

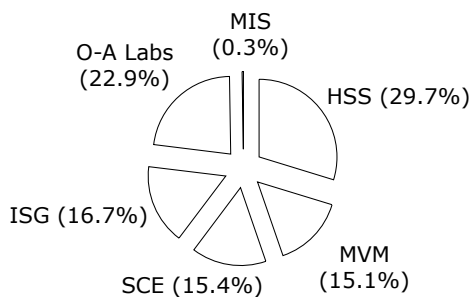
## The EUCS Managed Desktop

The first eight articles in this month's issue cover aspects of the Managed Desktop service developed by EUCS to keep PC and Mac operating systems right up to date. If you already have this system on your computer, you are already enjoying the benefits of regular system updates and the best-possible anti-virus security. If you are not using this service, and would like to, please contact your local Computing Officer or EUCS Support Team.

*(Editor)*

## Deployment of the Supported XP Desktop tops 5,000

The number of PCs in the University using the Supported XP Desktop has passed the 5,000 mark. This significant milestone has been achieved through much hard work by both EUCS and School-based Computing Officers.



The Supported XP Desktop consists of the EUCS Managed Desktop, which is configured and maintained by EUCS Desktop Services Team, and College-configured desktops using technologies developed by EUCS. The chart shows the distribution of the Supported XP Desktop throughout the University:

One of the early fears people had about the Supported Desktop was that they or their local Computing Officer would not be able to manage and support their own computers. Our users now realise that this is not the case. The security model deployed can vary according to the requirements of the facility. For instance, computers in the open-access labs are tightly controlled in terms of user access, so that each new login session on a PC is consistent and conforms to the lab specification.

Such restrictions, however, need not apply to end-user PCs in Schools or units where the diversity of applications or equipment attached to PCs requires local users to have administrative privileges.

Some of the basic benefits offered by the Supported XP Desktop include:

- Quick Build and Rebuild: on a standard network, Windows XP can be installed within 15 minutes.
- Windows Update Service: Windows XP is automatically configured to download and install all critical updates from an internal Software Update Service (SUS).
- AntiVirus updates: if installed, the McAfee AntiVirus software is configured to update itself automatically from an internal update server.
- Application deployment: more and more applications are available for automatic installation (subject to licence conditions) at build or reboot time. These include Office 2003, Endnote Version 8, SPSS, Minitab, Photoshop and Mozilla.

The following articles tell you a bit more about the Supported Desktop, and the efficiency and effectiveness it is bringing to the University's IT environment.

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Word of the month:

## WEBTOP

As "desktop" is to the personal computer, so "webtop" is to the Web. See articles on MyEd and Managed Web Kiosks within.

## Application Deployment for the Supported XP Desktop

Arguably the most important reason for having a computer is to run *applications*. Traditionally, these have been installed by someone sitting at the computer and running a setup routine.

With the number of supported desktop computers passing the 5,000 mark, and given the requirement for consistent application configuration across the University, this install model is untenable. During the planning stages of the Managed Desktop Project it was quickly realised that an automated method of installing applications without user intervention was required.

To this end we adopted Windows Installer, Microsoft's own installation technology which was first used with Office 2000. It defines the format of the installation file (files with an .MSI extension) and part of this definition provides support for mass deployment of applications without the need for user intervention.

Windows Installer integrates tightly with the Supported XP Desktop. For instance, it will honour system file protection, make use of system restore points, and configure applications defined in the application compatibility database, all previously disparate systems. A particular benefit of Windows Installer is that it will do a 'health check' on an application before it is run, and repair any missing parts.

Today most major software vendors are standardising on Windows Installer as their installation technology. For applications that do not use Windows Installer the Desktop Services team carries out a repackaging process on the software to transform it into a Windows Installer package suitable for mass deployment. This is a complicated process with a steep learning curve, however the benefits achieved have proven it a worthwhile endeavour.

In summary, Windows Installer is a stable foundation on which to base the deployment of applications in the Supported XP Desktop project.

*Mark Wiseman (EUCS)*

*Mark Wiseman is a member of the Desktop Services Team. His focus is on the repackaging of applications to Windows Installer format, coupled with the development and delivery of training courses for University staff in the repackaging process. In September Mark gained certification as a "Windows Installer Repackaging Specialist" from DesktopEngineer.com; to date, he is one of only four people in the UK to have achieved this.*

*(Editor)*

## MIS adopts EUCS Managed Desktop

MIS provides a managed desktop service to around a thousand users in the Administration, Communications & Student Services Group, Corporate Services Group, the three College offices and participating School offices in the College of Humanities and Social Science. For the past four years this service has been based on MS Windows 2000 and a series of Netware 5.1 file and print servers.

