

Q. When should I encrypt my laptop or flash drive?

A. Before it gets lost or stolen!

The enforcement notice issued by the Information Commissioner to Marks & Spencer in January, and more recent news – the theft of credit card details from Cotton Traders, classified documents being left on trains, the loss of Scottish Ambulance Service data – are reminders that we must all take meticulous care of sensitive information.

Anyone who takes or sends any personal information away from their workplace should imagine the consequences – and the headlines or the court case – should that information fall into the wrong hands.

M&S was found to be in breach of the Data Protection Act, and must now encrypt all laptop hard drives following the theft from the owner's home of an unencrypted laptop containing personal information about 26,000 M&S pension scheme members.

In the University we must take care to protect the personal information we use every day in our jobs, especially if taking it off-campus.

Practical steps to safeguard information

The level of security used should be appropriate to the sensitivity of the information and what the risks would be if it were lost. Key points to consider at the outset include:

- Do you absolutely *have* to take the information out of the office?
- Have you extracted only the fields and records you actually need?
- Could the information be anonymised, so it doesn't identify any person?

For low-risk information, use a strong password and keep the laptop or USB flash drive in a locked briefcase – and then take great care not to lose the briefcase! When you have finished, ensure that the information is securely removed from the device.

If you have to send information somewhere, use Recorded Delivery or a reliable courier to track its progress to its destination.

Never send sensitive or private information in an email message!

More sensitive information should be encrypted. However, encryption is not a simple off-the-shelf solution and there are several issues to consider; these are discussed over the page. If you need to use encryption, explore the options with your IS Support Team in advance.

For more advice on good information management see the Records Management Section's website, especially the guidance on the storage and use of electronic personal data, and on working from home. The guidelines are relevant to anyone who works with electronic information that relates to living, identifiable people, at work as well as outwith the University.

- Guidance on the storage and use of electronic personal data: [http:// www.recordsmanagement.ed.ac.uk/InfoStaff/DPstaff/ElectronicPersonalData.htm](http://www.recordsmanagement.ed.ac.uk/InfoStaff/DPstaff/ElectronicPersonalData.htm)
- Guidance on working from home: <http://www.recordsmanagement.ed.ac.uk/InfoStaff/RMstaff/Homeworking/homeworking.htm>
- Enforcement notice issued to Marks & Spencer PLC by the UK Information Commissioner: http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/data_protection/notices/m_and_s_sanitiseden.pdf

Anne Grzybowski (Records Management Section)

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Beware the hazards of working with personal data! (pages 1 & 2)

Data encryption: it isn't that simple!

There are a number of issues around encryption which need to be clearly identified.

The Marks & Spencer case is just one of many which highlight the precautions that should be considered when data may move outside the organisation. It does *not*, however, imply that we should encrypt our data as a matter of course: specific aspects of the M&S case caused the Commissioner to take the actions he did.

One reason for the University's lack of an encryption policy is that it is a complex task. The three elements are:

- 1 The data to be protected. This requires some form of **risk assessment**.
- 2 The **software** to be used to transform the data.
- 3 The **key** used to encipher or decipher the data.

The two components of the encrypting process are the algorithm in the software which encodes the data; and the word or phrase which then 'seeds' that software. The former is like a lock, of arbitrary complexity (and cost); the latter is the key which closes or opens it.

The key is the most challenging of these. Keys have to be generated securely, stored away from prying eyes, transported or transmitted securely to where they are needed, and protected in some way in case of loss. What happens if the only copy of data is encrypted and the key is lost? Or the encrypted file is corrupted? Which of the many technology offerings should the University adopt?

There are cultural aspects as well. However carefully information is encrypted before it is sent to another organisation, that encryption will be worthless if the recipient is careless with the data. Techniques are advancing all the time, and a method regarded today as providing strong encryption could be weak in a year's time, so there need to be clear and strong policies for destroying information when it is finished with. The very act of implementing strong encryption might make some people more blasé about the amount of data circulated or released.

The University Court has approved a new University Security Policy, which sets high-level requirements to be implemented through codes of practice. Encryption will be an excellent candidate for an early code of practice, and is being taken up by the newly-reconstituted Information Technology Committee.

