

Research and Teaching Unit - 2nd Quarter (Spring) 2009 Report

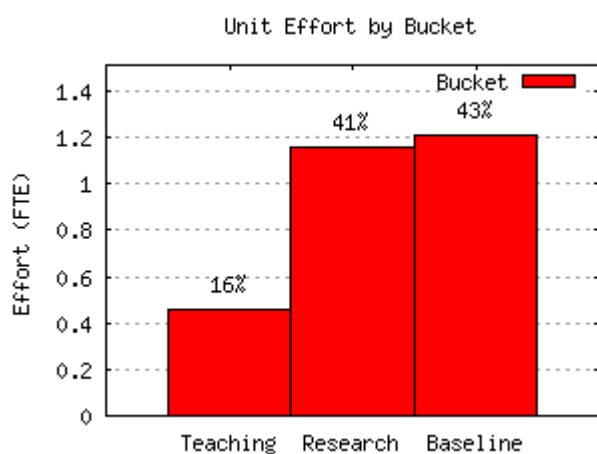
Introduction

This report covers thirteen weeks from 30/03/09 to 28/06/09.

With a full staff complement the Unit FTE is 3. Actual Unit FTE for the period covered was 2.82. This is less than the full FTE as a result of normal annual leave allocation and sick leave (which for the period covered was 0.42 FTE). In summary, only 2.82 FTE was available in the Unit this quarter. Figures below are given in actual FTE and as a percentage of available FTE.

Areas of Work

Type	FTE	Percent	PQ-FTE	PQ-Percent
Teaching	0.46	16	0.45	19
Research	1.16	41	0.88	37
Baseline	1.21	43	1.04	44



Research Work - 41%

Effort spent to the exclusive benefit of Research.

Type	FTE	Percent	PQ-FTE	PQ-Percent
Baseline supporting Research	0.42	15	0.40	17
Research	0.44	16	0.21	9
Research supporting Group	0.30	11	0.02	1

Work on SICSA continued to keep effort high in *Baseline supporting Research*. However, effort on this was frozen at the end of this quarter so effort in this area should be much less next quarter. Work on GPFS has resulted in a

near doubling of effort towards cross-group *Research* support. Work on supporting a specific *Research Group* has gone up significantly due to effort towards Coltex (largely still just used within CSTR/HCRC).

Teaching Work - 16%

Effort spent to the exclusive benefit of Teaching.

Type	FTE	Percent	PQ-FTE	PQ-Percent
Baseline supporting Teaching	0.46	16	0.45	19

Included below is a complete breakdown of single areas of effort in this bucket accounting for 1% or more of Unit FTE.

Name	Percent
Dev Proj #110 - EUCLID Informatics Enhancements	7
Course Registration Forms	2
Laboratory Examinations	2
Brain Bricks	1
Teaching Software	2
School Database Administration	1

Work on the PAVD, PGT and Course Proposal processes accounts for effort in *EUCLID Informatics Enhancements*. This has essentially finished now so there should be much less next quarter. Effort towards *School Database Administration* remains satisfyingly low. Additional effort towards *Laboratory Examinations* was necessary to account for changes in firewall rules and the switch to OSPF in AT.

Baseline Work - 43%

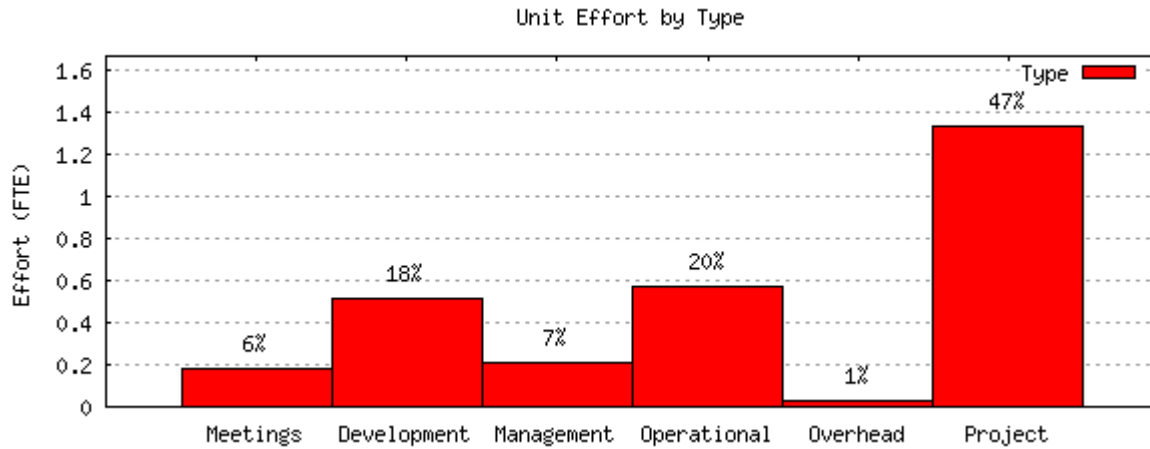
Effort not spent to the exclusive benefit of Research or Teaching.

