ICTF – OUCS Report Hilary Term 2012

ICT Central Coordination Project (ICCP)

The project to merge OUCS, BSP and ICTST has completed its first phase, defining the functional groupings required for the new IT department. Professor Anne Trefthen (OeRC) has been appointed the CIO and started on 1/3/12. Phase 2 of the project is now underway. Further information about the project from http://www.iccp.ox.ac.uk/.

University Shared Data Centre (USDC)

The USDC has now announced its pricing structure. For information see - http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/sis/.

Nexus Exchange 2010 upgrade

The Nexus email service is in the process of being upgraded to Microsoft Exchange 2010 during Hilary Term. Main Upgrades start 5 March. Should be finished (bar stragglers) 30 March. We would like to thank all the local IT Staff for their support in this.

Rate Limiting

Due to the need to guard against excessive adverse effects of spam mailings over the vacation, OUCS introduced some rate limiting processes. This has proved very successful and we now will be keeping these in place (with a slight relaxation). We urge anyone who wishes to do large scale mailings, as always, to use the OUCS maillist facility.

Email & Phishing

As everyone is all too well aware we have had a number of problems caused by phished accounts leading to University email being blocked by Hotmail in particular. Given the very low number of users actually phished we are clearly winning the 'education war'. So (a) thank you to all IT staff for doing such a good job & (b) please keep on with your excellent work.

Enhanced Authentication Project

The Enhanced Authentication Project, working in collaboration with Student Administration, has integrated an additional authentication factor (or 'additional verification') with the single sign-on service provided by OUCS (currently using a one-time code sent via SMS). The project is currently being piloted by five departments for use with WebLearn. An outline of the service is available at http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/services/iam/ (and then click sms -- silly wiki).

Research Skills Toolkit

The Research Skills Toolkit combines workshops and online resource to support students (and staff) in using online tools to support all parts of the research process. The Toolkit has been developed by OUCS in partnership with Bodleian Libraries, Careers Service and academic divisions or faculties. Further details, including access to the Toolkit itself, from http://www.skillstoolkit.ox.ac.uk/.

New WebLearn Guidance Site

2012 sees the introduction of a brand new look for the WebLearn Guidance Site. https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/hierarchy/info We have tried to make the site easier to navigate and also make it look more visually appealing. It should be easier to find what you are looking for as the front page contains links to all sections laid out in a clear and concise manner.

Energy Efficiency and Monitoring Service

The new Energy Efficiency and Monitoring service is currently being piloted with a number of colleges or departments in the University, The service offers the ability to switch on a computer remotely ("wake-on-LAN") and power management monitoring. The service is due to be rolled out more widely by Trinity Term and an outline of what's required (for ITSS) is available at http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/services/eem/.

Backbone Refresh

We have to upgrade all the chassis for all the backbone routers as Cisco will not support the equipment housed in the chassis's after October 2012. Each chassis replacement will take 2-3 hours. While the upgrade of the B-routers should not affect users, the upgrade of the C-routers will affect everyone connected to that C-router in particular. Essentially it means that the buildings' connection to the Backbone will be down for the duration of the work, along with any annexe connections which route back through the affected building. We are currently planning to do this work in the Easter and Summer vacations, with consultation, to minimise the impact of this work.

Core User Directory Affiliations Manager

The Core User Directory (CUD) implementation project has developed an Affiliations Manager for capturing and making available to registered users information about people affiliated to colleges or departments that otherwise would not be available via, for example, the HR or student systems. Further information at http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/services/iam/am.xml.

VIDaaS Online Research Database Service and Damaro

The Virtual Infrastructure with Database as a Service (VIDaaS) project, funded by JISC, ends on 31 March 2012. A parallel activity is scoping the implementation of an

online research database service for Oxford, to be available in Trinity Term 2012.
Further information about the project, including deliverables, at:
http://vidaas.oucs.ox.ac.uk/. The Data Management Rollout at Oxford (DaMaRO)
Project is a follow-on project from VIDaas which is further developing a research
data management policy for the University and the infrastructure to enable
researchers to comply with it (including integration between the Bodleian Libraries'
DataFinder service, the OUCS Online Research Database service, and the Oxford
University Research Archive (ORA). Further information at
http://damaro.oucs.ox.ac.uk/.

VoIP

Consultants are being engaged in order to draw up a business plan for the costs of a
full rollout of VoIP across the University. They will be talking to Colleges and
Divisions to gain a clear view of what is required.

IT, Impact, and Public/Business Engagement - A Brief Guide

As the REF is now starting again it would be an opportune moment to highlight the
OUCS guide on IT Impact and Engagement. The document is available from the OUCS
website at: http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/publicity/leaflets-guides/impactguide.xml

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