



### Knowledge Management: comments invited

The Library, Computing Services, EDINA and MALTS are working hard together to deliver new and more efficient services to support every aspect of the University's work. Several task forces are putting the finishing touches to new plans which will be put into effect over the coming months. This process is guided by the Knowledge Management Strategic Plan, and its 'milestones': **'Must-do' milestones**

The draft list of 'must-do' milestones in this year's Knowledge Management Strategic Plan has just been published. All members of the University are invited to comment on them and their relative priority. Aims include:

- better support for the RAE, including Library materials;
- managed desktops for Macs and Linux as well as Windows;
- ePortfolios to support Continuing Professional Development;
- a single electronic diary for staff and students;
- a Research Computing Committee;
- policy to support distance learning and other specialist needs.

Comments are needed by 4th March to be in time for this year's planning round. Full details are at <http://www.kmstrategy.ed.ac.uk/must-dos-05.htm>

#### eLearning @ Edinburgh: a showcase on 24th March

The third annual eLearning @ Edinburgh conference, hosted by the Principal, takes place on 24th March in Adam House, Chambers Street. This window on the University's elearning activities will focus on some of the projects supported by the elearning Project Fund, and projects from within Schools and Colleges. Presentations, posters and demonstrations will take place throughout the day. Details are at <http://www.e-learning.ed.ac.uk/> **eLearning Project Fund**

The deadline for bids for this year's eLearning Projects Fund is 20th April. Full details are provided at <http://www.e-learning.ed.ac.uk/>

*Helen Hayes (Vice Principal, Information Services)*

### BCS meeting: Web usability for disabled people

80% of websites are difficult or impossible for disabled people.

Julie Howell, Digital Policy Development Manager at the RNIB, will talk on 'websites that work: web usability for disabled people' on 16th March, at the Apex International Hotel, 31-35 Grassmarket, Edinburgh (note that this is not the usual BCS venue). The meeting is organized by the British Computer Society and is open to all interested.

Full details are at <http://www.edinburgh.bcs.org/meets.htm>

*David Muxworthy (BCS)*

### The climate: predicting our fate?

Headlines were made recently with new predictions that global warming might be far worse than hitherto thought. This was based on climate models running on PCs all over the world. Earlier models had been constrained to keep their results similar, but the scale of the distributed approach overcame this artificial constraint and revealed more alarming possibilities.

If you would like to donate spare time on your Windows, Mac or Linux computer you can join the project at <http://www.climateprediction.net/>

*Nick Stroud (EUCS)*

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### This year's upgrades to the open-access computing labs

The 1,400 PCs and Macs in the University's open-access labs are reviewed and enhanced every year. Key dates for the 2005 upgrade are 31st March and 30th April.

*See page 2.*

## Open-access labs: updates for Summer 2005

Summer is the traditional time for EUCS to update the PCs and Apple Macintoshes in the open-access labs.

In previous years this has been the time when major security patches and application updates have taken place. With the introduction of the Supported Windows XP and Macintosh OSX Desktops, most of the security and anti-virus patches for the core operating systems happen automatically, on a daily basis if necessary.

This ensures that the operating systems remain in an optimum state, but there are some operations that can only be performed during the Summer vacation. The following articles describe some of the changes that we plan to make during this Summer's vacation.

### Removal of Novell Client 32

Since the inception of the open-access labs in 1991, we have relied on Novell Netware file servers to provide file and print services. Over the last few years this reliance has diminished. Last year all student home directories were successfully migrated to six Microsoft Windows servers, and most of the School-based teaching materials were migrated to College- or centrally-provided Windows Servers. This year the last of the Netware services, printing and print accounting, will be transferred to six new Windows servers, and Novell Client 32 will no longer be needed in the labs. We are therefore removing Client 32 from all open-access PCs during the Summer vacation, making Netware file servers uncontactable from the labs.

If, in session 2005–2006, you will require students or staff to access teaching material or data that is currently installed on Novell Netware servers, please contact your EUCS Support team to discuss your requirements.

### 'Core' applications

EUCS provides a number of software applications such as Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access), SPSS, Minitab and S-plus in the open-access labs for general use. These are maintained centrally by EUCS and

updates are usually provided where required. For session 2005–2006 we feel there is no need to update the current versions of these 'core' applications. If you have a teaching requirement for a newer version of any of them, please contact the Desktop Services Team no later than **31st March 2005**.

### School software

EUCS provides a large number of software applications for School-based teaching and learning in the open-access labs. Many of these applications are complex and require a large amount of technical resource to allow them to be distributed – not only to the open-access labs (over 1,400 PCs) but also to the large numbers of PCs in School and College labs. In order for us to maintain and deploy these applications, we need to know of your requirements for session 2005–2006 no later than **30th April 2005**. We also need to know if you wish us to continue to provide existing applications, by the same date.

