

Strategic Developments

OUCS Head of Department
Paul Jeffreys
Director of IT

Staff Event
15 January 2009



Two themes to the presentation in terms of *Strategic Developments*



My role as Head of Department for OUCS:-

- ◆ “Restructuring OUCS following *changes resulting from ICT Strategic Plan and SFWG report*
- ◆ Deal with high-level complaints
- ◆ Relationship with central ICT service providers
- ◆ *Final oversight of major projects and ‘chair project boards’”*



My role as Head of Department for OUCS:-

- ◆ “Ultimate point of decision making and responsibility (includes merit awards and promotions)
- ◆ Initiate cross-departmental activities
- ◆ *Plan, seek and gain capital investment*”
- ◆ *Significant part -> Strategic Development*



Superb set of projects in 2008

- ◆ What is the difference now?
 - ◆ Establish priorities from University
 - ◆ No longer one-off requests, but coherence
 - ◆ Get endorsement from University for bidding for new services
 - ◆ Confirmed funding pot available
 - ◆ Understanding that investment essential
 - ◆ Ability to build project plans collaboratively

- ◆ -> Review our portfolio of projects



OUCS Externally Funded Projects (2008-)

Project	Sponsor	Start	End	Award
Transition Costs AHDS	AHDS	Apr-08	Mar-09	£21k
Embed ICT Methods	AHRC	Apr-08	Sep-08	£7k
Capital Equipment	AHRC	Jul-08	Dec-08	£25k
Preparing DARIAH	EC	Sep-08	Mar-09	£30k
Common Language	EC	Jan-08	Dec-10	£190k
First WW Poetry Archive	JISC	Oct-08	Sep-09	£193k
Streamlining Delivery	JISC	Sep-08	Feb-10	£407k
eResources Easily	JISC	Sep-08	Feb-10	£392k

Also: From before 2008: Thema + Low Carbon ICT + eIUS + ENRICH

And: OUCS part of projects led by other departments



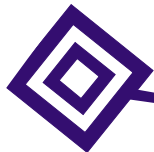
What's new? - PRAC ICT sub committee

- ◆ *OUCS Impact: Opportunity to interface directly with collegiate University, receive endorsement for ambitions, plan for capital expenditure*
- ◆ PICT proving to be effective for OUCS
- ◆ OUCS Management Committee created; reports to PICT
- ◆ Serves as single point for IT strategy/direction
- ◆ In particular, offers opportunity for IT capital investment and coordination
- ◆ Has Capital Planning Sub-group



Annual IT Capital Allocation

- ◆ *OUCS Impact: For the first time, ability to forward plan capital projects and receive suitable investment*
- ◆ University agreed: annual allocation of £1.5m for capital investment in IT into 'IT Capital Envelope' – for 6 years
- ◆ Transformed OUCS's ability to undertake Capital projects
 - ◆ -> Increased our role in the University
 - ◆ Improved ability to meet needs of users
 - ◆ Brought (degree of) rationality to our operations
 - ◆ Transformed quality of service we offer – resilience
- ◆ 'Point of transition'



Capital Envelope Investment – 2008 Snapshot

- ◆ HFS: £385k
- ◆ Groupware(*): £1421k
- ◆ Wireless roll-out(*): £553k
- ◆ Network Enhancement: £674k

- ◆ Allocation for rest of 2008/9: c.£400k
 - ◆ OUCS made request for £147k for *essentials*
 - ◆ Likely to make additional bids this year
 - ◆ Transformed 2008, will transform OUCS's future...
- ◆ PICT CPG – 4 top priorities....

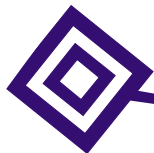


Other OUCS Strategic Developments

◆ Not funded via ICT Capital Envelope:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| ◆ Central Machine Room(*) and OUCS MR Refurbishment | £5200k+
£110k + £1000k? |
| ◆ Estates | |
| ◆ Data Digital Repository(*) | £61k+£25k |
| ◆ JFF -> JISC and UKRDS | |
| ◆ Core User Directory(*) | <£118k |
| ◆ Council GPC via UAS | |
| ◆ Conditions of Use/IT Policy(*) | post?? |
| ◆ Transfer of post?? | |

(*) Enabled by post-ICT Strategy world...