MIS is currently working with EUCS Desktop Services and Architecture teams to prepare the migration to the EUCS Managed Desktop based on MS Windows XP, and to replace the Netware servers with an MS Windows 2003 file/print server.

The rollout to users is scheduled to begin next Easter.

*Bryan MacGregor (MIS)*

## Managed Web Kiosks

The **Managed Web Kiosk** allows Schools and units to provide web services to staff, students and customers. The kiosk boots up into a restricted web browser so that the user may only browse controlled content.

The Library has been quick to adopt the new service for its OPAC terminals, which give access to the Library Catalogue and to nothing else. This allowed it to upgrade over a hundred PCs running Windows NT – even though these computers have just 64Mb of memory! The desktop operating system and browser maintenance are managed for the Library, while it retains full control of the "Webtop" to determine content.

The same technology can be used to provide restricted access to other services. For example, a generic email template provides access to the University's web email services; this is under consideration for possible installation in the Main Library to allow staff and students to check their email quickly and conveniently, and might be of interest to conference organisers also.



If you would like to find out more about setting up a kiosk service, have a word with your EUCS Support Team.

*James Jarvis (EUCS)*

### EUCS Managed Desktop in Lecture Theatres

During the past 12 months the PCs supported by MALTS in the University Lecture Theatres have been used by a wide range of lecturers to present a variety of different courses. These PCs have, on the whole, been remarkably reliable, but are subject to external factors such as the availability of the network or network servers.

EUCS has worked with MALTS to improve the resilience of these PCs by configuring a 'Presentation' mode, in which no networking is present or required, and no login is needed. This mode allows Microsoft PowerPoint presentations on removable media to be shown.

The dedicated Windows PCs in lecture theatres provide two modes of operation – standard and presentation kiosk. Use the following table to identify which is best for you.

	Standard XP	Presentation Kiosk
Network independent	No	Yes
Network home directory access	Yes	No
Internet Access	Yes	No
Authentication	Yes	No
Very Fast Boot	No	Yes
Removable media support	Yes	Yes
Full application set	Yes	No

To switch mode, reboot the workstation and select the desired option. You may need to use the projection screen in some locations as the modern touch screens do not support the display mode used at boot time.

*James Jarvis (EUCS)*

### The EUCS Managed Desktop on Laptop Loan Service laptops

The Library Laptop Loan service uses the EUCS Managed Desktop technology to provide students with computing capability wherever they go.

For session 2004/2005 the Library has extended this service, allowing borrowers to have a laptop for up to three days and to take it out of the Library building.

Within wireless range, students can connect the laptop to the University Wireless service and enjoy a level of functionality approaching that enjoyed in the open-access labs.

When out of wireless range students can still complete offline tasks, for example by taking the laptop home to work on an essay which they can then submit electronically when they are back in a wireless zone.

*James Jarvis (EUCS)*

### Supported Desktop in Humanities and Social Science

Over the Summer the College of Humanities and Social Science made a major investment in new computing equipment, enabling a massive deployment of the Supported Desktop on both platforms – PC and Mac.

The HSS Support Team and School Computing Officers worked hard before the start of the new semester to deploy as many Supported Desktops as possible. The number of PCs in service has almost doubled, to 1,500, and the Macs now total 300, with over 500 expected by the end of the year.

The Supported OS X Desktop represents a new and exciting development by EUCS, and will be described more fully in a future edition of *BITs*. The Supported OS X Desktop has been used to deploy Mac OS X to staff and lab Macs within the College, as well as providing this year's configuration for the open-access labs.

Staff and postgraduates in every School are now able to benefit from these flexible and efficiently-managed desktop computers. Work continues to complete this project and to refine the Supported Desktops to enhance the user experience and enable them to use all the resources available.

*Bob O'Malley (EUCS)*

### Open Access Lab Macs move to Mac OS X

Users of the Apple Macintosh systems in the open-access labs could not have failed to notice a major change to the operating system that took place over the Summer. EUCS Desktop Services Team successfully rolled out the new Supported OS X Desktop to all 71 Macs in the Main Library Level 4, Holland House, and KB Centre level 3.

