

# ISIDORE Project

Progress, Performance and Future

# Overview

- What has been done so far?
- Evaluation of what has been done
  - What worked well?
  - What could be improved?
  - How performance evaluated and who by
    - IAUL
    - Auditors
- What is next phase and when does it happen?
- When will it affect IT staff?

# What is ISIDORE (Recap & Update)

- Collegiate University Wide Student Record System
- Uses Oracle Student System software
- Graduate Admissions, has now been phased in at Oxford, with all users trained
  - Graduate Admissions Office Nov 2004
  - Colleges and Departments March 2005
- All completed ahead of schedule

# What is ISIDORE (Recap & Update)

- The second phase is other Student Admin Processes
  - Data collection exercises started Mar 2005
  - Agreed approach end Apr 2005
  - Tier 1 installs revised processes and configured OSS implementation planned centrally from Sep/Oct 2005 (due to delay in finishing complex Oxford security)
  - Tier 2 installs Colleges and Departments Sep/Oct 2006

# Access to data

- Local Information Custodians determine authorised users and their role
- Authorised users can get read only access to relevant data to import into local systems
- No links are currently planned to write data into ISIDORE from local systems
- Because Oracle security delays will limit the full roll out of student admin, some standard reports are being developed using Oracle Discoverer and are now starting to be tested by selected users

# Feedback on First Phase

- Independent User Survey (by IAUL)
  - **2/3rds viewed the process as a positive improvement in graduate admissions**
    - Ability to guarantee a College place to applicants
    - Greater rigour in decision making
    - Increased understanding of staff role and interactions with others in the process
    - Colleges ability to inform applicants of number of places for each programme of study was a great benefit
- “The University has begun to meet the principles of the new admissions process”

# Feedback (continued)

- The negative 1/3<sup>rd</sup> were concerned that:
  - The process had been designed for Student Administration rather than UABs and Colleges
  - The process implements gathered field selection. Why can't we decide one by one, as we used to?
  - Why the fuss about meeting legislation? We would like to keep our existing processes unchanged
- the project recognised that graduate correspondence can be improved and is therefore consulting with users on changes. [Although the correspondence documents for graduate applicants worked exactly as the user agreed design!]

# Feedback (continued)

- Feedback from IT staff
  - The use of PDF print outs was a **very great improvement** (in ease of setting up users and “training free” nature to Acrobat Reader users)
  - The instructions on set up and the IT briefing sessions were helpful
  - The instructions were too long and the dialogue box images insult the intelligence of IT staff!
- Feedback from the Auditors on this phase
  - The project was well controlled and documented. Lessons learnt from an earlier project had been put to good effect.



# Reliability of University Wide Data System

- Server Room
  - Redundancy of Network Connections
  - Redundancy of Computers
  - Redundancy of Services
  - Redundancy of SAN equipment
  - Redundancy of Backup
  - Disaster Recovery
- Performance
  - No server room performance issues, but there have been some admin network issues which are now being addressed (99.93% system availability before recent network issue)
  - Problems with flash flooding didn't interrupt use

# What is in Next Phase

- Tier 1 September 2005
  - Implement Phase 2 processes and procedures in stages (see below)
  - Implement OSS to support new procedures and related student data
  - Allow data to be updated in OSS by designated super users, rather than by ALL relevant staff (current security issue).
  - Implement clear procedures to ensure effective data capture and managements
  - Provide all relevant staff with access to required data, most likely in report form

# Tier 1a (MT 2005)

- Undergraduate Admissions (for 2006)
- Statutory Returns
- Register Students
- Manage Progression and Change
- Reporting
- Fee Collection

