

**Inspired? You will be!**

Inspiration and MindGenius are easy to use mind mapping tools now available to staff and students for free on University computers.

Many people already mind-map on paper, but there are advantages to doing it electronically: you can edit, spell-check and transfer straight to your word processor. This is perfect for starting work you have been putting off: it can help the creative thinking process, get information down quickly, and highlight areas where you need to do more research.

It's not just useful for essays and written work: mind mapping can also be an excellent way to revise, and to plan presentations.

Inspiration and MindGenius are already available in the open-access computing labs, and *Getting Started* guides for both programs are available on the Web Helpdesk at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/labs/>

IS Student Support runs introductory seminars for students, listed under 'Assistive Technology' at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/student/eskills.html>

Members of staff can get the software installed on their managed desktop computer by contacting their local computing representative.

There is further and more general information about mind-mapping with a computer at <http://www.disability-office.ed.ac.uk/technology/at/mm.cfm>

*Bruce Darby (Disability Office)*

*Catherine Jones (IS-LUSD)*

**RAE 2008: job done**

The University of Edinburgh completed its RAE2008 submission on 26th November.

The submission to the Higher Education Funding Council was done using the RAE Data Repository developed by IS Applications Division. This large-scale project collated data from core corporate systems, aggregated it according to the RAE guidelines, then transformed it into XML format for submission to the RAE Data Collection System.

The development of the RAE Data Repository was a significant achievement, and it has been used by Schools throughout the University to assist with the submission. Many thanks to all the teams in IS, Corporate Services and Schools for their help and support over the last few years.

Further details of the RAE submission can be found in the news section of the University website, at <http://www.ed.ac.uk/news/071127rae.html>

*Adam Wadee (IS Apps)*

**Alan Dowell retires**

Alan Dowell retired in December after 31 years of service. Alan was the hardware specialist at Moray House School of Education, and a qualified Apple engineer. A dedicated Education team member, Alan was always happy to be at work at the crack of dawn. Retirement will no doubt be taken up by his involvement with Linlithgow rugby club, and a keen interest in World War One history and memorabilia. We wish Alan a long and happy retirement!

*Alastair C. Dodds (IS-ITUS)*



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## Two new fora were created for University professionals in 2007

### eLearning Professionals and Practitioners

eLearning is a curious business! No two people have the same definition of what exactly it is, who actually makes it, and if and how it actually works. No wonder the Kenway Review recommended setting up a forum to develop and support this elusive phenomenon; eLearning.

The eLearning Professionals and Practitioners Forum – eLPP – seeks to represent those who are employed in specific ‘eLearning’ or ‘learning technology’ roles, and also those who are primarily ‘educators’, who make – or would like to make – significant use of new technologies.

We are maturing as an institution. We can see that eLearning is not just about technology, and that some rich, complex relationships evolve between technology, learning and teaching. The Web 2.0 technologies, with their emphasis on user-generated content, tagging, modularity and syndication, offer huge potential for education, without needing great technical knowledge.

The Forum will explore these relationships and issues in 2008 through a range of activities and events – discussion, hands-on workshops, presentations, and so forth – which will provide enjoyable and constructive opportunities to share ideas, support each others’ activities, and become a natural home for sharing the various strands of current and future activity.

It is clear that we must develop a usable framework for describing the competencies and skills that we associate with eLearning activity, both to support professional and personal development, and to give line managers a clearer view of employees’ – or potential employees’ – skillsets, and how they align to requirements.

There are major challenges for the University. As the Principal’s eLearning Fund winds down, we must find new sustainable models for the high level of eLearning that we have come to expect in Edinburgh. A major review of our numerous learning environments is under way. eAssessment continues to challenge the way we think about measuring achievement. New learning styles prompt changes in the very physicality of learning spaces.

So, there are exciting times ahead! By recognising and developing the role of eLearning professionals and practitioners, and by affording opportunities for sharing, reflecting, evaluating and building on the best possible practice, the University of Edinburgh will continue to hold its enviable reputation as a leader in the field.

On behalf of the committee, let me wish you a happy and prosperous 2008. Do sign up to the eLPP mailing list! Get involved at <http://elearningforum.ed.ac.uk/>

*Michael Begg (Convenor, eLPP)*

### IT Professionals

The IT Professionals’ Forum – ITPF – was set up at the beginning of the year, in the wake of the Kenway Review, and elected its first convenor last March. The Forum aims to provide the wool that knits IT professionals together across the University, for the benefit of both IT staff and the University as a whole.

