

Computing Service News Oct 10

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

HEADLINES HEADLINES HEADLINES HEADLINE

Websites made easy: the Falcon content management service

Many groups and Departments around the University need to create websites that they can readily maintain without a great deal of special expertise, and that conform in some degree to the recommended University templates. The Falcon content management service is designed to provide for this need.

"could easily create all items necessary (job advertisements, news, events etc) due to the ready-to-use building blocks"

A web site produced using Falcon follows the University web templates, and allows easy production and editing of ordinary web content, including images, through a web browser interface. In addition Falcon has built-in functionality to provide the site administrators with the following features:

- selected customization (colour schemes, variations of navigation, Google analytics)
- easy addition of rss feeds, quicklinks, announcements etc. to pages
- management of news, events and jobs listings (that create rss feeds)
- a staff/people directory to link individuals with research themes or

groups, departments, committees etc.

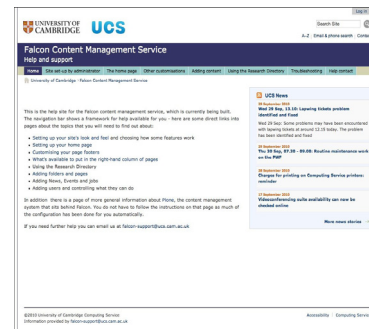
- a messageboard
- easy building of forms
- management of metadata for individual pages

All Falcon sites have in-built Raven-Shibboleth authentication so they can be managed and edited cross-institutionally. The service is expected to be most useful to groups or small and medium-sized departments who have straightforward requirements, and experience has shown that non-technical site administrators have been able to set up sites without problems.

Sites are initiated and hosted by the Computing Service and thereafter managed by local site administrators and members to whom they wish to give access. A help site is available as is training for site administrators and managers.

Falcon became available for pilot sites in the spring and in July sites began going live. We are now running five live sites (one of which is Cambridge-only) with several more sites under development. Groups and Departments are charged £100 per year for the Falcon service, payable when the Falcon site is made live and annually afterwards on the same date.

After a certain amount of start-up help, further assistance to departments is



available at consultancy rates (see <http://www.cam.ac.uk/cs/consultancy-rate.html>) providing staff are available.

Groups or Departments interested in Falcon should contact Helen Sargan (hvs1001@cam.ac.uk).

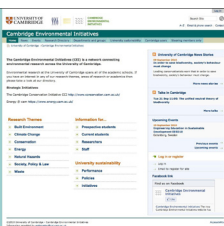
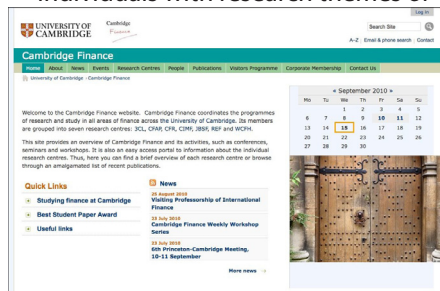
"An absolute bargain - if you want a relatively straightforward and extremely low maintenance option for your website, I recommend you try this"

Discussion forums for the University

Last June the UCS launched a new web-based discussion forum at <http://forum.cam.ac.uk/>. It is straightforward to use and open to any member of the University.

Individual forums are currently in active use for discussion of University governance and related topics, and also for job advertisements, items (computer-related or other) wanted and for sale, and so on. Additional forums can be set up on request, for departments, colleges, research groups, or registered societies.

Requests for additional forums should be emailed to help-desk@ucs.cam.ac.uk



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE



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

www.cam.ac.uk/cs/news/newsroundups/roundupoctober2010.html

Hot Topics

- SMS serves millions
- University Training Booking System
- Discussion forums for the University: reminder
- Google Apps @ Cambridge
- Exhibition - Ceremonial Cambridge

Other News

- UCS Training Programme for the academic year 2010-2011 now online
- DS Repair service
- Charges for printing on Computing Service printers
- Videoconferencing special offer
- Videoconferencing suite availability can now be checked online
- Changeover to new Voicemail system

Features and Reports

- Websites made easy: the Falcon content management service
- Trouble with accents?
- Magpie closure
- End of mail and web forwarding from the Central Unix Service

Contact List

University of Cambridge
Computing Service
New Museums Site
Pembroke Street
Cambridge CB2 3QH

Director: Dr I.J. Lewis
Email: reception@ucs.cam.ac.uk
Phone: 01223 334600
Fax: 01223 334679
Help Desk: helpdesk@ucs.cam.ac.uk
or 01223 334681

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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 light blue surface.