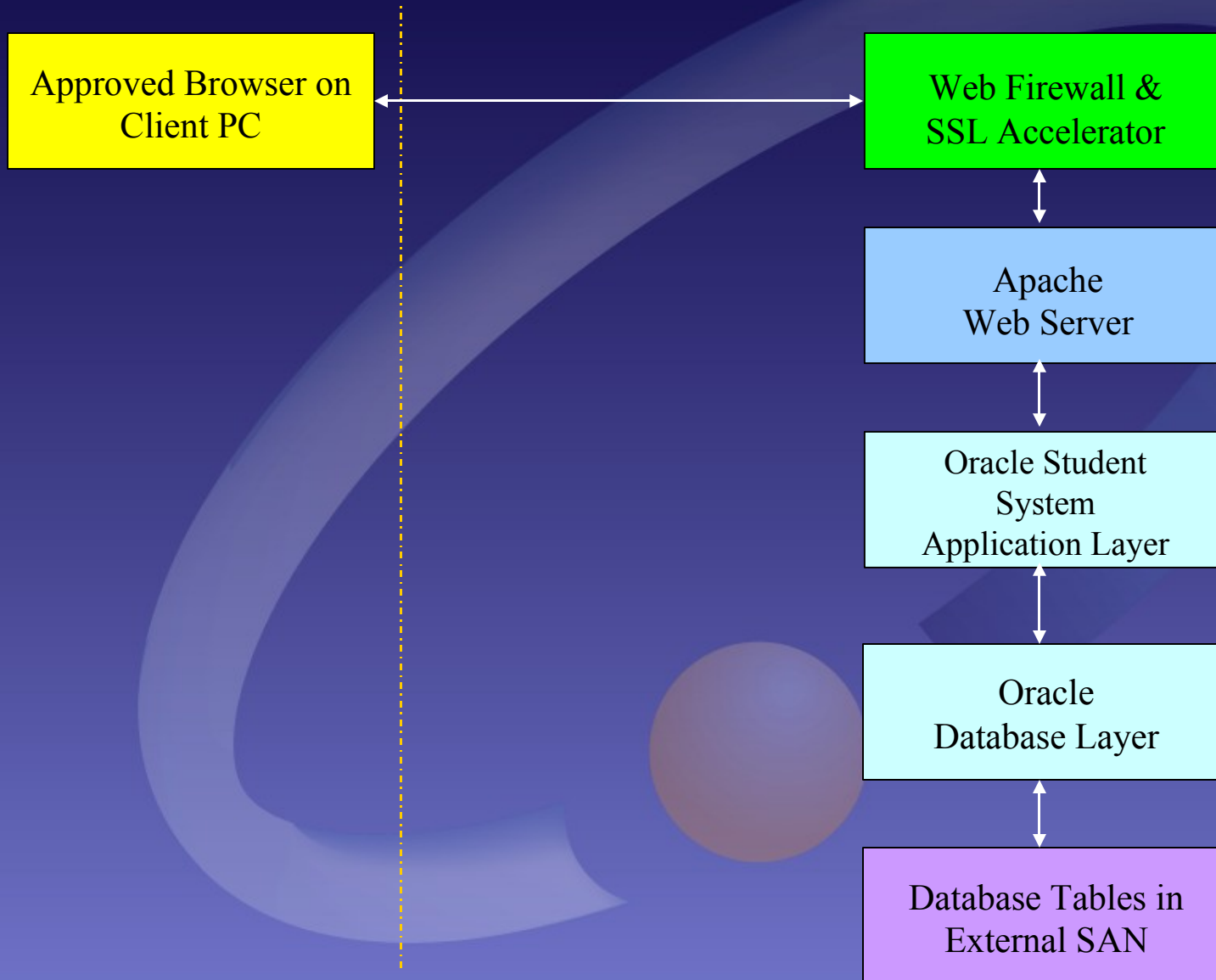
# Tier 1b

- Exams and Assessment (Mid Jan 2006)
- Exam Scheduling using Facility CMIS (End Jan 2006)
- Post Programme Activities (End Mar 2006)
  - Transcript
  - Degree Certificate Printing
- Associated reporting