The importance of fora such as the ITPF was emphasized in the web seminar we organized recently with delegates from Oxford, Cambridge and Exeter Universities. All three universities have fora analogous to ours. Oxford and Cambridge have federated IT provision, while Exeter is more centralised. The University of Edinburgh sits neatly in between these approaches, with our IT support both centralised and distributed.

The pattern for knitting colleagues together has been simple: meet together for seminars, coffee and discussion. Since March there have been over a dozen events. The preferred formula has been for presenters to talk about their discipline generally, rather than the implementation in the University – that is, education not training. Attendances of 50+ are the norm.

The programme of events is set to continue in the New Year with the same mix of technical and general topics, thanks to the willingness of speakers, the work of the ITPF Committee, and support from the Knowledge Strategy Committee. We are starting to examine the possibility of holding a one-day conference for IT staff in June, to review the ITPF’s first year and to consider what else it should be doing. Meanwhile here are some immediate dates for your New Year diaries:

**9 January:** Charles Hill will talk about ‘Value for Money IT’. Charles is the University’s Project Manager for the Roslin Institute merger, involving some 250 additional staff and a new research building at Easter Bush.  
3pm – 5pm, David Hume Lecture Theatre B.

**23 January:** Simon Marsden will talk about ‘The University’s IT Strategy’. Simon is the Director of the Applications Division of Information Services, and has done considerable work with UCISA and Eduserv.  
3pm – 5pm, David Hume Lecture Theatre B.

**6 February:** David Nutter will present on ‘Version Control Systems’. David works in IT Support at Biomathematics & Statistics Scotland – BLOSS – and will discuss several version control tools that can help track data revisions.  
3pm – 5pm, Appleton Tower Lecture Theatre 1.

These events are now bookable on MyEd. There are more to follow, including one on staff development.

*James Jarvis (Convenor, ITPF)*

## Scottish supercomputer wins medal at the British Computer Society IT Awards

A unique supercomputer called ‘Maxwell’ – built in Scotland – won the runner-up medal for the much coveted BT Flagship Award for Innovation at this year’s prestigious British Computer Society IT Industry Awards in London.

The FPGA High Performance Computing Alliance (FHPCA), which includes Edinburgh Parallel Computing Centre, was established in 2004 to promote the use of field-programmable gate arrays – FPGAs – as an alternative to microprocessors, to address the demands for ever greater processing capability without needing large amounts of space and power.

Maxwell uses FPGAs, and requires much less space and cooling than a conventional microprocessor system. It consists of a chassis hosting 64 Xilinx Virtex-4 FPGAs directly connected over high-speed RocketIO. Maxwell differs from many FPGA-based systems in that the FPGAs are directly connected, allowing codes to be parallelised across the FPGAs and encouraging the use of algorithms

which avoid repetitive data transfers. This approach is delivering previously unattainable performance in a surprisingly small footprint with very low energy costs.

The machine is named after James Clerk Maxwell, the great Scottish physicist and creator of the first colour photograph, and has achieved impressive results in three demonstrator projects:

- Financial option pricing has been accelerated by over 300 times per node, taking less than a minute to do what used to take over four hours;
- Three-dimensional video frames can be processed at over eight frames per second, where previously each frame took nearly 15 seconds to analyse;
- Oil and gas simulations run over five times faster per node than on a cluster of 3GHz Xeon processors.

Several Scottish companies have been using Maxwell since its launch last March. Impressive results have already been achieved in the medical, oil and gas imaging sectors.

The FHPCA website is at <http://www.fhPCA.org/>

*Tracy Peet (EPCC)*

## Sample pages for new University website now online

A suite of pages on the theme of ‘The city of Edinburgh’ is now available to view.

This proof of concept has been developed on a test server to enable the Project team to appraise the technical development, and ensure that everything is ready for a larger group of publishers to begin working in earnest. The pages are not integrated into the public website.

Do please have a look! Before you surf the sample pages, remember:

- Only ‘The city’ section is there for you to try out, but other parts of the site are beginning to be set up.
- It’s not a finished site, so there will be elements beyond ‘The city’ section that don’t behave as you would expect.
- If you surf away from ‘The city’ section, you may need to use your browser’s back button to return.

