Paper B - Report from Head of Computing 2023-02-06

EdLAN replacement project

The work to simplify the routing between Informatics and EdLAN was completed in early December. It is still no clearer when our network edge will be migrated – progress on the project is still being seriously hampered by continuing supply chain issues. IS have finally produced a test bed so that we can experiment with how the new EdLAN might work in Informatics (and Physics).

Recent incidents

- A small number of student and staff accounts have been reported by Janet and/or ISG to have been compromised – usually as a result of an individual being a victim of a phishing attack.

IS developments

- A replacement for TopHat has been procured. There will be a "soft launch" very soon.
- The migration of EdWeb sites to the new Drupal 9 based platform has been delayed due to difficulties in completing some functionality, particularly with respect to sub-sites.
- The new University IT Core Systems strategy has been published (https://uoe.sharepoint.com/sites/ITCoreSystems). The College CCPAG (College Computing Professionals Advisory Group) were informed that if a School believes that they need to develop/deploy a system which functionally overlaps with an existing core system, the School should first consult with the service owner of the existing core system. If all agreed that the School needs to go ahead, the School should email the University CIO to check whether approval from ITC needs sought. Systems used for research are exempted from this approval process, but not systems used for research admin.

Staffing

- George Ross retired at the end of December.
- Nikolaos Dandoulakis moved to Geosciences at the end of December.
- Craig Strachan (Head of Services Unit) has taken flexible retirement and is now working 0.6 FTE.
- Carol Dow (User Support Manager) has indicated her intention to retire at the end of May. Permission is being sought from college to re-appoint to the User Support Manager post.
- Recruitment for the following posts is under way :-
    - Head of Computing
    - Computing Infrastructure Computing Officer
    - Replacement for Nikolaos Dandoulakis
    - Computing Services Computing Officer – to backfill for Craig Strachan's reduction in hours
    - Computing Support Assistant (fixed term)
- Fiona Vine, formerly of the ISG Relationship Management Team, has been appointed as CSE Head of IT.