It is important to see encryption as just one of several elements in the protection of data. It does no harm to think of personal data as radioactive material – it must be contained, and the less it's spread about, the less containment will be needed.

Jack McAulay (IS)

Web proxy authentication changes

Users of the staff and student mail services have until now been able to authenticate themselves to the web proxy service when off-campus using their mail password. Since the move to use EASE authentication for the mail services, the need for separate passwords on these services has passed, so we are going to split off the web proxy service to use its own password mechanism.

Why not just use EASE for the proxy service?

The level of security on authentication to the proxy service is much lower than that provided by EASE. In order to support the widest range of browsers, the proxies use Basic Authentication over an unencrypted link, so using the EASE password would be inappropriate. It is also good security practice to provide different layers of security and use progressively stronger authentication mechanisms for each; *e.g.* web-proxy → VPN → EASE.

We contacted everyone who has used the web proxy service this year off-campus and asked them to set a new password by 30th June.

We have identified a number of accounts with poor passwords for which access to the web proxy service has become compromised. This has not resulted in access to EASE-protected resources and we have disabled those passwords already, but we would like to close this potential security backdoor as soon as possible to prevent further abuse of the proxy service and remove any link to EASE and EASE-protected resources.

How to set a new password for off-campus access?

A new proxy password can be set at <http://wwwcache.ed.ac.uk/password/>

This web form is EASE protected. Documentation on how to use the service is at <http://wwwcache.ed.ac.uk/>

Anyone who hasn't set a new password, and who tries to log in to the proxy service, will see an error message directing them to set a new password. No one should be denied access provided they can log in to EASE and set a new password for the web proxy service.

Nothing will change immediately. We will contact all staffmail and SMS users before September reminding them that they should only use EASE to log in to these services. At the end of September we will remove the old authentication mechanism, and introduce an easier EASE password reset mechanism, which will benefit users who forget their password and shared secrets. A further announcement on the plans for the development of EASE – outlining proposed changes for password resets, EASE Friend, a new design for the website and integration with EUCLID – is coming soon.

Graeme Wood (IS-ITI)

Main Library Redevelopment

The 5th and 6th floors are nearing completion. Shelving in the archive stores has been erected, and Library staff are now adjusting the shelving to accommodate the many shapes and sizes in our collections.

The Centre for Research Collections on the 6th floor is looking very good. Those who remember its gloomy previous incarnation will be impressed by the effect of the new rooflights. A Roof Terrace is being constructed outside the Reading Room, and will contain an image of the Edinburgh skyline.

Planning permission and building warrants have been received for the Ground Floor works, and Interserve has taken possession. The plans are on the MLRP website.

The functions on the redeveloped Ground Floor will change radically. The IS Helpdesk will be reinstated, but other functions are new. There will be a much larger collection of undergraduate and heavily-used books, the HUB. There will be a great variety of study spaces where conversation and group work will be encouraged. The new café will itself contain a variety of types of space. The main 'Forum' area will include various zones for discussion, quick catalogue look-up *etc.*

There will be a public-access Exhibition Room where, for the first time, we will have a space to display the treasures in our Special Collections for all to see. We have established an 'Art Steering Group' and appointed Sara Barnes as an art advisor to make sure that art works, from our Collections or commissioned, are an integral part of the redeveloped Ground Floor. Anyone who has any ideas about this initiative are welcome to send them to Sara (via email to Fiona.Boyd@ed.ac.uk).

There will be many changes in July. A lift to the new entrance will be installed for users with mobility difficulties (in the meantime, access is via the west door). A great many staff will move to 1–6 Buccleuch Place, now that Informatics has inherited its new Forum (congratulations to them!). In particular, the IS Support Teams for Medicine, Humanities, Administration and Undergraduates will move to Buccleuch Place in early July; other IS staff will follow later in July and in August. Smoke lobbies will be finished off, to provide safer evacuation in a fire.

Special Collections will start moving into its wonderful new home – though its Reading Room is closed until 29th September to facilitate this: please contact Joseph Marshall, Rare Books Librarian (email Joseph.Marshall@ed.ac.uk) for details of access arrangements during the closure period.