The new environment will appear very familiar to PC users as the desktop was designed with a similar look to that of the open-access labs Windows XP PCs.

Using a combination of technologies including the EdLAN database, Apple Remote Desktop and Rsync, these systems are now fully managed and therefore enjoy the same benefits as those provided by the Supported XP Desktop. The software configuration for any particular Mac is held in a central database, and the Mac itself fetches the software it needs to achieve its specified configuration. This is not only very easy for computing staff to manage, but is also the most efficient way of using the computer, the server and the network.

*David Ross (EUCS)*



## A Cyber Café for the University

Information Services Group is pleased to confirm that funding from The Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland has been allocated to help develop a Cyber Café in the Main Library, George Square. Unlike the traditional open-access computing labs where noise and talking are strongly discouraged, this Cyber Café will provide a much less formal environment where students can gather round a computer to chat about their learning tasks and the online resources they find useful.

Light refreshments will be available, and the intention is to create an environment somewhere between a pleasant restaurant and an open-plan office, offering a variety of spaces suitable for a range of activities, and commanding the respect of its users through quality of design and furnishing. The Cyber Café will also provide opportunities for the informal peer-to-peer assistance which supports the development of wider IT skills within the student community in a natural and effective way.

This exciting new facility should be available next year.



The Library basement café

Chris Adie (EUCS)

## Erskine Lab reopens

The Erskine computing lab has been created from scratch since the Library moved out in June. The user-friendly and bookable space arrangement will contain over a hundred more computing seats than in the old lab, and students will have 24 hour access.



The new Erskine lab

Mike Baillie (EUCS)

## Library launches new Digital Library services

Edinburgh University Library is pleased to announce the launch of a range of new digital library services, as described at <http://www.gateway.lib.ed.ac.uk/>

- **Collections Gateway**

<http://www.gateway.lib.ed.ac.uk/>

This is a one-stop access point to a wide range of resources, whether held within the University or remotely, for example through licensed databases. It provides access to records of materials, as well as to digital objects such as photographs, video clips, and in some instances to full text. It is based on Endeavor's ENCompass product, new-generation library management system software built specifically for digital resources.

Unlike existing services, **Collections Gateway** enables the user to cross-search multiple resources at once. This process – known as 'federated searching' – is not as precise as searching directly through the native interface of a particular database, but it is an excellent search tool, particularly for those new to searching via online databases.

- **findit@edinburgh**

Links to **findit@edinburgh** will appear increasingly in results lists within databases, and will enable relatively seamless linking to the full text of journal articles, meaning there is no requirement to exit the database and search the Library catalogue to discover if an electronic journal is held at Edinburgh. **findit@edinburgh** also indicates if full text is not available at Edinburgh, with the option to search the Library catalogue, or other resources, for the print edition. This tool is based on Endeavor's LinkFinder Plus linking software.

- **Edinburgh Research Archive (ERA)**

<http://www.era.lib.ed.ac.uk/>

This digital repository of research output from the University of Edinburgh contains full-text theses and dissertations, book chapters, journal pre-prints and peer-reviewed journal reprints. It allows research produced within Edinburgh to be located and used by other researchers all over the world. Already the statistics on hits and downloads on ERA are very impressive.

- **Insight**

<http://gateway.lib.ed.ac.uk/insight.htm>

This industry-recognised leader in image management and delivery software is revolutionising the way research and teaching are conducted at many leading educational and cultural heritage institutions. **Insight** has been running at Edinburgh for some time, but this is an opportunity to demonstrate some forthcoming developments and to discuss its integration with the other services.

- **Informatics Online**

<http://tweed.lib.ed.ac.uk:8080/informaticsportal/>

This is a project for developing a test portal and a core informatics collection comprising library resources and research archives such as pre-prints, reports, postgraduate theses, and course resources, as well as recommended external resources. With funding from the Elsevier Foundation, the project is related to the *Rebuilding the A.I. Collection Initiative* which aims to rebuild and digitise the collections destroyed in the 2002 fire. This is a proof-of-concept development, and includes several functions which we do not yet offer to our user community at large, but we plan to do so over the next year or so.

*Norman Rodger (EUL)*

## INSPEC survey

Science and Engineering Libraries' staff are undertaking a survey of the INSPEC database at the request of the College Library Committee. This will help to decide if the subscription is retained or cancelled at the end of this session.