The proof of concept web pages are at <http://www.uws.mis.ed.ac.uk/UoE/about/explore/city>

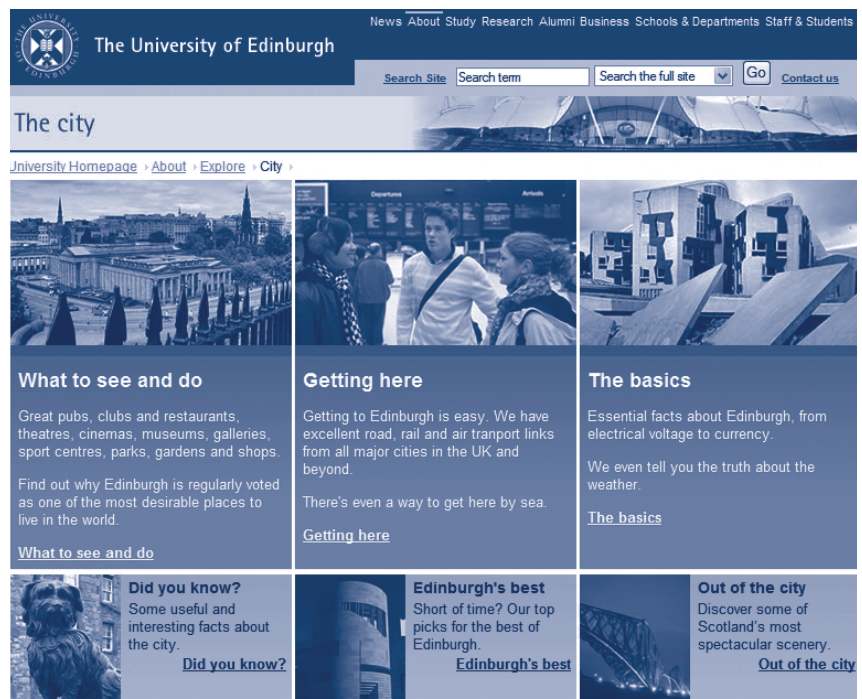
Read more in the full news article at <http://www.ed.ac.uk/websiteproject/latestnews/>

### More information

For more information and latest news see <http://www.ed.ac.uk/websiteproject/>

If you’d like to receive regular updates via email, discuss the development of the website, or contribute views, please contact Dawn Ellis (tel 506379) or email [website.project@ed.ac.uk](mailto:website.project@ed.ac.uk).

*Neil Allison (CAM)*



## The IS Resource Centres: LRC and GMRC

Following the recent retirement of John Wexler, responsibility for the management of the Graphics and Multimedia Resource Centre – GMRC – at The King’s Buildings has transferred to Student IT Support in the Library User Services Division. The facility will remain in its present location in the JCM Building. It is currently being managed by David Findlay, Manager of the Learning and Resource Centre – LRC – in the Main Library. Over the coming months, its services and facilities will be reviewed with the aim of developing an integrated approach across the two resource centres.

*Richard Battersby (Acting Director IS-LUSD)*

### All change at the GMRC

The Learning and Resource Centre (LRC) operates from the Central area, providing specialist IT resources. The Graphics and Multimedia Resource Centre (GMRC) is based at the King’s Buildings, and provides a range of digital media technologies. Both centres emphasise the transfer of technical skills from staff to users, in order to promote user self-sufficiency. The two centres have operated side by side for eight years, providing similar, but not identical services. A review aimed at the integration of the two services is currently under way, with some immediate service enhancements outlined below.

First, though, I pay tribute to two IS colleagues whose work over the years helped the GMRC to become the excellent service it is today. John Wexler, who retired last October, brought a wealth of knowledge and experience of computer graphics, which we can never fully replace – although one of our immediate priorities is to fill this gap as best we can. Marie Cope will retire in the Spring. I know that the work of Marie and John is greatly appreciated by their IS colleagues and users alike.

Shortly before John Wexler retired, George McDougall of the LRC conducted a study of the resources and services provided by the GMRC and the LRC. George’s report makes recommendations which will help us to integrate the services of the two Centres over the coming months. I am happy to report that we can now offer some new services at our Central area and KB sites.