Sheila Cannell (IS-L&C)



The wraps almost ready to come off from the Level 6 Reception to the new Centre for Research Collections

Virtual tour of the Main Library

The virtual tour of the Main Library has been updated to reflect all the recent changes brought about by the Redevelopment Project; the tour begins at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/sites/virtour.shtml>

Denny Colledge (IS-LUSD)

Edinburgh contributes to big initiative around libraries and museums

The Research Libraries Group is a prestigious international library organisation based in the United States. It is now working with us, Yale and Princeton universities, the Smithsonian Institution and the Victoria & Albert Museum, to explore ways of deriving maximum benefit from the complementary skills and resources of libraries, archives and museums.

The working group visited Edinburgh in March to help us identify sustainable, collaborative endeavours that would uniquely serve the needs of the University. Please contact me if you'd like a copy of the report arising from this visit (email Sheila.Cannell@ed.ac.uk). A report from the entire initiative will be published later in the year.

Sheila Cannell (IS-L&C)



The ceiling of the Main Library's foyer: no longer out of reach...

Handy utilities for Windows PCs and Macs

TreeSize now available to manage Windows disks

Information Services has bought a University site licence for TreeSize Professional which includes six years' maintenance. The software is now available free of charge to University staff and students, for use on University machines and for University work only. It is available from IS Support Teams, from Computing Officers who have access to the MSImage service, or on a CD which can be requested from software.services@ed.ac.uk.

TreeSize Professional is described at <http://www.jam-software.com/treesize/>

ExpandDrive for Macs

We have the opportunity to buy a site licence with two years' maintenance for ExpandDrive for Mac OS X. The commercial cost is \$29 for a single licence, so under this deal the upper limit for a single copy would probably be around £10. As with most such deals, the more people who join in, the lower the unit cost will be.

ExpandDrive provides transparent access to open, edit and save files in your regular programs, even when those files are somewhere else in the world: they appear as if they are on a USB drive plugged directly into your Mac.

ExpandDrive can also transfer files securely to and from any remote filesystem from directly within Finder or Terminal. There are further details at <http://www.magnetk.com/expandrive/>

If you are interested, please email is.software.wishes@ed.ac.uk with the number of licences you might use.

Frances Provan (IS-ITI)

Mathematica

Mathematica 6 is a major product in engineering, science, economics, and for maths education and research. Although it's based on Mathematicas of the past, major new developments greatly increase its scope – newly suiting it to an unprecedented range of uses across campus. Further information on Mathematica 6 can be found at <http://www.wolfram.com/>

Our current three-year campus deal for Mathematica expired on 12th June, and Information Services is setting up another three-year campus deal for the period to 2011. The prices under the bulk deal, based on the same numbers as last time, would be:

- Single licence copy for Windows/Mac/Linux: £120.40 per annum (price includes a single home licence)
- Server Class A and B: £69.30 per annum
- Server Class A increments: £156.10 each per annum (*i.e.* Windows/Mac/Linux)
- Server Class B increments: £195.30 each per annum (*i.e.* Unix)

These prices are exclusive of VAT, and commitment is required for three years. Please contact JoyceAnderson@ed.ac.uk with any queries about this deal.

Joyce Anderson (IS-ITI)

IT Professionals meet Knowledge Strategy Committee

The Convenor of the IT Professionals' Forum is a member of the University's Knowledge Strategy Committee, acting as a link between computing staff and decision-making processes. The Committee and Forum also get together once a year to explore areas of mutual concern.

The joint meeting in June was valuable in promoting dialogue between IT Professionals and those concerned with IT Strategy. Vice Principal Jeff Haywood opened with a clear and pragmatic overview of the University's major strategic projects, such as its Web Site, EUCLID and the next-generation VLE.

Topics then raised at the meeting included:

- the role of the ITPF. The outgoing Convenor suggested that no single issue had galvanised a common opinion over the past year. However the number and variety of events had helped to create a new sense of a community.
- the issue of the charity strapline added to outgoing email highlighted the distinction between the need for senior officers of the University to address a compliance issue and the impact on devolved units. Jeff Haywood conceded that the communication of the outcome and the reasoning behind it could have been handled better.
- career progression and staff development were of great interest. The official stance is that all jobs, wherever possible, should be advertised open to the world. On staff development it was observed that the ITPF has a role to complement the work of HR: ITPF concentrating on seminars on technical education; HR providing more general and soft skills training. The point was made that working in the University can lead to a deterioration in professional IT certifications, making it difficult to seek work elsewhere.
- greater committee transparency was requested.

