Computer Laboratory IT Strategy Group

Chairman: Anuj Dawar
Secretary: Graham Titmus

Minutes of the meeting on November 13th 2008 in the William Gates Building


1. Apologies for absence
   Lise Gough

2. Group Membership
   Laurel Riek and Steven Murdoch were welcomed as the new RA and RS representatives.

3. Minutes
   Item 8 of the previous minutes should be amended to note that the parts of the web site relating to teaching are actively maintained.

4. Actions arising
   Seeking input for needs by research groups should be publicised. AD

5. Cockroft 4 and teaching support
   Additional machines had been requested in the PWF cluster in this site to support the teaching of the new Java course. The machines had been purchased. The existing 20 machines will probably need replacing next year. The continued need for this cluster and for the room should be raised with the teaching committee. AD

6. Review of standard machine provision for research students
   It was agreed to permit students to request a Apple workstation in place of the standard PC hardware provided this could be achieved in a cost-neutral way. MAJ

7. Machine room refurbishment
   A funding request is in place in the School of Technology’s bid for CIF funds. This would be used to do power work and to replace the existing racks which are not capable of holding new servers. In addition some money will need to be spent on extra cooling capacity. This is all in addition to the minor alterations to SE18 which are currently being undertaken.

8. Network Maintenance in the presence of VoIP
   It was agreed that notwithstanding the addition of the telephone infrastructure to the network the current practice of scheduling network maintenance should continue and that there would be no dedicated periods but that work would be done as at present with notification being given of an outage and objections being sought.

9. Energy saving measures
   A move to permit the remote wakeup of machines should be implemented when possible. For any energy saving activity a measurement strategy should go hand in hand with the implementation. MAJ

10. Hartley Review
    A paper by AD summarising the implementation of the report was received. It was agreed to set up a working group to pursue the remaining recommendations relating to organisation, management and staffing and to support for the administration group. AD
11. AOB
   The use of the Streaming Media Server to host our online video content was suggested. The provision of equipment for the MPhil was raised and needs clarifying with the committee in charge of the course. AD

12. Date of next meeting
    12th February 2009 at 3.30pm