### Large format plotter (HP Designjet 5500ps)

The LRC has introduced a large format colour plotter, capable of printing documents up to A0 in size. This service is offered on a DIY basis with printing charged automatically to users’ print accounts. As a special introductory offer, in the LRC only, we are charging £5 per page for all output from the new plotter (regardless of page size). The GMRC provides a similar facility, which is popular for making conference posters.

### Large format Scanner (Colourtrac SmartLF GxT42)

The LRC has also recently acquired a large format scanner, capable of scanning documents up to A0 size. This scanner is proving popular with students for scanning architect’s drawings and maps. The scanner is provided on a DIY basis and is free to use. A0 scanning is also available in the GMRC in the JCM Building.

Instructions for using the A0 plotter and scanner in the LRC are at <http://www.lrc.ed.ac.uk/documentation.htm>

### Digital Media Studio

Our new GMRC Digital Media Studio will be launched in January 2008. The studio will have facilities for audio, video and animation production. The studio hosts two ‘high spec’ Dell PCs and two Apple Mac Pro workstations, together with software for beginners or advanced users. The Studio is intended primarily for the DIY or low budget user, willing to put in the effort to learn how to use the tools, with a little bit of help from our staff. Similar facilities are available in the LRC.

Our audio facilities enable users to capture from a variety of sources, or use pre-recorded music loops and sound effects. Users can create their own voice or music recordings in the studio (not soundproof), or borrow kit for recording on location. The software applications Audacity, Audition 3.0, GarageBand and Cubase are provided.

Video facilities include kit for video capture, editing and production. Software applications include Premiere (Pro and Elements), Final Cut Pro and iMovie. Users can borrow camcorders and microphones. Animation tools include Flash and Captivate.

### Second Life

The virtual reality environment Second Life is available in the LRC, and will also be available in the Digital Media Studio at the GMRC from January. Students and staff are welcome to come and try it out. An entry-level training document is available, courtesy of the School of Education. A Second Life ‘hands-on’ event, to be hosted in the LRC, is planned for early 2008 (see next month’s *BITS*).

### Other services

The LRC and the GMRC continue to offer a range of printing services. The GMRC offers a choice of paper surfaces, acetate transparencies, and cloth. Scanning is available in both centres, for originals from 35mm film to A0 size paper. The GMRC offers facilities for bulk scanning 35mm slides.

Architects and designers may be interested to know that AutoCAD is available in the GMRC, although not in the LRC at present.

**Service hours**

Service hours are under review, but won't change this academic year. The LRC is open when the Main Library is open. Room 3901 in the JCMB is open from 9:30am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday. Certain GMRC facilities are available in the Darwin Library during opening hours.

**Training**

Both centres offer training sessions in computer skills. The LRC is an Approved ECDL Test Centre for training and testing; details are provided at <http://www.students.ucs.ed.ac.uk/helpdesk/student/system/show.cfm?topicID=447>

**Feedback**

Please let us know of any new resources you'd like in the centres.

**Where to find us**

The LRC is on the second floor of the Main Library, George Square. The main GMRC is in Room 3901 in the JCM Building at The King's Buildings. The GMRC station in the upper level of the Darwin Library has the advantage of being open in the evenings and at weekends.

**Further information**

Details of both resource centres is at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/student/#resourcecentres>