James Jarvis (outgoing ITPF Convenor)

MyEd event delivery reaches new heights

The MyEd event booking service continues to grow steadily, with the number of events offered up by 25% over last year. In February alone there were over 2,000 bookings – 900 more than in 2007.



Enhancements in the pipeline include integration with eVisitor to allow non-University people to book and pay, and integration with the new staff eDiary service to integrate event calendars and a personal events schedule. Tutor pooling and basic conference-style events are to be added in due course.

Service satisfaction is core to the IS Applications Service Management team that is behind MyEd, so the remark by James Jarvis that he couldn't have done his job as first convenor of the IT Professionals' Forum without the MyEd event booking channel was very welcome.

If you'd like to deliver event information via MyEd, please email myed@ed.ac.uk. If you'd like to send us feedback, please use the 'Feedback' link on any MyEd page.

Stephen Smith (IS-Apps)

New eDiary rollout on schedule



The new eDiary Service is on schedule for full release to the University staff community. Phased migrations are progressing well, with several

staff groups already moved from Microsoft Exchange to Staffmail; feedback so far has been very positive.

A few 'Show & Tell' sessions have been presented to a fair turnout of local Computing Officers, and we are delivering our eDiary Roadshows until August; you can book your place at any of these through MyEd.

Help and guidance – including links to support and service information, important migration help, roadshow timetable and more – are available in the eDiary wiki at <https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/Services/eDiary+Home>

If you have any queries on any aspect of the new eDiary Service please ask your IT User Services team.

Angela Lamb (IS-Apps)

Shibboleth replaces Athens

The University's subscription to the EduServ Athens service will finish at the end of July, and it doesn't need to be renewed; instead, we will be moving to Shibboleth – as outlined in May's *BITs*. There is a full introduction to Shibboleth at <http://www.ukfederation.org.uk/>

There should be very little change for users. At present the vast majority of subscribed e-resources accessed via *Library Online* no longer rely on Athens. Using a service called Ezproxy the majority of e-resources are accessible directly with EASE. The small number of e-resources that still rely on Athens will move to Ezproxy or Shibboleth by the end of July. EASE is used by both Shibboleth and Ezproxy.

Ending our subscription to Athens does not mean we are losing access to any subscribed e-resources. However, after July you will not be able to get access to e-resources by following Athens login links. Visitors registered as eligible to access e-resources with Athens will automatically be able to access the same range of resources with the Shibboleth system.

There is more information about this changeover on *Library Online*. If you have any further queries, please email eishelp@ed.ac.uk or contact your Liaison Librarian.

Caroline Stirling (IS-LUSD)

Data Audit Framework

Information Services is conducting a Data Audit Framework Implementation funded by JISC from April to September 2008, in partnership with the Data Audit Framework Development project led by HATII/DCC at the University of Glasgow.

This is in response to a recommendation in the 2007 report *Dealing with Data* that a data audit framework be established to help institutions develop services to support data curation and data management by their researchers.

An online tool will be created for research institutes, schools and institutions to keep track of their data assets and to help appraise their long-term value.

Data assets that are identified as suitable for sharing online can be deposited in Edinburgh DataShare, the pilot data repository also funded by JISC and hosted by the Data Library at <http://datashare.edina.ac.uk/dspace/>

The first School to take part in piloting the framework is GeoSciences. Research organisations in the University that would like to take part in the audit are invited to contact Cuna Ekmekcioglu (email C.Ekmekcioglu@ed.ac.uk). A steering committee has been set up to inform the project and to help identify candidate organisations.

There is more information about the project at <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/digitalrepositories2007/dataauditframework.aspx>

Robin Rice, Cuna Ekmekcioglu (IS)

IS skills development

Our taught IT courses and short sessions running in July and August are listed in the table alongside.