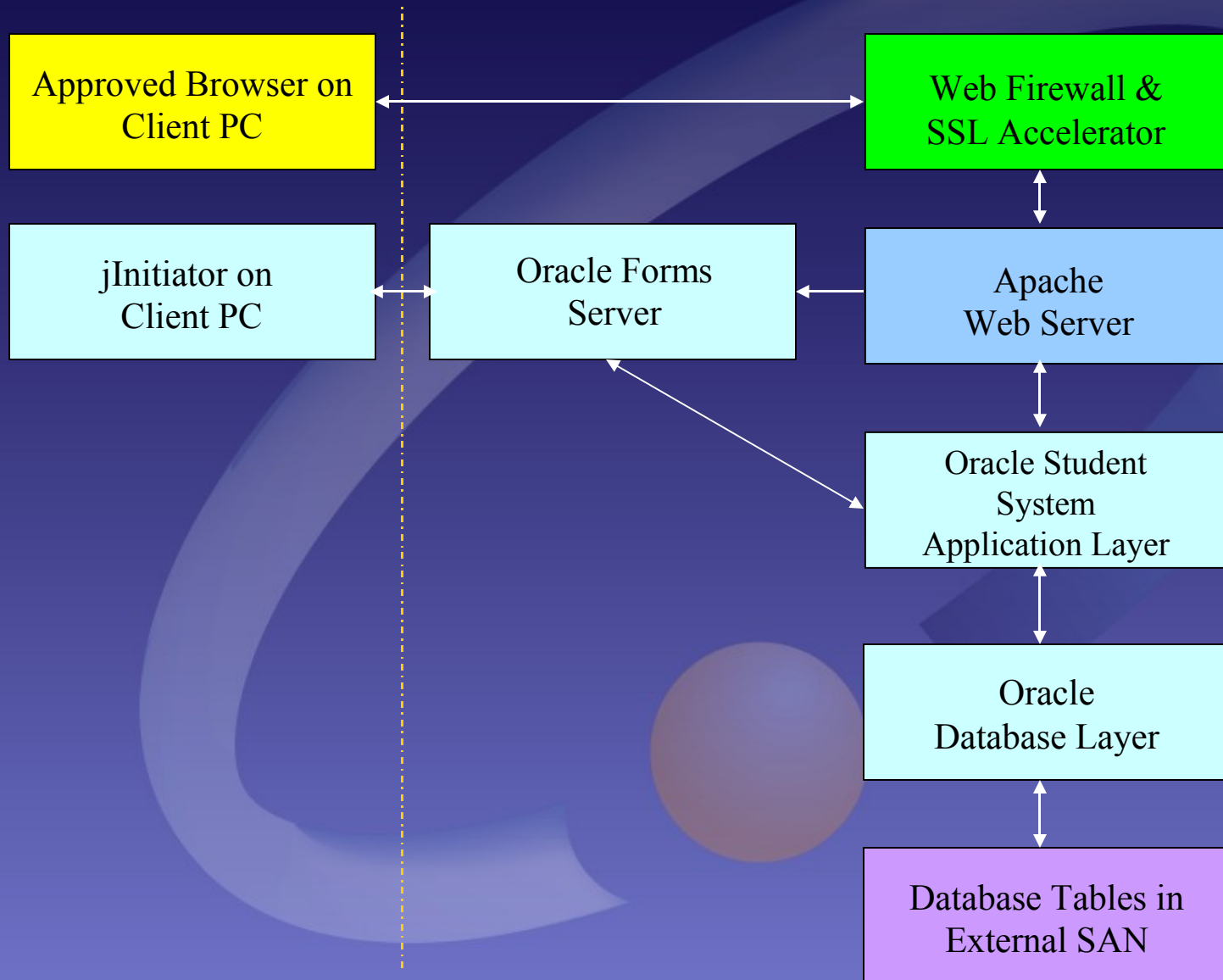
# Tier 2 (MT 2006)

- Review implemented processes and procedures
- Devolve updated access to OSS to all relevant staff in Divisions and Colleges