*David Findlay (IS-LUSD)*



**Summary of services available from the LRC, GMRC (JCMB), and GMRC (Darwin Library)**

	LRC Main Library 2nd Floor	GMRC JCM Building Room 3901	GMRC Darwin Library Upper floor
Hours (staffed)	09:00-17:00	09:30-17:30	11:00-15:00 (from Darwin Helpdesk)
Hours (unstaffed)	Open Main Library hours	n/a	Open Darwin Library hours
Digital Media			
• Image processing (Photoshop, Illustrator etc.)	Yes	Yes	Yes
• Video	Yes	Yes	Yes
• Audio	Yes	Yes	No
• Animation	No (early 2008)	Yes	No
Publishing & Distribution			
• Desktop publishing (InDesign)	Yes	Yes	Yes
• Electronic publishing	Yes	Yes	Yes
• CD/DVD burning	Yes	Yes	Yes
3D graphics/VR			
• AutoCAD	No (under review)	Yes	No
• Second Life	Yes	January 2008	January 2008
Scanning			
• Images:			
Up to A0	Yes	Yes	No
Up to A4	Yes	Yes	Yes
Book	No	Yes	Yes
35mm	Yes	Yes	No
• OCR	Yes	Yes	No
• Bulk scanning (A4)	Yes	Yes	Yes
• Bulk scanning (35 mm)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Printing			
• Poster printing (A0)	Yes (DIY)	Yes (serviced)	No
• High-quality solid ink colour printing (A4)	No (under review)	Reinstated early 2008	No
• General colour laser	Yes (A4/A3)	Yes (A4/A3)	No
• General monochrome laser	Yes (A4/A3)	Yes (A4/A3)	Yes (A4)
• Inkjet printing	No	Yes (A4-A2)	No

## Next Generation VLE Project Update

A virtual learning environment – VLE – has become an integral part of “doing business” in the University. It lies at the heart of our teaching and learning processes and requires close integration with many other parts of the University’s electronic infrastructure – for example, Library, communication, multimedia and authentication services. It is not merely a question of appropriate technology, but has implications for business processes and support services as well.

The use of WebCT as our centrally-supported VLE has grown significantly since its introduction. There are also a number of other VLE services in use by some areas – for example, EEMeC and EEVeC in the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine.

This Project has been set up to identify the VLE services which Colleges, Schools and Teaching Organisations need to help them achieve their long-term teaching and learning objectives. The first phase, now under way, is to review needs and consult widely with the constituency. From the data gathered, the Project will explore potential solutions to achieve the desired goals. This will include how we might better exploit WebCT Vista, as well as considering what other solutions might be able to support our needs, such as open source systems (in particular, Sakai and Moodle). The analysis will consider the usage of all existing VLE services to determine the extent to which our needs could be satisfied by a single VLE more closely aligned with business processes and integrated with related University services.

The choice of VLE is a significant decision for the University, and is extremely complex. The nature of our business is constantly changing, as is the technology. The aim is to find a VLE solution which is sustainable in the long term (ten years), but it is expected that this will need to be reviewed every five years. In January we expect to finalise our consultation strategy and contact each College, School and Teaching Organisation to seek views on how best the VLE service can support their needs.

We expect to report on the first phase by the Autumn. This will provide guidance for the next phase which will be concerned with any required procurement processes. The third phase will cover the implementation of, and transition to, any new services selected.

Our wiki provides a summary of our activities, at <https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/VLEprojectwiki>

The ‘How to use this wiki’ page includes suggestions on how you can keep in touch as the Project progresses. If you have any questions please do contact us.

*Catherine Gillespie, Stephen Vickers (IS-Apps)*

## ECDF: Eddie puts on weight

The Edinburgh Compute and Data Facility (ECDF) backup service is now up and running. This is primarily for backing up data hosted by the ECDF, but can be used to back up any large research data stores in the University.

Work is now under way to install Phase 2 of the ECDF compute and storage systems. An additional 118 IBM compute nodes and 125TB of Sun storage will be installed by the end of January. This is expected to bring the potential compute power of Eddie, the ECDF compute cluster, to approximately 12 Tflops – roughly equivalent to 1,200 desktop computers – and increase the total disk storage hosted by the ECDF to almost 400TB.

ECDF compute, data and backup services are available to all researchers in the University and associated institutions. Over 250 users, in 16 Schools representing all three Colleges, currently have accounts on Eddie.

Basic use of the ECDF is free, with larger requirements being charged under a full Economic Cost model.

To find out more, or to register to use ECDF services, visit the ECDF website at <http://www.ecdf.ed.ac.uk/>

Alternatively, get in touch via Science Support at [science.support@ed.ac.uk](mailto:science.support@ed.ac.uk).

*Orlando Richards (IS-ITI)*

## Network installation requests

For people who request network installations (ports, switches *etc*) we have a new web-based system we would like you to use to submit all your requests. The principal advantages are a) efficiency, b) requests won’t get delayed because you mailed someone who is off for a month, and c) you can check the status of your job online. You can still use existing methods to make requests if you need to, but we would like you to use the new system if you can. For full details see <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/nsd/njuser.html>

*Eddie Corns (IS-ITI)*

## BCS talks in January

The British Computer Society’s local branch talks in January are *BT’s 21CN* by Ian Stirrat of BT on 9th January, and *An Introduction to WiMAX* by Colin Bendall of Motorola on 30th January.