There is no charge for most University staff and postgraduates. See our web pages for course descriptions and to book – at <http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/usd/cts/courses/>
Jenni Reeves (IS-LUSD)

* Venues:

BP – 19 Buccleuch Place

JCMB – room 2009a, King's Buildings

DHT – Ground Floor Conference Room, David Hume Tower

(T): lunchtime 'taster' session (bring your sandwiches!)

Introduction to eTutoring

Bookings are now open for the next online 'Introduction to eTutoring' course.

This six-week course helps participants to develop the skills to provide online support in the delivery of a learning programme. Participants have the opportunity to experience online teaching and learning directly. They will become familiar with the experience of participating as a learner in an online environment (WebCT).

This enjoyable course runs from 14th July to 1st September (the schedule includes an additional reading week). If you are interested in practical experience of online tutoring and can spare a minimum of three hours a week for online activity, please book a place via the MyEd booking channel.

There are full course details at http://www.elearn.malts.ed.ac.uk/events/online_courses.phtml

Please contact Susie Beasley (s.beasley@ed.ac.uk) or Jo Kinsley (jkinsley@staffmail.ed.ac.uk) if you would like further information.

Susan Beasley (IS-LUSD)

Date	Course	Venue *
July 2	PowerPoint: Basic Skills for Creating a Presentation	BP
3	Excel Introduction: Creating Basic Spreadsheets and Charts	BP
3	Introduction to Blogs	BP
3	Writing for the Web	DHT
7	Tracking changes to Word documents (T)	DHT
9	PowerPoint Intermediate: Adding Images	BP
9	PowerPoint Intermediate: Adding Tables, Graphs and Diagrams	BP
9	Introduction to Mac Operating Systems: Mac OS X	BP
10	Word Intermediate: Document Layout and Customisation	BP
10	Producing a Thesis using Word	BP
10	Mail Merge with Word	BP
14	Introduction to Access Database Management	BP
14	Creating and Editing Web Pages using FrontPage 2003	BP
16	Making the Most of Your Wiki	BP
17	Wikis: What can I do as an Administrator?	BP
17	Email and Diary Management using Outlook 2003	BP
18	Excel Advanced: Manipulating and Managing Data	BP
21	Basic Image Manipulation Techniques using PhotoShop	BP
21	Writing for the Web	DHT
22	PowerPoint Intermediate: Adding Animation Schemes	BP
22	PowerPoint Intermediate: Adding Movie and Audio Clips	BP
22	Managing Bibliographies with Reference Manager	BP
22	Programming in Perl	BP
22	Thinking about using WebCT for the first time? (T)	DHT
23	Creating Web Pages with HTML	BP
23	Formatting Web Pages with Cascading Style Sheets	BP
23	Introduction to Wikis	BP
23	Introduction to Unix	JCMB
23	Thinking about using TurnItIn UK? (T)	DHT
24	Sharing and protecting Excel spreadsheets (T)	DHT
Aug 5	Introduction to Access Database Management	BP
5	Creating Leaflets and Posters with InDesign	BP
6	Excel Introduction: Creating Basic Spreadsheets and Charts	BP
6	Managing Bibliographies with EndNote	BP
6	Learning to use the Plagiarism Prevention System: <i>TurnItIn</i>	BP
7	Word Intermediate: Document Layout and Customisation	BP
7	Introduction to Blogs	BP
7	Writing for the Web	DHT
11	Creating Accessible Documents (T)	DHT
11	Editing Web Pages with Contribute	BP
11	Creating a Database with FileMaker Pro	BP
12	Intermediate Access Database Management	BP
12	Excel Advanced: Manipulating and Managing Data (Part 1)	BP
12	PowerPoint: Basic Skills for Creating a Presentation	BP
13	Video Editing with Premier Pro	JCMB
13	Wikis: What can I do as an Administrator?	BP
14	Image editing in PowerPoint for WebCT (T)	DHT
18	Making the Most of Your Wiki	BP
19	Excel Advanced: Manipulating and Managing Data (Part 2)	BP
20	Looking good with Word's styles (T)	DHT
21	WebCT Vista Fundamentals	BP
21	Creating Web Pages with HTML	BP
21	Formatting Web Pages with Cascading Style Sheets	BP
22	Basic Image Manipulation Techniques using PhotoShop	BP
25	Writing for the Web	DHT
26	WebCT Vista Fundamentals	BP
26	Creating and Editing Web Pages with Dreamweaver 8	BP
26	Creating Templates and Managing Websites with Dreamweaver 8	BP
27	Introduction to Wikis	BP

