

## Services Unit Activities Report September - December 2014

This report covers a period of 18 weeks from the week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 to the week beginning 29<sup>st</sup> December. For the purposes of this report therefore, one FTE is equivalent to 630 hours.

The total theoretical effort available to the Unit for this period was 4.0 FTE. Actual effort amounted to 4.1 FTE. The split between categories was:

Services – 0.75 FTE

Projects – 0.78 FTE

Other – 1.69 FTE

Total leave taken this quarter amounted to 0.88 FTE.

### **Services**

As ever, much of the effort in supporting services was spent firefighting. The emergence of several new security vulnerabilities required an immediate response to ensure the security of our services and more time was spent upgrading services such as Wordpress to ensure that they were as protected as possible against future threats. Disk failures and backup issues also soaked up effort and the ongoing effort to revamp the School's web presence and the consequent discovery that some of that content required to be rendered inaccessible as quickly as possible required that substantial assistance had to be given to the admin staff carrying out the revamp. Effort was also dedicated to making some of our services more mobile friendly.

### **Project work**

Development projects for which effort was recorded this period were:

164 – Prometheus AFS conduits

183 - Improved bug tracking tool

226 - Replace CVS with SVN on www.inf

259 - Streaming media server requirements

268 - Investigate AFS on ECDF storage

272 - Deploy Git and Gerrit as full services

- 287 – Securing web servers
- 290 – Research Data Audit
- 301 - Provision of web server for secure data
- 307 - Produce a MHR data asset register
- 314 - Services Unit SL7 Desktop Work

Full details of these projects can be found at

<http://computing.projects.inf.ed.ac.uk>

Project 259 – streaming media server requirements was completed during this period. Two new projects were taken on during this period, 307 – Produce a MHR data asset register and 314 – Services Unit SL7 Desktop Work. It was agreed that the Unit's other data curation projects, 194 – Meeting the School's archiving needs and 290 – Research Data Audit should be stalled in favour of the project 307 which will cover the work required for the School to meet the MHR data asset register requirements of the College Data Security Plan. At first it seemed that project 314 would not require much in the way of effort but the realisation that the AMD automounter would need to be replaced by autofs on the SL7 desktop meant that in the end a considerably more effort than had been anticipated was required.

### **Other work**

Appraisals, Introductory lectures and relocation of equipment all soaked up effort in T3. Total time spent on CPD by the unit was 0.3 FTE comfortably exceeding the 5% target in the computing plan. Topics studied as part of CPD included Data Curation, Ruby/Rails, LCFG component and macro investigations, advanced Perl programming, Drupal and investigation into the deeper workings of Wordpress

### **Activities next period**

Some work still remains on the SL7 desktop but the bulk of it has been done. Familiarisation with and deployment of the EdWeb distribution will take up some time as will further Drupal based CPD. The work created by the College Data Security Plan will also take some time. Apart from that, the majority of effort will be targeted at finishing development projects. Many, if not most, of the Unit's projects are at the point when the end is in

sight and it would be good to clear these out before the challenges of T2, particularly the Appleton Tower decant need to be faced.