resources, Chambers Street, Edinburgh.

Susan McLaren (Human Resources)

eProcurement update



The UK HE Procurement strategy places great store on management information and systems. It states that HE Procurement should “support the effective use of management information and performance measurement by offering a focal point for information exchange.”

A group is being formed to coordinate all the good work going on in this sector. Karen Bowman, Director of Procurement, is one of the members of the national procurement strategy group (Proc-HE) guiding this work. More details can be found in <http://www1.procureweb.ac.uk/proc-he/strategy.pdf>

On-line stationery purchases

The tools for buying stationery and computer consumables on-line and getting next-day delivery are being rolled out, to large buying areas first. If you do not buy a lot of stationery you may find that coordinating your purchasing with others in your area saves time; internal eITs are also coming soon. If you want to know more, or to get help with the tools, contact Jeff Borthwick (email Jeff.Borthwick@ed.ac.uk).

Our target is to have 50% of invoices electronic by 2005/06. We are looking at eInvoicing options now, and Finance have identified the top 20 invoice-generating companies: not surprisingly these are in lab supplies (gases and chemicals) and in office supplies. As University schools coordinate their purchasing better, the number of invoices — and risk of payment delays — will reduce, but eInvoicing will save even more time when implemented.

SciQuest

A statement of work for upgrading the SciQuest eProcurement tool for laboratory supplies (to add functionality such as attaching documents to orders) is almost in place. A project plan for testing this version within the current client schools will be agreed shortly, and a formal review will take place early next term. If successful, this tool will provide for sourcing and comparing prices from (currently) almost 40 company catalogues, and will be offered to 4,000 lab users across the University later this year.

If you want to know more about any eProcurement initiatives please contact Karen Bowman (email Karen.Bowman@ed.ac.uk).

Karen Bowman (Procurement)

A selection of databases provided by the University Library

The University Library subscribes to a wide range of databases, full details of which can be found in Library Online at:

<http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/resources/databases/>

A number of these are highlighted below.

Compendex moves to EV2



<http://www.engineeringvillage2.org/>

Covering the world's significant engineering and technological literature, the Compendex database is now available via the EV2 (Engineering Village 2) interface. EV2 provides full-text links, allowing the full-text article to be retrieved directly if the journal is available online. Links to the Library's online catalogue are also available for details of the Library's print holdings.

A further change is that on-campus access no longer requires a username & password; off-campus access continues to be by Athens username & password. Cross-searching Compendex and INSPEC (see below) is available via the EV2 interface. By setting up a personal account, users can save search strategies and can arrange to receive email alerts for updates to the literature on their chosen subject.

For further information please contact Jenny Flemington (J.Flemington@ed.ac.uk).

INSPEC



INSPEC is available at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/> (select *Databases A-Z* from the Quick Access drop-down list). Recent enhancements to the INSPEC database make it easier for researchers to keep up with the latest information in the fields of physics, computing, electrical engineering and information technology. INSPEC, which is updated weekly, provides access to research published in over 3,500 scientific and technical journals, and is now available to staff and students via EV2. A new combined searching capability allows users to run a search across both INSPEC and Compendex (see above). New personal account features offer INSPEC users the ability to set up weekly email alerts on their research topic and to save searches.

INSPEC is accessible off-campus by using an Athens username & password. For further information please contact Nancy Sprague (Nancy.Sprague@ed.ac.uk).

SciFinder Scholar (2004 Edition)

New options for locating chemical information are available in the recently released 2004 edition of SciFinder Scholar. Chemical literature from 1907 to the present is indexed in SciFinder Scholar, with direct links provided to journal articles available online. SciFinder Scholar, which is updated daily, provides easy access to the extensive databases produced by the Chemical Abstracts Service, such as CAPlus, CAS Registry, and CASREACT.



The Library currently has a five-user licence for SciFinder Scholar. This resource is available on Library PCs and can be accessed from the SciFinder icon on the desktop. Information on the latest release of SciFinder Scholar is available at <http://www.cas.org/SCIFINDER/SCHOLAR/>

O'Reilly's Safari Bookshelf



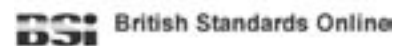
<http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/resbysub/scinews.shtml>

O'Reilly, one of the leading publishers of computer books, has made a collection of over 1,000 of their books available online through their Safari Bookshelf service. Trial access is available to the University of Edinburgh throughout November. Details of the trial and of gaining access to the collection are available from the URL given above.

For further information please contact Jenny Flemington (J.Flemington@ed.ac.uk).

British Standards Online – Athens authentication

<http://bsonline.techindex.co.uk/>



The full text of the complete set of British Standards continues to be available online, but access to the database is now by Athens, in line with many other online services provided by the Library. The database includes over 39,000 current, draft and historic British Standards, more than 16,000 of which are BSI-adopted European and International Standards (ISO). An email alert service is available to track any changes in selected current Standards: that is, if a Standard of particular interest to you changes, you can be alerted by email.

For further information please contact Jenny Flemington (J.Flemington@ed.ac.uk).



IEE/IEEE Electronic Library (IEL) password**IEEE/IEE Electronic Library (IEL)**

<http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/>

IEL provides full-text access to all IEEE and IEE transactions, journals, magazines and conference proceedings published since 1988, plus selected content back to 1950, and all current IEEE Standards. The password for off-campus access has recently been changed: for details please see

<http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/secure/accounts.html>

For further information please contact Jenny Flemington (J.Flemington@ed.ac.uk).

Knovel engineering reference handbooks – on trial throughout November

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

Knovel provides access to some of the leading science and

engineering reference handbooks from a range of publishers.