Groupware *Project*

- ◆ *OUCS Impact: OUCS given authority to choose and implement a solution for the collegiate University*
- ◆ Well nearly right!
 - ◆ ‘Now an OUCS Project’
 - ◆ Extensive requirements gathering (6 months)
 - ◆ University chose MOSS solution in July
- ◆ Groupware Project Launch by VC – 15 October
- ◆ Project handed over to us in November
 - ◆ OUCS has prepared precise specification
 - ◆ Our number one priority
- ◆ Without doubt – change our role, standing, future



Groupware *Programme*

- ◆ Groupware Project is just the start... !
 - ◆ Groupware Project Specification does not (cannot) satisfy all University's requirements
 - ◆ In particular, SharePoint – just scratching the surface
 - ◆ We know that users want more than we can offer
 - ◆ Installing platform with wonderful capabilities...
- ◆ Can do much more than offer superb email, calendar and document sharing
- ◆ Interest from Microsoft, CISCO, IBM...
- ◆ Create Groupware Development Panel
 - ◆ Revolutionize Oxford's online environment



Central and OUCS Machine Room

- ◇ *OUCS Impact: Opportunity to be responsible for new service, to provide resilience, to update our own machine room in parallel*
- ◇ Bid asked for both rooms in tandem
 - ◇ Resilience offered through two modern installations
- ◇ Very keen to have solution for Groupware Project
- ◇ CMR: Osney -> Begbroke -> OMPI
 - ◇ From 2011 – Begbroke rental in mean time
 - ◇ Splendid location; extremely high University priority
- ◇ Will set a standard for the University – low carbon
- ◇ OUCS Machine Room – feasibility/design study



Core User Directory

- ◆ *OUCS Impact: Opportunity to bring coherence to way “identity” is managed across services offered by OUCS and to exploit our considerable expertise*
- ◆ Correct in spirit at least..
- ◆ Single, central directory for users, which specifies attributes of all people that have relationship
- ◆ Recognised from start – realistic first goal
- ◆ Significant progress in 2008: need for CUD accepted
- ◆ Understand much better what is needed
 - ◆ Identity and Access
 - ◆ Crucial piece in jig-saw for future services offered by OUCS



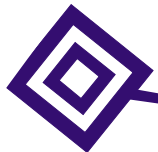
Oxford Digital Repository

- ◆ Development since last staff meeting
- ◆ Key strategic challenge facing universities
 - ◆ How do we manage our research data output?
 - ◆ Likely to be an issue for the new VC
- ◆ Driven by OUCS, collaboration OeRC/OULS
- ◆ Digital Repositories Research Coordinator established the requirements
 - ◆ Now time for OUCS to deliver a service
 - ◆ JISC bid, UK Research Data Service (Pathfinder)
- ◆ Likely to be key OUCS role in the future



Conditions of Use (1)

- ◆ Another development since last staff meeting
- ◆ Arose from ICT Strategic Plan
 - ◆ supported by Auditors
- ◆ Two reports dating from 2007
 - ◆ *ICT Fitness for Purpose*
 - ◆ *ICT Systems Security Review*
 - ◆ Intended initially to cover entire collegiate University
- ◆ We realised this did not work
- ◆ Submitted our own paper in parallel to address the devolved nature of IT in Oxford



Conditions of Use (2)

- ◆ In essence:
 - ◆ OUCS is trying to accrue the benefits of a tightly focused centrally led system, while keeping all the advantages of the federated ICT structure
- ◆ Profound thanks, and acknowledgement, to Alan Gay:
 - ◆ Conditions for Connection to the Centrally Provided IT Infrastructure
 - ◆ Policy on Security of Information
- ◆ Closely connected with work of ITS3, and ICTF
- ◆ Evolving relationship OUCS/local IT staff



Summary

- ◆ Presentations show that another great year for OUCS, and, exciting future ahead
- ◆ We are moving forward, able to gain investment in our services, improve resilience -> evolving the type of service we offer and the relationship with users
- ◆ We may look back on 2008, and Groupware Project in particular, as a point of transition
- ◆ Of course, we have to deliver...
- ◆ But in these credit crunch times, I believe we can be confident that we have a bright and secure future



... and the two themes within the presentation were

1. Post-ICT Strategy we have the ability to get capital investment in order to deliver new services, make our services resilient and modern
2. This in turn enables us to evolve our role, deliver different types of services, build different relationships with users, and local IT staff



Thanks

- ◆ Like to end by offering my thanks:-
 - ◆ Stuart
 - ◆ All the speakers for a splendid morning
 - ◆ Everyone for an excellent 2008, and our being able to look forward to 2009 with anticipation and expectation



I can't work
today...
something
has crashed
on my
computer and
the mouse is
missing. . .