The 2008 Milner Lecture

Professor Rajeev Alur, of the Department of Computer and Information Science, University of Pennsylvania, will speak on *Software Model Checking* at 5:15pm on Wednesday 23rd July, in Lecture Theatre 1, Appleton Tower. This will be followed by a reception in the new Informatics Forum. Full details are provided at <http://www.lfcs.inf.ed.ac.uk/events/milner-lecture/>
Abstract

It remains a continuing challenge for computer science to build tools that can certify correctness of software systems with respect to their specifications, or reveal inconsistencies. The first half of the talk will survey progress in formal methods for specification and verification, from early days of manual proofs of sorting programs using loop invariants to today's highly optimized and automated tools for discovering bugs in network protocols and device drivers. The second half will describe some of the current research at Penn on software analysis, focusing on the CheckFence project for checking consistency of concurrent data types on relaxed memory models, and on efforts to create a tool to certify that a Java applet being downloaded on your cellphone won't leak confidential data from your addressbook.

Before joining Penn in 1997, Prof. Alur was with Computing Science Research Center in Bell Laboratories. His areas of research include formal modelling and analysis of reactive systems, hybrid systems, model checking, software verification, logics and automata, and design automation for embedded software.

(This year the Milner Lecture is separated from the Informatics Jamboree, which is moving to October.)

Dyane Goodchild (Informatics)

UK e-Science All Hands meeting

'AHM 2008' is the principal e-Science meeting in the UK, and brings together researchers from all disciplines, computer scientists and developers to meet and exchange ideas. The meeting takes place in Edinburgh on 8–11 September.

The theme for this year's meeting is 'Crossing Boundaries: Computational Science, E-Science and Global E-Infrastructures'. Professor Peter Coveney (UCL) has been appointed as Programme Chair. The general format of the meeting will include cross-community symposia (opened by invited key speakers) and workshops.

Early Bird Registration is open until 13th July (after which a late fee of £50 will be charged). For full details see <http://www.allhands.org.uk/>

Katharine Woods (NeSC)

Tempted by open-source VLEs?

Are you interested in seeing what other Virtual Learning Environments have to offer?

We have set up test versions of the open source products Sakai and Moodle on local servers.

In addition the University has been given access to a demonstration area for the learning environment and ePortfolio products supplied by Desire2Learn.

If you would like to have a look at any of these services please refer to the information provided on our project wiki at <https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/VLEprojectwiki/Test+instances>

Stephen Vickers, Catherine Gillespie (IS-Apps)

ITIL reading

Information Services has purchased full sets of the version 2 and version 3 ITIL books and made them available to borrow from the Main Library. You can find out about some of the books available at <http://www.is.ed.ac.uk/itil/reading.shtml>

Robert Gormley (IS-LUSD)

Music to your ears?

Did you know that you can listen to digital music via Edinburgh University Library?

We subscribe to the *Naxos Music Library*, a music listening service which allows you to search, browse and listen to over 285,000 digital tracks of music, including classical, jazz, folk, world music, pop and rock.

Naxos does not permit you to download or record tracks, but copyright-free music is available for download in the *Culverhouse Classical Music Collection* (part of *Film and Sound Online*), and more downloads can be found in the Internet links section of the Subject Guide for Music.

If you're interested in reading about music, have a look at *Rock's Backpages*, a new online archive of 12,000+ full-text reviews, interviews and features from the world's best rock music writers and critics, from the late 1950s to the present day.

Of course, we also have online access to *Grove Music Online*, a key music research resource which comprises the full text of *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, *The New Grove Dictionary of Opera*, and *The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz*.

