

Computing Service News July 10

<http://ucsnews.csx.cam.ac.uk/>

HEADLINES HEADLINES HEADLINES HEADLINE

The Green Computing Service

In common with the rest of the University, the Computing Service has been engaging with green issues, and seeking both to reduce its own carbon footprint and to contribute to the carbon-reduction efforts of the rest of the University.

Videoconferencing



A primary element in the Computing Service's contribution to carbon-saving is the videoconferencing service. This came strikingly into its own during the volcanic ash crisis, but the increase in bookings has been maintained, as users across the University became aware of the savings in money, time and carbon footprint that can be achieved. The service is used for vivas and interviews, research group meetings, distance-learning and presentation to remote conferences.

The service has just been extensively upgraded, offering full high-definition service and new state-of-the-art

"my sincere thanks for your efforts in making the videoconference with the US such a success yesterday."

features. As well as full-feature videoconferencing with others who have full studio facilities, we also offer studio-based webcam solutions (Skype, Webex, etc.) to enable videoconferencing with people who only have access to home computer videoconferencing technology.

"so professionally handled"

Supporting projects are providing showcasing for some of the latest webconferencing solutions including the Polycom Roundtable



We are also piloting a number of web collaboration tools, with a view to investigating potential for the delivery of a University-wide web collaboration tool early in 2011.

For further details, contact the videoconferencing team on (01223 3) 35477 or videoconf@ucs.cam.ac.uk or see our website at: www-tus.csx.cam.ac.uk/videoconf

Virtualisation

Another substantial contribution to increasing energy efficiency is represented by server virtualisation, well advanced in our systems, whereby services can be efficiently run with fewer machines, and consequently lower demands for power.

Power saving

To help Departments save electricity, we have recently introduced a power-saving scheme for PWF rooms, allowing flexible and detailed control by local IT staff of the timing of automated switch-off of idle machines.

Managed hosting

A fourth strand, the managed hosting service, allows University groups and institutions to host their services, or their backup services, in our machine rooms, thereby potentially saving requirements for air-conditioning and other environmental services in rooms scattered across the University.

Intelligent metering

The UCS has been collaborating with EMBS in the investigation of networked intelligent metering systems, enabling institutions to monitor power consumption in much more detail and identify the most crucial areas for possible savings.



Desktop Videoconferencing



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A roundup of the last quarter's news can be found at

<http://www.cam.ac.uk/cs/news/newsroundups/roundupjuly2010.html>

Hot Topics

- Deadline for updating Lookup for the printed telephone directory: September 17th
- Important information for existing users of the cam.ac.uk Google Apps domain
- New web-based discussion forum
- Videoconferencing service goes High-Definition
- Computing Service internal re-organisation
- Falcon content management service

Other News

- Upgrade to the Balfour Macintosh room
- Bulk purchase of desktop PCs
- Closure of the University's Usenet news server
- Server Certificate Service developments - Thawte and JANET certificates
- CS Hardware Support and Printers
- Magpie closure: reminder
- Closure of the PWF Conductor service

Features and Reports

- Reminder: cancellation of student accounts
- The University Computing Service hosted server service
- PWF software upgrades
- Eduroam: reminder for those attending conferences this summer
- University web accessibility policy revision

Contact List

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The logo for the University Computing Service (UCS) consists of the letters 'UCS' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letters are slightly shadowed, giving them a three-dimensional appearance as if they are floating above a surface.