

ICTF – OUCS Report Trinity Term 2012

ICT Central Coordination Project (ICCP)

The project to merge OUCS, BSP and ICTST has completed its first phase, considering the functions of the new IT department. The new department will be called IT Services and Phase 2 of the project is now underway. Staff have been briefed about the change process and given an overview of the top level structure of the new department. BSP, OUCS and ICTST will all cease to “trade” as their current forms on 1st August 2012 and will all be referred to as “IT Services”. There will be a new website as an umbrella for all activities and a full website for the new department in the next 6-12 months.

Interactions with IT Services for ITSS will initially be the same as they are now and the 1st August will see a very soft launch. The process of merge and integration will take many months and changes that ITSS need to be aware of will be planned and announced in plenty of time. 1st August should be seen as the start of the changes, not the end.

Further information about the project is available 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 upgrade to Microsoft Exchange 2010 during Hilary Term has completed successfully. We would like to thank all the local IT Staff for their support in this.

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 Chassis refresh

The chassis of our backbone routers, which have recently celebrated their 10th birthday, are shortly being withdrawn from support by Cisco. As these are a key part of the University network, we need to get these replaced before their EOL date at the end of this year. Unfortunately this process will necessitate a period of downtime to every connected network, so we are planning to perform this work over the summer vacation 2012, during the scheduled Tuesday morning maintenance windows, commencing at 0700. We envisage that each router and its associated connections will be down for up to 4 hours on the allocated day. There is full information about this and the timetable of work (covering 26 June to 11 September) at <https://wiki.oucs.ox.ac.uk/itss/BackboneChassisReplacement2012>

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>.

Telecoms review

Consultants are being used to survey and assess the current Oxford University Telecoms provision and to draw up recommendations and a business plan for the costs of a full telecoms refresh for the University. 8 focus groups have been held with ITSS and other staff and the report and recommendations are getting towards the final stages of preparation.

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>