Minutes of the IT Advisory Committee  
16th February 2012

Present: David Greaves (chairman), Martyn Johnson, Markus Kuhn, Ian Lewis, Andrew Moore, Steven Murdoch, Dinah Pounds, Peter Sewell, Lech Swirski, Graham Titmus (secretary).

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

Matters arising.

1.1 MCS filer performance – is no longer believed to be a problem.
1.2 IT Strategy committee had met and it was noted that planning is taking place to enable a network upgrade to be undertaken in a 2-3 year timeframe.
1.3 CO activity profile – no work had been done on this, scoping of the task was an issue and it was decided to look at the RT system to see if any useful data could be gleaned from it. Markus was to be given read access. [Action GT]

2. Reports of Working Parties

2.1 VPN – work undertaken since last time was to conduct a brief survey of uses to ensure that the facility was still of value to the department. The UCS had been approached to see if they would be able to provide a facility using their VPN equipment to provide a link directly onto a CL managed VLAN. If that is possible then a check will need to be made on client capabilities. Alternative solutions may exist for many uses and these need to be better publicised.
2.2 Filer – a paper (https://wiki.cam.ac.uk/cl-sys-admin/Filer_review) had been produced just before the meeting and this was discussed. Some changes that could be made readily were identified but in the main the issues of expecting a shared resource to meet the individual needs of a wide use pattern were noted. Issues of naming differences between Windows and Unix were noted as a cause of difficulty in communication between Administrative and Research staff. Was of making the two patterns more similar should be investigated. Members were invited to study the paper and consider it more fully at the next meeting.

3. Survey of needs

Postponed to next meeting

4. AOB

None

5. Date of next meeting: fifth week of Easter term. Date to be decided in May 2012.