

SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS

Computing Strategy Committee

Thursday 8th December 2022

Removing privileged access from temporarily unused accounts

Author - Alastair Scobie (Head of Computing)

Background

Many staff, in the School, principally but not exclusively those in the Computing team, have privileged access to various systems to perform their duties. When these staff are absent for a prolonged period for whatever reason, be it paid or sick leave for example, their raised privileges present a raised security risk to the University. This policy aims to reduce security risk.

Action requested from the committee

The committee is asked to agree to the proposed policy.

Main subject text

Many staff in the School, principally but not exclusively those in the Computing team, have privileged access to various systems to perform their duties. When these staff are absent for a prolonged period for whatever reason, be it paid or sick leave for example, their raised privilege presents a raised security risk to the University. This is because the individual is not routinely using their account and will be less likely to spot any suspicious behaviour relating to their account. The proposal is that whenever an individual is on leave for more than one month, for whatever reason, any elevated privileges associated with their account are temporarily withdrawn until the individual returns to work. This proposal should apply to all systems – including University and School systems and self-managed research group servers.

Equality and diversity implications – None identified

Resource implications (staff, space, budget)

None.