The Library already has online access to some of these references in the field of chemistry, but during November trial access to the complete set of reference texts will be available. No username & password is required for access. A small sample of the titles included are: *Chemical Properties Handbook*, *DOSE* (Dictionary of Substances and their Effects), *Lange's Handbook of Chemistry*, *Loss Prevention in the Process Industries*, *Mark's Standard Handbook for Mechanical Engineers*, *Perry's Chemical Engineers' Handbook*, and *Sax's Dangerous Properties of Industrial Materials*.

In the meantime Ullmann's *Encyclopedia of Industrial Chemistry* continues to be available, at

<http://www.mrw.interscience.wiley.com/ueic/>

For further information please contact Jenny Flemington (J.Flemington@ed.ac.uk).

Jenny Flemington (Library), Nancy Sprague (Library)

New Data Library holdings

The Data Library has obtained the following datasets for use in research, teaching and learning.

- ▶ **BACH 2002 & 2003** – harmonised annual accounts statistics of non-financial enterprises for 11 European countries, Japan and the United States.
- ▶ **Migration in the Northern Highlands, 1851–1891** – a study of unpublished census data focusing on the extent, direction and cause of population movements within the Northern Highland counties in the latter half of the 19th century.
- ▶ **Scottish Household Survey (SHS) Teaching Dataset** – contains a subset of data for the SHS based on the variables used for the SHS Annual Report, and separate household, adult and person files.
- ▶ **2001 Scottish Census Look-Up Tables** – contains a 2001 Postcode to Output Area Index and an Output Area (OA) to higher areas look-up file, together with associated names look-up files.
- ▶ **2001 Population Census for England and Wales Look-Up Tables** – contains a 2001 Postcode to Output Area Index and an Output Area (OA) to higher areas look-up file, together with associated names look-up files.

Updates from the UK Data Archive:

- ▶ **General Household Survey, 2001–2002**
- ▶ **Eurobarometer 44.3:** Health Care Issues and Public Security, Feb–Apr 1996.
- ▶ **Eurobarometer 47.2:** Women and Cancer, the European Parliament and Expectations of the European Union, Apr–Jun 1997.
- ▶ **Eurobarometer 54.0:** The Euro, Financial Services and Information Communication Technologies, Oct–Nov 2000.
- ▶ **Eurobarometer 54.1:** Building Europe and the European Union, the European Parliament, Public Safety and Defence Policy, Nov–Dec 2000.
- ▶ **Eurobarometer 54.2:** Impact of New Technologies, Employment and Social Affairs, and Disabilities, Jan–Feb 2001.
- ▶ **Eurobarometer 56.0:** Information Communication Technologies, Financial Services and Cultural Activities, Aug–Sept 2001.
- ▶ **Eurobarometer 58.0:** Sept–Oct 2002.

The complete list of Data Library holdings may be viewed at <http://datalib.ed.ac.uk/holdings.html> For further information please contact the Data Library (email: datalib@ed.ac.uk).

Stuart Macdonald (Data Library)



Edinburgh University
Data Library

Estates and Buildings Information System (EBIS) News



Estates and Buildings Information System

Estates and Buildings has been developing several aspects of EBIS to coincide with an internal re-structuring, and with the formation of the Zone/College and Premises Teams to meet the requirements of colleges and schools. Details of the teams in the four main zones across the estate can be found on the E&B website, under the banner *Premises Teams* (details below).

E&B and EBIS websites

The E&B and EBIS websites have been revamped to reflect EBIS developments, and comments from our annual customer survey. Please refer to <http://www.estates.ed.ac.uk/> and <http://www.ebis.estates.ed.ac.uk/>

Fault reporting

The online process for submitting requests for all trades work (formerly known as *Repairline for Works Division*) will now apply to requests for *Furniture Repairs* (excluding requests for new furniture), and for *Landscaping*. This change has been made to reflect fault reporting across all Divisions to Estates & Buildings. Schools have nominated representatives to carry out this task: see the section on *Fault Reporting* in the new E&B web pages. Details of the reps can be checked at https://www-live.ebis.estates.ed.ac.uk/dw_contsearch.cfm

E&B roadshows

To help our customers understand these changes, roadshows will be held, as detailed below, for school administrators and other interested members of staff. Invitations have already been sent out, but if you wish to attend any of the sessions please contact Lesley.Weaver@ed.ac.uk in order to register.

Team	Where	When
Central Area Team	DHT Conference Room	12 November at 2pm
Accommodation Services Team	DHT Conference Room	26 November at 2pm
King's Buildings	JCMB Room 5327	27 November at 11.30am
Meds and Vets Team	Hugh Robson Lecture Theatre	28 November at 11.30am

Each meeting will last about one hour and will enable school administrators to meet the key contacts in E&B and get an overview of the new processes and procedures.

Space management

The space audit process is now in its fourth year and is well established. Next year's audit will be fully online.

Room bookings

Colleges and schools should be aware of the ongoing work to make the booking system web-enabled for use by the Central Room Booking Unit for centrally bookable rooms, and by staff within colleges and schools with responsibility for managing teaching rooms allocated to them. In the first phase of the rollout it is intended that all teaching rooms be included in the system, to give a complete picture of how teaching space is being utilised. School administrators have recently provided information on teaching rooms held locally. Once we have all the teaching space accounted for, the booking system may be used for managing research labs. A full list of all teaching rooms in the EBIS system, whether held locally or centrally, will be developed in the near future.

It is important to note that, meantime, schools and colleges may continue to use the University eDiary service which is being extended to include the management of local meeting space, such as small meeting rooms.

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John Murison, EUCS.

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NB: if you fail to access a URL specified in *BITS* please email BITS@ed.ac.uk

Contributions to *BITS* are welcomed.

Copy deadline for December *BITS*:

Friday 14th November