You can find all these resources and more in the Subject Guide for Music at <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/resbsub/music.shtml>

Christine Love-Rodgers (IS-LUSD)

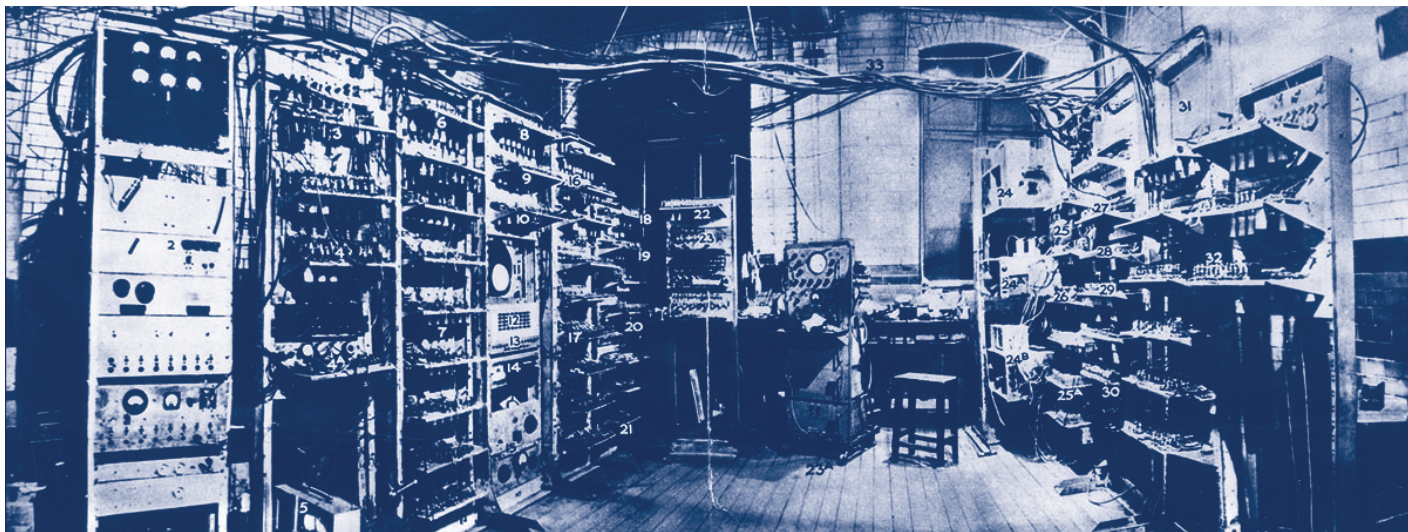


Photo: Telegraph Media Group

60-year-old Baby

On 21st June 1948 the University of Manchester won the race to build the world's first stored-program computer. Nicknamed The Baby, it had 32 words of memory (RAM) and a processor speed of about 800Hz. The feat is commemorated at <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/news/display/?id=3750>

(If iPods were based on the same technology they would occupy an area of around 7,000 square miles, and there'd only be enough room in Scotland for five of them...)

In its own contribution to the birthday celebrations, the BBC has published the oldest known recordings of computer-generated music – 'Baa Baa Black Sheep' and 'In the Mood' – produced by Baby's first offspring. See <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/7458479.stm>

Happy Birthday!

Nick Stroud (IS)

The World Wide Web: invented in 1934 without electricity

In 1934, Belgian Paul Otlet (pronounced ot-lay) sketched out plans for a global network of computers (or 'electric telescopes,' as he called them) that would allow people to search and browse through millions of interlinked documents, images, audio and video files. He described how people would use the devices to send messages to one another, share files and even congregate in online social networks. He called the whole thing a "réseau," which might be translated as "network" – or arguably, "web."

The story, with a description of the Mundaneum which commemorates this work, is at <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/17/science/17mund.html>

Alex Wright (New York Times)

Late news: Wiley-Blackwell ejournals

- If all went to plan, the Blackwell Synergy site closed on 28th June, and
- Blackwell Synergy ejournals should now be fully available from Wiley
- Interscience. Please notify us if any problems or queries arise: <http://www.lib.ed.ac.uk/resources/databases/eisquery cms.shtml>

Liz Stevenson (IS-L&C)

- 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

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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.

Contributions to BITS are welcomed.

Copy deadline for August BITS:
Friday 25th July