Both meetings are open to the public and start at 6.30pm in the Royal Scots Club Hepburn Suite, 29/30 Abercromby Place, Edinburgh, EH3 6QE. Light refreshments are available from 6.10pm.

There is further information at <http://www.edinburgh.bcs.org/events/>

*David Muxworthy (BCS)*

## IT training in January

Information Services runs free IT courses for University staff and postgraduates. Most are held at the IS Skills Centre at 19 Buccleuch Place; some run at The King's Buildings. Course synopses, later dates and online booking forms are available at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/cts/courses/>

Date	Course	Venue*
Jan Thu 10	Excel Introduction: Creating Basic Spreadsheets and Charts	GS
Thu 10	Basic Image Manipulation Techniques using PhotoShop	GS
Mon 14	Preparing a Presentation with PowerPoint	GS
Tue 15	Using EDINA Digimap	GS
Tue 15	Introduction to Visualising Data in ArcGIS 9	GS
Tue 15	Creating Web Pages with HTML	GS
Tue 15	Formatting Web Pages with Cascading Style Sheets	GS
Wed 16	Introduction to Unix	JCMB
Wed 16	Introduction to SPSS	GS
Wed 16	WebCT Vista Fundamentals	GS
Wed 16	Introduction to Blogs	GS
Tue 22	Introduction to Access Database Management	GS
Tue 22	Introduction to Mac Operating Systems: Mac OS X	GS
Wed 23	Word Intermediate: Document Layout and Customisation	GS]
Wed 23	Introduction to Wikis	GS
Thu 24	Managing Bibliographies with Reference Manager	GS
Thu 24	Word Introduction: Creating and Formatting Documents	GS
Mon 28	Creating Leaflets and Posters with InDesign	GS
Tue 29	Programming in Perl	GS
Tue 29	Producing a Thesis using Word	GS
Wed 30	Scanning and Image Capture	JCMB
Wed 30	Intermediate Access Database Management (Part 1)	GS
Wed 30	Learning to use the Plagiarism Prevention System: TurnItIn	GS
Thu 31	Managing Bibliographies with EndNote	GS

\* Venues: GS – George Square area, JCMB – The King's Buildings

### Taster Sessions

Further dates of our popular one-hour 'taster' sessions for staff and postgraduates are now available for booking on MyEd. Sessions take place from 1pm to 2pm in the Wolfson Teaching Room in the Main Library, George Square as follows:

- 23rd January: Mousing with SPSS – some useful tips using point and click.
- 25th January: Tracking changes to Word documents made by different reviewers.
- 11th February: Using tables for organisation and display in Word – beyond the basics.
- 13th February: Creating reports and presentations using SPSS output, with tables and graphs.
- 21st February: Adobe Acrobat surgery – bring along questions and any files you need help with.
- 27th February: Electronic marking of essays – looking at *Turnitin*, and an offline system developed for the School of Biology.

For more information about the taster sessions, and the content covered by each, see <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/cts/courses/coursesanddates.html>

### Featured Course: Creating Web Pages with HTML

This course introduces you to HTML (Hypertext Markup Language), the language used for publishing on the World Wide Web. You will learn how to create web pages, format text and include tables, lists, images and hyperlinks. This course can be taken in conjunction with *Formatting Web Pages with Cascading Style Sheets*.

Forthcoming dates: Tuesday 15th January, Wednesday 27th February.

Information and booking: <http://webdb.ucs.ed.ac.uk/eucscourses/courselist/coursedescript/index.cfm?coursecode=1278>

*Jenni Reeves, Shona Matchett (IS-LUSD)*

### BarCamp Scotland 2008

BarCamp is an ad-hoc, IT-oriented gathering of people who want to share and learn in an open environment, often focusing on early-stage web applications and related open-source technologies, social protocols and open data formats. It is an intense event with discussions, demos, and interaction from attendees. Participants drive the event, which is free and open to all.

BarCamp Scotland 2008 will be held on 2nd February from 10am to 9pm, in the concourse of Appleton Tower. The theme will be 'Web 2.0, Arts and Informatics, Mobile applications, Educational Software Web 3.0 and Virtual Worlds'.