### Open-access labs mailing lists

The Desktop Services team maintains several mailing lists to notify staff about changes in software or services that may affect them or their students, including:

- **Labtutor@ed.ac.uk**: This mailing list is for staff who provide applications for teaching and learning in the open-access labs, to ensure that they are consulted about changes that take place during the year and in particular over the Summer vacation.
- **Complabs@ed.ac.uk**: This list is targeted at School-based computing officers who provide their own labs and who need to know about service alerts (server downtime etc) that may affect the operation of their own labs.

If you feel that you should be included in either of these lists, please mail the Desktop Services team (**desktop.team@ed.ac.uk**) with your name, School and interest in the labs, so that we can add you to the appropriate list.

*Graham Newton, David Ross (EUCS)*

## KB Student Support Helpdesk has moved

EUCS Student Support has moved its KB helpdesk to the Darwin library, in the Darwin building, and extended the opening hours to 1–4pm, Monday to Friday.

Here we can provide on-site support for the open-access computing lab, wireless network zones and the Library Laptop Loan service. We can help with any computing lab problems, including logging in, SMS email and MS Office, and give advice and assistance with laptop or home computer problems.

Information on all our services, including details of our helpdesk services at George Square, is provided at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/student/>

Students can email for help to [student.support@ed.ac.uk](mailto:student.support@ed.ac.uk).

*Esther Turner (EUCS)*

## Support for Apple Macs

The Student Association's Macintosh Users' Society – EUMUS – is running a weekly 'Mac Help Desk' in the Learning and Resource Centre, Main Library, at 1–2pm every Monday for the rest of the semester. Any students with any problems, worries or questions concerning Apple Macs are welcome.

*Ippei Ukai (EUMUS)*

## Genstat

The statistical package Genstat has been sold by NAG to a new company, VSN International. Our existing NAG site licence will expire at the end of July. The terms offered by VSN for a new site licence are uneconomical, given our number of Genstat users.

Therefore, from 31st July 2005 we won't be able to distribute Genstat for Windows, and its future on **holyyroad** is also in serious doubt.

Genstat can be bought directly through Adept Scientific, at <http://edustore.adeptscience.co.uk/>

Please tell us if this is a problem, at [EUCS.software.services@ed.ac.uk](mailto:EUCS.software.services@ed.ac.uk).

*Frances Provan (EUCS)*

## Security warnings in Access

In Access version 2003, Microsoft introduced several security measures to protect users from malicious code attached to a database file. These provide a high degree of protection, but require an operational overhead which is inappropriate for many University users, who typically run small applications on one or two virus-protected desktop PCs.

When you first open a database file in Access 2003, there are several security-related warning dialogues which may appear, depending on various factors which may or may not be under your direct control – such as whether you installed Access yourself and whether you are running a Managed Desktop.

For most University users, these warning messages can legitimately be banished by setting 'macro security level' to 'Low' – by choosing the menu options **Tools > Macro > Security...** to see the Security dialogue box. Click **Low**, then **OK**.

For a fuller discussion, see <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/tsd/infotools/access2003/>

*Dave Stone (EUCS)*

## Archives Hub and Spokes

### A new opportunity for Edinburgh University Library

Forming part of JISC's information environment, the **Archives Hub** is a national gateway to nearly 19,000 descriptions of archives in more than 80 universities and colleges throughout the UK, including Edinburgh University Library (Collections Division). The Hub includes descriptions for the archives of a wide range of individuals, families and organisations, from medieval times to the present day.

EUL has been a contributor to the Hub since it began in 1999, and has submitted over 1,500 descriptions, including those for the Lothian Health Services Archive. The Library's funded participation in the Hub came to an end in January, but it is now participating in a distributed version of the Hub, and with the testing of new 'Spokes' software. Spokes uses international standards such as Encoded Archival Description to allow description data previously submitted to be edited and augmented.

At present, Hub descriptions are primarily at collection-level – describing a collection as a whole. With the Spokes software, staff in EUL's Collections Division can now amend, add or delete, and generally manage its own descriptive data, and the way has been opened up for creating description at lower levels.

EUL's contribution can be seen by going to the Archives Hub (at <http://www.archiveshub.ac.uk/>) and searching through its 'Advanced Search' mechanism, choosing 'Edinburgh' (or indeed 'Lothian Health Services Archive') from the 'Repository' pop-up, and then searching with suitable terms.

*Graeme D. Eddie (EUL)*



## Lecture Notes in Computer Science – online

The full text of the *Lecture Notes in Computer Science* series is now available *only* online.

Over 1,867 volumes are already available, with all volumes in our subscription expected to be available by mid-2005.

Now that we do not receive print copies, individual titles are no longer being added to the Library Catalogue. To find a particular Volume or Title, use the improved search facility in SpringerLink (the provider of *LNCS online*), by searching the Library Catalogue for 'LNCS online', then following the link to SpringerLink.

The latest volumes are displayed from the LNCS homepage, or you can use the **Quick Search** facility to search by keyword in the Title, Abstract, Full-text or Author fields, or you can search by Volume number using the four digit prefix (e.g. use '3358' to search for '358/2004'). An **Advanced Search** facility is also provided. Having located a particular Chapter, or a Table of Contents, click on the Chapter Title to read the abstract and view the text.