INSPEC allows the searching of bibliographic information from work published in more than 3,500 scientific and technical journals and 2,000 conference proceedings in the fields of physics, electronics and electrical engineering, communications, control engineering, computers and computing, and information technology. Earliest records in INSPEC come from 1969.

We are keen to hear from both users and non-users of INSPEC. If you use, or have used, or from the description above think you *should* use INSPEC, please take a few minutes to complete the survey at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/resbysub/inspecsurvey.html>

If you would like further information, please contact Sarah Kelly (email [Sarah.Kelly@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Sarah.Kelly@ed.ac.uk)).

*Rowena Stewart (EUL)*

## Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

The print and online versions of the new edition of the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography are now available at Edinburgh. The 60 volume print edition is in the Main Library Reference collection at **Ref. DA28 Oxf.**

The online edition can be accessed on campus at <http://www.oxforddnb.com/subscribed/>

On or off campus, you can find it by logging on to EASE and clicking on 'Access to Athens web resources'. This will authenticate access to the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography and most other Athens resources.

*Liz Stevenson (EUL)*

## MIT CogNet: Online Cognitive Science

MIT's CogNet Library is a growing, searchable collection of books, journals, reference works and conference materials. Content and resources are provided by The MIT Press and other publishers, professional associations, institutions, and individuals who are willing to share their work online.

Use *MIT CogNet* to access the full-text of:

- Over 400 books in cognitive science from The MIT Press
- Seven MIT Press journals (plus browsable abstracts of over 30 journals from other publishers)
- Four reference works

New materials are being added regularly, and are announced in the News page.

There are several options to help you find things:

- Browse Books by Title, Author or Topic
- Browse Journals by Title or Publisher, or search for a specific article in the Inspec database at <http://www.engineeringvillage2.org/>
- Use the simple search box to search all Titles in the MIT CogNet Library

Campus access is through <http://cognet.mit.edu/library/>

Off-campus access is via the Proxy Cache, using your universal username and password at

<http://webhelp.ucs.ed.ac.uk/docs/proxycache.html>

For further information please contact Sarah Kelly (email [Sarah.Kelly@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Sarah.Kelly@ed.ac.uk)).

*Sarah Kelly (EUL)*

## Library opening hours

For several years the Library has been carrying out extra staff training on Wednesday mornings in November and February, and this year will not be an exception.

During staff training periods, the Main Library will open at 8:30AM but without any staffed services until 10:15AM. All site libraries will remain closed until 10:15AM.

The dates are 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th November.

*Sheila Cannell (EUL)*

## MyEd delivers the Web

The MyEd portal, using EASE authentication, was launched to University Staff on 29th October. Users received an email confirming MyEd service availability, with the address of the MyEd login page.

There is additional help information, including a link to step-by-step instructions for EASE registration, and a MyEd login link, on the ePortal service support page at <http://www.eportal.mis.ed.ac.uk/>

Any difficulty with MyEd login should be reported by email to [misusers@ed.ac.uk](mailto:misusers@ed.ac.uk).

Once you are using MyEd we recommend that you check for new service announcements on the Home tab. These are targeted announcements administered by service providers and interest groups. If you yourself organise a staff group and would like to send your own announcements via MyEd, then please contact the portals team via the MIS helpdesk by emailing [misusers@ed.ac.uk](mailto:misusers@ed.ac.uk), and we will explain how to get involved.

Please also refer to the Catalogue Channel which is located on the help tab. Here you can either browse the folders of content or search by keyword for specific items you might find useful, as in this screen shot:



To help staff get the most out of MyEd, the MIS project team is running a series of hour-long, non-technical events to introduce MyEd, including how to use and customise it, some sample content, how to find further content, service and support, and future development plans, with time available for audience questions. If you would like to attend, please note your interest at [http://www.eportal.mis.ed.ac.uk/MyEd/Project/forms/Awareness\\_Events.cfm](http://www.eportal.mis.ed.ac.uk/MyEd/Project/forms/Awareness_Events.cfm)

If you use WebCT, please note that this service is now delivered via MyEd. There are instructions to support this change on the WebCT home page at <https://www.webct.ed.ac.uk/>

Other services which are now accessible through single sign-on channels include WISARD, WebFirst, Internal Transfers, CMS, your Library Information, and Staffmail, as well as a selection of local and national news sources that you might like to subscribe to.