The event will be launched the previous evening, with a cocktail party and presentations on 'Digital Arts, Sound Design and Media' in Alison House from 6pm to 9pm.

There is more information, including the opportunity to sign up, at <http://barcamp.org/BarCampScotland2008>

Wikipedia's entry is at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BarCamp>

*Michael R. Clouser (Informatics)*

## eFinance: looking after the ePennies

2007 has been a record year for the FIS team in the Finance Department. Over 5,000 users were registered on the various finance systems, as well as 20,000+ students who can now use the Finance Channel in the portal to pay their debts online. Other increases include:

- a 200% increase in eExpenses users, a 500% increase in claims processed electronically, and 97% of claims paid within five days;
- a 60% increase in eIT users registered and a 200% increase in activity;
- a 140% increase in online payment activity and a 230% increase in value;
- over 5,000 paperless direct debits taken;
- five new EDI links to HM Revenue and Customs.

There has been a major increase in the use of financial systems across the University, and this trend looks like increasing in 2008. Applications such as eExpenses, eITs, eFinancials and WebFirst have all seen significant increases in take up. New systems such as the student finance channel or paperless direct debits have been well used, and the training courses introduced in November are already filling up.

2008 is likely to be equally busy. We hope to implement a financial forecasting system and more self-service systems, continue annual maintenance such as the tax year end, and finish projects such as Pensions+.

Keeping up with demand is a key challenge. We are always looking for new ideas and suggestions for service delivery. You can send these to [E.Welch@ed.ac.uk](mailto:E.Welch@ed.ac.uk).

*Liz Welch (Finance)*

## e-Science Institute Public Lecture

The e-Science Institute is hosting a public lecture by Dr Andrew Martin, Lecturer in Software Engineering at the University of Oxford, on "Trust and Security in Virtual Communities".

The lecture is at 4pm on Tuesday 8th January 2008 in the Newhaven Lecture Theatre, e-Science Institute, 15 South College Street, and is open to all interested parties in academia and industry. There is no need to register for this event, and those attending are invited to stay on for refreshments at 5pm.

Details are at <http://www.nesc.ac.uk/esi/events/847/>

*Kate Lindey (NeSC)*

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IS-Apps: Applications: Director Simon Marsden  
 IS-DCC: the Digital Curation Centre: Director Chris Rusbridge  
 IS-EDINA: EDINA and the Data Library: Director Peter Burnhill  
 IS-ITI: IT Infrastructure: Director Brian Gilmore  
 IS-ITUS: IT User Services: Acting Director Bryan MacGregor  
 IS-L&C: Library and Collections: Director Sheila Cannell  
 IS-LUSD: Library User Services: Acting Director Richard Battersby

## EDINA Newline

The latest issue of the EDINA newsletter is now available online, with its usual broad spread of interesting topics including:

- New Digimap case studies: 40 new case studies highlight the versatility of Digimap maps and data.
- COMPASS: a new project provides common vocabulary for coastal resources.
- Mind the GAP: geospatial repository searching.
- Podcast: going geographical with Go-Geo!
- DISC-UK DataShare: a project to demystify institutional data.
- Marine Digimap: the service to deliver SeaZone marine data is on target for January launch.
- Statistical Accounts of Scotland: user survey to identify areas for future development.
- New libraries added to SUNCAT: the University of Dundee and the Royal College of Music.
- SUNCAT pilot service: to enable download of a subset of SUNCAT records in MARC format via Z39.50.
- *Newsline* survey results: overall user satisfaction.
- Forthcoming Events: conferences, exhibitions, and training events.

*Newsline* is at <http://edina.ac.uk/news/newsline.html>

*Paul Milne (IS-EDINA)*

### EDINBURGH BITS

#### Editor:

Nick Stroud, Information Services.

#### Published by:

Information Services  
The University of Edinburgh

#### 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 Carla Zaccardelli:  
Email: [C.Zaccardelli@ed.ac.uk](mailto:C.Zaccardelli@ed.ac.uk)  
Telephone: 0131 650 4999

#### 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/>

#### *BITS* RSS feed:

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

#### Some acronyms explained:

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

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 February *BITS*:

**Wednesday 16th January**