

Strategic Developments

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&

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Enabling Oxford University to make optimal use of IT

- Information Technology governance?
- IT funding?
- IT delivery?

Answer:

Strategic Developments with direct relevance to OUCS

Dear OUCS,

- The University has approved the ICT Strategic Plan as a working document and endorsed its underlying principles. This term sees the start of the implementation of the University's ICT Strategy, including a new PRAC ICT Subcommittee (see <http://www.ox.ac.uk/gazette/2007-8/weekly/111007/acts.htm>). This is an important time for all of us, and particularly for OUCS which will continue to play a major role as the University's main ICT service provider. Some significant changes affecting OUCS are already taking place.

- The new post of Director of ICT has been created. In August, I was asked to interview for this new position, which has overall responsibility for strategic decisions concerning ICT across the collegiate University. I am happy to say that I am now confirmed in that post.

- **It is essential that OUCS, as the main ICT service provider, continues to have strong and independent leadership which is responsible for both strategic and operations management. To ensure that this is so, a new post: 'Director of Computing Systems and Support, OUCS', will be recruited; to whom existing senior managers within OUCS will report.**

- The new post will be advertised internally within the University, later this week. We intend to interview in late November (details will be available on the OUCS web site).
- These are exciting and challenging times for us all. I think that the new structures offer ...

OUCS a unique opportunity to play a key role in the evolution towards a joined-up ICT infrastructure across the collegiate university.

I look forward to working with you in achieving that vision.

Yours, Paul

- PICT met for first time 12 November 2007
- Chaired by Ewan McKendrick
- OUCS represented by Stuart, PWJ CEO
- Agenda of first meeting:
 - Membership and ToR
 - ICT Strategy
 - SLDs for OUCS and SFWG
 - Review of Internal Auditor's reports
 - Three year capital plan for IT expenditure
- Future Meetings – cover discussions on next slides...

- **OUCS Impact:**

Opportunity to interface directly with collegiate University, receive endorsement for ambitions, plan for capital expenditure, *have direct reporting line to PRAC, have forum for addressing strategic issues across the University*

- **Consequence of ability to coordinate IT across collegiate University is - can plan for, and receive, capital expenditure**
- **Benefit of *position* of Director of IT**
- **Invited to submit 3 year capital IT plan**
- **Top four items:**
 - **Wireless roll-out across collegiate University**
 - **University Machine Room**
 - **Groupware Solution**
 - **Enhancement of network infrastructure**

- Based on ICT Strategic Plan, and PICT
- Expectation that funds will be forthcoming within a “capital envelope”
- **OUCS Impact:**
For the first time, ability to forward plan capital projects, receive suitable investment, be heard at the right levels

- Idea promoted in ICT Strategic Plan
- £25k allocated by ASUC for feasibility study
 - Hurleypalmerflatt consultants engaged
 - OUCS represented by Roger, Mike F, Dave R and PWJ
 - Collected space/power requirements from across the University
 - Area required c. 500m² - initially
 - Location - Osney?

- Output of feasibility exercise to be fed into Business Plan for Capital Bid
- Then considered by PICT
- **OUCS Impact: Opportunity to be responsible for new service, to offer resilience for our services and others' services, to update our own machine room in parallel**

- **Idea promoted in ICT Strategic Plan**
- **Created Panel to specify User Requirements**
 - **OUCS represented by Sebastian, Dave R, Wylie, Tony B, Mark N, and Andrew H**
 - **Intention very specifically:- to scope the project and collect user requirements**
 - **8 essential components identified**
 - **Provides input into IT Capital Plan**
 - **Forms the basis of a following exercise to define technical requirements and undertake a tendering exercise**

- OUCS in process of defining timetable from after requirements exercise up to implementation
- **OUCS Impact:**
OUCS given authority to manage selection of, and implement, solution for the collegiate University

- **Idea promoted in ICT Strategic Plan**
- **Key responsibility held by OUCS (Beth et al.)**
- **Intention - to create single Core User Directory**
- **Difference: Council GPC has agreed that this will be used by the Collegiate University**
- **Single identity reference for all applications**

- **Created CUD Working Party**
 - OUCS represented by Mike (chair), Beth, Adrian P, Lyn W, Ray M and PWJ
 - Project Profile created by Mike, Tom Payne and PWJ
 - Close collaboration with BSP
- **OUCS Impact:**

Opportunity to bring coherence to way identity is managed across services offered by OUCS, and to exploit our considerable expertise in this area

- **Suggestion from PVC (Research and ASUC) that new chapter for IT should be marked in a way which is obvious to users**
- **Best idea: roll-out of wireless to public spaces**
- **Idea promoted in ICT Strategic Plan**

- Matched well with wish to build closer relations between University and CISCO
 - VC and Dev Off met John Chambers in March 2007
 - Contacted to explore future possibilities
 - Encouraging meeting in December (Scott Gardner; Roger and PWJ)
 - Agreed: Plan 2-3 year project, Framework Contract, MoU
 - Sue Fellner engaged
- OUCS Impact:

Opportunity to improve relationship for benefit of University, gain CISCO's support (cf IP telephony press release from Cambridge) and receive investment (for wireless roll-out)

- Various developments reported...
- Documents referenced throughout presentation...
- Miranda responsible for ODIT communication
- New ODIT website
 - Masterminded by Miranda – thanks to Ian for support
 - <http://www.ict.ox.ac.uk/odit/>
 - Released on Monday
 - Also working (with Sebastian and Ian) to coordinate and improve routing of users to IT information on University web
- Newsletter and blog

Conclusions



- **Interesting time for IT in the University**
- **Time of great opportunity for OUCS**
- **Feedback very welcome - see enquiries@odit.ox.ac.uk or web site**