This remains high this quarter largely due to the amount of time being dedicated to server re-organisation (for virtualisation and monitoring). This majority of this work was completed in this quarter and remaining work is largely on hold, however effort in this area will remain high as work on the School Database Revamp project ramps up.

Types of Work

Type	FTE	Percent	PQ-FTE	PQ-Percent
Meetings	0.18	6	0.23	10
Development	0.51	18	0.41	17
Management	0.21	7	0.09	4
Operational	0.57	20	0.72	30
Overhead	0.03	1	0.12	5

Project	1.33	47	0.80	34
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Operational effort continues its lovely run of dropping, from 56% last Winter to 47%, 36%, 30% last quarter and now only 20% this quarter. This is very positive to see. Overhead has also fallen again from 5% last quarter down to 1% this quarter. Again very positive.

Miscellaneous development effort has gone up marginally from last quarter, however work explicitly associated with Projects which is almost exclusively development has jumped from 34% last quarter to 47% this quarter which is very positive to see. As a result total Development effort this quarter essentially reached 65% and almost two thirds of Unit FTE. Whoopee.

Management effort near doubled this quarter, contributable to time wearing the HoC hat and work associated with the CSBE CSO post.

In continuing efforts to analyze and reduce the nicely lessening but still a bit too high percentage of Operational work a break down of single areas of effort accounting for 1% or more of Unit FTE are shown below.

Name	Percent
User Driven - On Demand Support	4
Adhoc	2
Laboratory Examinations	2
Server Virtualisation	1
Baseline Software	1
Brain Bricks	1
Teaching Software	1
Server Maintenance	1
*Dev Proj #072 - Proof General Eclipse Improvements	1
School Database Administration	1
FLEXIm	1
Beowulf Cluster Administration	1

Monitoring	1
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The largest single area continues to be user driven on-demand support, which is probably better to have in here than any interally generated operational effort.

Development Projects

Effort in FTE weeks spent on Development Projects including effort spent last quarter and total effort expended to date.

Project	Weeks	PQ-Weeks	Total Weeks To Date
Dev Proj #006 - Production Condor Service	0.50	0.0	11.66
Dev Proj #073 - Cluster Parallel Filesystem (GPFS)	4.90	1.80	18.51
Dev Proj #082 - Desktop Virtualization	1.21	0.43	1.79
Dev Proj #095 - Collaborative LaTeX System	2.27	0.73	3.17
Dev Proj #096 - Package Teaching & Research Software	0.10	0.07	1.09
Dev Proj #097 - Informatics Commercialisation Website	0.0	0.90	3.66
Dev Proj #110 - EUCLID Informatics Enhancements	2.46	0.69	5.47
Dev Proj #112 - School Database Revamp	0.80	0.39	1.19
Dev Proj #113 - SICSA Database	5.03	5.34	10.37

It is very concerning that the amount of effort spent towards GPFS does not seem to be currently being backed up by any significant academic/research interest in testing and using the trial service. The amount of effort spent towards SICSA was substantially more than expected even taking into account the necessary learning curve, however there were reasons for this outside of our control, no further effort is being spent on this and any future effort will be very carefully assessed. Most of the projects on the list above either completed (effectively if not to actual sign-off) or were stalled in this quarter - the only ones remaining for any active development in the next quarter are GPFS and the School Database Revamp.

Accounted Work

Effort in FTE weeks of more than one FTE week in any one specific area.

Account	Weeks
Dev Proj #113 - SICSA Database	5.03
Dev Proj #073 - Cluster Parallel Filesystem (GPFS)	4.90
Dev Proj #110 - EUCLID Informatics Enhancements	2.46
Head of Unit	2.39
Dev Proj #095 - Collaborative LaTeX System	2.27
Personal Development	1.79
User Driven - On Demand Support	1.47

FLEXIm	1.36
Dev Proj #082 - Desktop Virtualization	1.21

Computing Support Officer Work

This accounted for 0.5 FTE and was primarily desktop virtualisation testing but included some research server installations, FLEXIm licensed software, upgrades and support for the laboratory examinations.

Personal Development - 5%

Specific CPD (not associated with other work) with a target of 10% (0.3 FTE).

Jumped from 1% last quarter to 5% this quarter which is much better although still only half what it should be.

Next Quarter

Development effort will be focused on the School Database Revamp. Its also a busy time for the Database service in general with the session rollover, new student intake and course registration and there are a number of ancillary developments and work associated with this.

-- [TimColles](#) - 24 Aug 2009

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