What is Falcon? Websites made easy

Many groups and departments around the University need to create websites that they can readily maintain without a great deal of special expertise. The Falcon content management service is designed to provide for this need; the University Computing Service provides all system and software administration so that the owner can focus on the content.

A web site produced using Falcon follows the University’s recommended web templates, whilst allowing individual flexibility in colour schemes, logo, navigational choices, and so on. Falcon allows easy production and editing of web content, including images, through a web browser interface.

Falcon is currently used for over 60 public websites for research groups, departments, inter-disciplinary research initiatives and conferences.

Features

- Template-based customisation in standard University styles
- Library of components, including staff directories, news and events, jobs listings, messageboards
- User authentication, both Cambridge-only and globally using the industry-standard Shibboleth protocol
- Consultancy, help site, basic and advanced training for site managers

http://www.ucs.cam.ac.uk/falcon
Managing a Falcon site

Sites are created and hosted by the Computing Service and the site content is then managed by local site administrators and members to whom they give access. The service is expected to be most useful to groups or departments who have straightforward requirements, and experience has shown that non-technical site administrators have been able to set up sites without problems.

After a certain amount of start-up help, further assistance to departments is available at consultancy rates (www.cam.ac.uk/cs/consultancy-rate.html). A general training course is offered once a month and more detailed single-topic courses are also provided. A help website is available at falcon-help.csx.cam.ac.uk.

To apply for a Falcon site see falcon-help.csx.cam.ac.uk/site-setup/request.

Charging

Falcon is a charged service; the current rate is £100/year plus VAT where applicable.

Further Information

Email: falcon-support@ucs.cam.ac.uk
Web: http://www.ucs.cam.ac.uk/falcon

University Search: Falcon

Related web services from the UCS

Managed Web Service – Apache, PHP and MySQL
Managed Wiki Service – collaborative websites, often used to share knowledge and information in a group
Streaming Media Service – multimedia content on the web

Managed services for institutions

Calendar – Google calendar with Raven authentication and calendars of University dates
Desktop – central filestore, managed print, application delivery, personal and group web pages
Directory – web- and email-based online directory with delegated management of content
Email – spam and virus filtering, managed mail domains, institutional mailing lists
Hosting – networked rackspace in a secure environment with redundant power, cooling, fire suppression
Consultancy and support – reviews and strategic advice, recruitment, induction and appraisal of staff, institution support service
Network – end-to-end network connectivity: IPv4, IPv6 or raw fibre, installation services, wireless, DNS
Search – institutional control of quicklinks and filtered searches, for web and directory searching
Telephony – VoIP telephony with institutional call-logging and billing access
Training Facilities – training booking system for any course provider, bookable facilities, customised training courses
Video – recording, encoding, storing and streaming institutional video content
Videoconferencing – fully equipped central facility, equipment hire, consultancy on institutional facilities
Web – hosted web servers, Wikis and content management system

General contact for managed services: UCS Institution Liaison office
Phone: 34720/48477
Email: institution-liaison@ucs.cam.ac.uk
Web: http://www.ucs.cam.ac.uk/linkpages/managed

A configured Falcon site

A staff directory in use

Managed services for institutions