Please note that a facility is provided to enable your browser bookmarks/favourites to be downloaded to your MyEd session. This may be useful in allowing access to your personal favourite sites from any location.

We hope you find the portal useful, and are always interested to receive suggestions for future content.

Mark Wetton (MIS)

## eProcurement Update

### New Procurement Business Process Manager joins the University

Graham Cook, MCIPS, MILT, has joined the University from Standard Life to drive the benefits from our eProcurement strategy, including current and planned system projects, within the devolved purchasing environment and with the Procurement Office and Printing Services teams.

Graham has 17 years' procurement change management experience in Standard Life, First Engineering, London Transport and MOD (PE), and knows it is important to communicate effectively with all staff involved in procurement, to ensure that people get the benefits of eProcurement to help them in their work and overcome the fear of change.

Initially of course Graham has to get to grips with the University, our eProcurement aspirations and our acronyms! You can contact him at [Graham.Cook@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Graham.Cook@ed.ac.uk).

### Tender document management

George Sked and the Procurement Office team are busy training on a new In-Tend system for managing tender workflow. A browser view will allow colleagues – whether on campus or not – to edit draft invitation-to-tender documents and monitor progress. Documentation can be streamlined, making it easier and quicker to develop and use. Automated questionnaire scoring speeds up certain analyses.

This is being funded to ensure that the University can comply with the Freedom of Information law, by retaining all procurement documents, decisions and communications – including email – in a records management system, ready for any enquiries which may come our way after 1st January 2005.

Karen Bowman (Procurement)

## eLearning research seminars

All interested staff are invited to seminars which focus on current research and practice in online learning.

These are lunchtime events, with lunch available from 12.15PM, talks starting at 12.45PM and discussion finishing by 2PM. The venue is Moray House School of Education, Patersons Land, Room G21.

- 11 November 2004  
Dr Colleen McKenna, University College London:  
'Writing in new spaces: the hypertext essay and its potential for academic discourse'
- 18 November 2004  
Dr Charles Crook, University of Nottingham:  
'Some corrosive effects of ICT (C&IT) on university teaching and learning'
- 9 December 2004  
Dr Vivien Hodgson, University of Lancaster:  
'Dialogue, language and identity: critical issues for networked learning'

If you would like to attend, or need more information, please contact Sian Bayne (email [sian.bayne@ed.ac.uk](mailto:sian.bayne@ed.ac.uk), tel 514092).

*Sian Bayne (MALTS)*

## IPR advice for eLearning developers

A new guide aims to provide a user-friendly introduction to Intellectual Property Rights issues for eLearning content developers and managers. It is intended to act as a point of entry to the field of IPR in eLearning that will provide a good foundation for building expertise in the developer community. It deals with the basic aspects of IPR, especially copyright, with an emphasis on re-using third party materials to create new resources.

The guide has been written by an eLearning content developer who has dealt with these issues in practice.

The guide is published by the Legal Information Service of JISC, the Joint Information Systems Committee which supports and promotes the use of C&IT in further and higher education. JISC is funded by all the UK post-16 and higher education funding councils.

The guide, *Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in Networked E-Learning*, is available in the 'publications' section of the JISC Legal Website at <http://www.jisclegal.ac.uk/>

There is local information about IPR issues for course materials at

<http://www.elearn.malts.ed.ac.uk/issues/copyright/>

If you would like further guidance, please contact Jake Broadhurst at MALTS (email [jake.broadhurst@ed.ac.uk](mailto:jake.broadhurst@ed.ac.uk)).

*Wilma Alexander (MALTS)*

## Find international data using ESDS International

University staff and students now have online access to a wide range of high-quality international data via Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS) International. The range of macro-economic and international datasets available includes statistics from OECD, IMF, UNIDO, World Bank, the UN Common Database and National Statistics (NS) Time Series data.

ESDS International is an Athens resource, and therefore free to University users logging on through EASE: click on 'Access to Athens web resources' after logging in at <https://www.ease.ed.ac.uk/>

When logged in, you can choose from a pull-down menu of data sources, each of which covers a wide range of economic and social topics. The United Nations Common Database, for example, offers data on such topics as welfare, economic indicators, population and education.

You can work with report data as a whole, or tailor the dataset to specific needs by restricting the data series, year and countries. Selected data can be viewed as a spreadsheet or a chart, and downloaded for use in other software such as database or statistical packages.