# System Overview - General



# System for Heavy Users

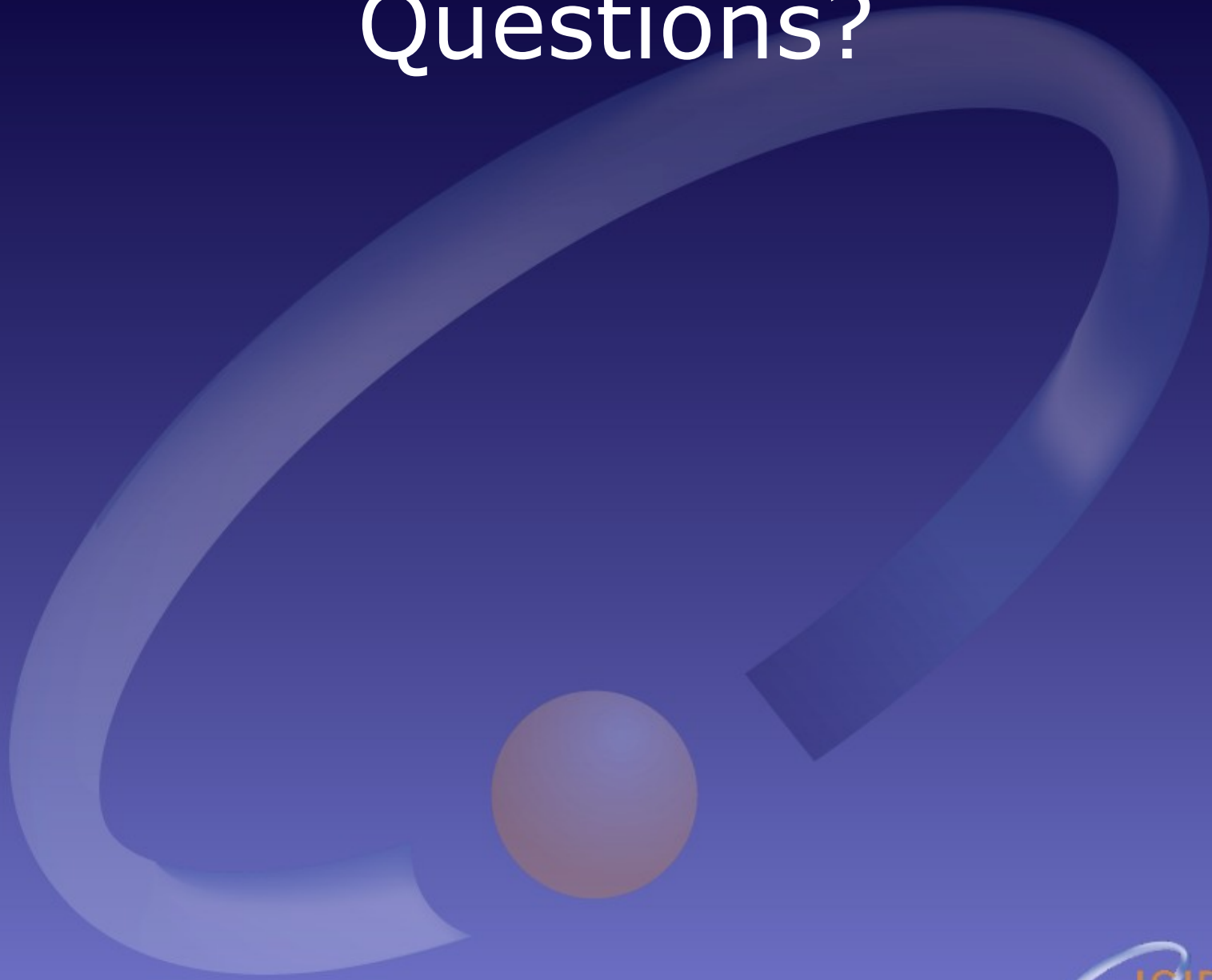


# When will it Affect IT Staff

- Until Tier 2 is about to go live there will be little impact upon local IT staff other than:
  - Some work to incorporate centrally produced data, obtained from secure reports
  - Attending Communication sessions for IT staff to be briefed
- Prior to Tier 2 roll out ready for MT 2006, it will be necessary to set up staff with Oracle jInitiator plug in and to ensure that their machine can auto launch PDF reports [The same requirements as for Phase 1, but on a larger scale]



# Questions?



For further information please  
visit the project website:

[www.admin.ox.ac.uk/isidore](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/isidore)

Or email: [isidore@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:isidore@admin.ox.ac.uk)