If you wish to alert students or colleagues to a particular Chapter, Volume or to the Journal, you can link to them directly using MetaPress Direct Linking or OpenURL. You can also email yourself, or a colleague, bibliographic details of a Chapter, and export citations for use with bibliographic software.

Access is unrestricted on campus, and off-campus is through the Proxy Cache/VPN. If you have any queries, please email [Sarah.Kelly@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Sarah.Kelly@ed.ac.uk).

*Sarah Kelly (EUL)*



## Electronic voting systems

Would you like to be able to poll your students' views during a lecture? If so you might like to explore the Personal Response System which can be borrowed from MALTS; see <http://www.elearn.malts.ed.ac.uk/services/CAA/PRS.phtml>

Some stimulating ideas on how this might be used were presented at an e-break, summarised at <http://www.elearn.malts.ed.ac.uk/issues/news/ebreako6.phtml>

The 'e-break' series of informal seminars continues until the end of May; see <http://www.elearn.malts.ed.ac.uk/issues/news/ebreaks.phtml>

*Wilma Alexander (MALTS)*

## eProcurement update

SciQuest eProcurement is now being taken up in earnest in the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine. This offers electronic catalogues for ordering online from the top 38 laboratory suppliers, and is already loaded with the University discounted prices. Its built-in workflow from start to finish speeds up the whole process of getting supplies.

Some Schools allow post-doc researchers to use SciQuest to create requisitions which are routed to their supervisors for approval, saving much effort. Schools can choose approval workflows specifically for radioactive, electronic/electrical items or by order value. Contact Margaret Lochhead to find out if your School is on the current plan (email [margaret.lochhead@ed.ac.uk](mailto:margaret.lochhead@ed.ac.uk)).

### Proposals for ePrint

Printing Services is considering a link to the developing eITs to allow online ordering of printing and file attachments, to improve speed and quality of service. If you want to know more contact Stuart McLean (email [Stuart.McLean@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Stuart.McLean@ed.ac.uk)).

*Karen Bowman (Procurement)*

## Informatics meetings

If you built a robot smart enough to do the dishes, would it also be smart enough to find the job boring? To find out, ask the robot...

This is the aim at a National Science Week event when Tom Sgouros performs *Judy*, "the story of a man and his, um, companion, discussing such topics as imagination, consciousness, the uses of eyes, and what it's really like to wake up in the morning and confront your aluminum-and-steel face in the mirror each day."

*Judy* is in Lecture Theatre 5 of Appleton Tower at 7pm on 11th March. Tickets are free, and available from Diana Sisu (email [diana.sisu@ed.ac.uk](mailto:diana.sisu@ed.ac.uk), tel 513248). Further information is at [http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/events/judy/Informatics\\_Jamboree](http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/events/judy/Informatics_Jamboree)

This year's Informatics Jamboree takes place on 25th and 26th April; see <http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/events/jamboree/2005/>

One of the highlights will be the 2005 Milner Lecture: Dr Gérard Huet, of INRIA, will speak on 'Functional Foundations for Web Services', at 5:15pm on 26th April, in the Reid Concert Hall, Bristo Square. This is a public lecture, open to all. Details are given at <http://www.lfcs.informatics.ed.ac.uk/milner/>

*Diana Sisu (Informatics)*

## eLiteracy conference

The 4th International Conference on eLiteracy takes place on 15th-17th June at the University of Strathclyde. The deadline for papers is 18th March. For further details see <http://www.elit-conf.org/elit2005/>

*Nicola Harrison (Strathclyde)*

## Symposium on digital preservation

The Royal Society, Edinburgh  
21-23 November 2005

*PV 2005* is the third in a series of conferences on preserving scientific data. The vulnerability of digital data is now a major concern, with hardware and software evolving so fast. Extraordinary efforts are needed to keep information comprehensible.

In addition to general areas such as technology, methodology, standards and economics, each conference has a particular theme; this one will focus on e-Science and digital libraries.

The deadline for abstracts is 1st April. For information visit <http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/events/pv-2005/>

*Lee Callaghan (NeSC)*

## Holiday this month

Semester Two ends on 24th March, and the University is closed on Good Friday (25th) and Easter Sunday (27th). (See 'opening hours' in *Library Online*.)

## EDINBURGH BITS

### Editor:

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### Published by:

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

### Contributions:

Email: [BITS@ed.ac.uk](mailto:BITS@ed.ac.uk)  
Telephone: 0131 650 3345

### Distribution queries:

*BITS* is distributed through School offices; secretaries please notify changes in requirements to Tricia Cairney:  
Email: [T.Cairney@ed.ac.uk](mailto:T.Cairney@ed.ac.uk)  
Telephone: 0131 650 4931

### Printed by:

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

### *BITS* on the Web:

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

### Some acronyms explained:

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

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Contributions to *BITS* are welcomed.

Copy deadline for April *BITS*:

**Thursday 17th March**