The datasets include:

- **OECD** (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development): Main Economic Indicators, Main Science and Technology Indicators, Measuring Globalisation
- **IMF** (International Monetary Fund): International financial Statistics, Balance of Payments
- **World Bank**: Global Development Finance, World Development Indicators
- **Eurostat New Cronos**: Macroeconomic and social statistics data for the 25 EU Member States, the US and Japan, organised into nine statistical categories.

If you or your students need help using ESDS International or choosing a dataset, individual assistance is available at the Data Library, on the second floor of the Main Library (tel 511431, email [datalib@ed.ac.uk](mailto:datalib@ed.ac.uk)).

*Alyssa McRae (Data Library)*

## Withdrawal of Deltagraph

As the cost of a site licence for Deltagraph has risen considerably and there is very low usage, we propose to withdraw it from service. Existing licences have expired. Windows users are recommended to buy Sigmplot from EUCS. There is no direct replacement for Macs. If you are inconvenienced by this change, please contact John Blair-Fish (tel 504928, email [J.Blair-Fish@ed.ac.uk](mailto:J.Blair-Fish@ed.ac.uk))

*John Blair-Fish (EUCS)*

## Getting IT out in the open

From 1st January 2005, anyone from anywhere in the world will have the right to ask to see University staff email and electronic documents, along with conventional paper records.

This exciting new transparency is due to the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act, which comes fully into force on 1st January. Freedom of information (FOI) legislation promotes openness and supports accountability; it is one of the cornerstones of modern democracy. Here, we offer the five key facts that every member of University staff needs to know about FOI:

1. Any request for information the University receives must be answered within 20 working days
2. You cannot ask why the individual wants to know the information
3. If the information is not within your area of work or you have concerns about responding, contact your local freedom of information practitioner
4. Make sure you are not the sole keeper of information within your area of work
5. All work documents and emails may be open to public scrutiny

These five principles have several important implications for staff working with email and electronic documents. Freedom of information will apply to all email and all computer files, as well as to conventional records held in paper form. This means that all staff need to appraise and possibly alter their email and other electronic records management practices.

Firstly, if the University receives a request for information that is stored only in your personal email folder or in your personal drive, it may

be impossible for the University to meet the 20-day deadline. Whenever possible, we encourage staff to store important information on shared drives so that it can be found even if you are away.

Secondly, you are encouraged to make arrangements for email to be checked while you are away or to use 'out of office' messages, giving the name of an alternative contact.

The 20-day countdown begins from the moment the request arrives at the University, not from the moment a staff member actually reads it. This means that requests mailed to staff on vacation might easily pass the deadline without anyone knowing.

The University's Records Management Section will be holding introductory open meetings on freedom of information at The King's Buildings and George Square; if you have never attended an FOI session before, we encourage you to come along and find out more:

- 8th November, 1–2PM, Hudson Beare LT2, Engineering, The King's Buildings (by gate 3).
- 22nd November, 1–1:55PM, Appleton Tower LT1.

For more on freedom of information, please visit our website at <http://www.recordsmanagement.ed.ac.uk/>  
*Sara Wasson (Records Management)*

### BCS meeting: Freedom of Information

The Freedom of Information laws in Scotland are different from those in England. Claire Sigsworth of the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner will describe progress in a talk at 6.30PM on 17th November. Organised by the British Computer Society, the meeting is open to all. Details are at <http://www.edinburgh.bcs.org/meets.htm>  
*David Muxworthy (BCS)*

## You don't have to travel ...

... all the way to the Graphics & Multimedia Resource Centre if you want help with poster printing and scanning (two of our most popular facilities): you may be able to avoid a journey by using the plentiful advice and guidance behind the "How to..." link on our website, at <http://graphics.ed.ac.uk/gmrc/>

However, visitors in person are always welcome, and you will find free DIY facilities with personal help, training and problem-solving on demand. We are open from 9.30AM to 5.30PM on weekdays, and we are open to all staff and students (including undergraduates). Recent enhancements offer scanning large maps, drawings and exhibition boards; wireless access to the network; audio recording equipment available on loan; and advice on getting good colour from commercial digital photo printing services.

*John Wexler (EUCS)*

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

Contributions to *BITS* are welcomed.

Copy deadline for December *BITS*:

**Wednesday 17th November**