



Green IT News for Universities and Colleges

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Powering Down PCs

A new [briefing paper on powering down personal computers](#) describes the various free and proprietary solutions used by different universities to power down personal computers, and the energy and cost benefits. Rob Bristow, JISC Green IT Programme Manager notes "With so many university computers, particularly student PCs, left on all the time, the scope for saving energy using some form of powerdown on computers is immense. It is also one of the quickest wins in terms of payback. This is why JISC has funded a number of universities to develop different versions of powerdown software. In 2011 there should be no university without some form of powerdown. Salix funding is available to pay for proprietary software or development time."

New Videoconferencing Cases

A SusteIT [case on Bangor University](#) highlights the way that VC has

JISC and Other Green IT Events

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Green IT for Science and Technology, University of Cambridge, 7 Sep (see below)

Efficient ICT, Greener Government, London, 14 Sep
Major conference with several HE speakers

Sustainable ICT - A Bird's Eye View, LSE, London, 14 Sep
An evening event with several HE speakers

Energy Dashboards and Displays, University of Manchester, 12 Oct

Best Practice Criteria for Sustainable E-Learning, 1 Nov (see below)

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Green IT for Science and Technology

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A University of Cambridge workshop on Sept 7 will examine how the energy consumption and environmental impacts of science computing can be minimised. The content will also be of interest to everyone wanting to make server rooms more energy efficient. The morning will focus on Cambridge itself, with presentations on IT trends in STEM work there, the central scheme that provides financial rewards for good energy performance (and penalties for bad) by IT users and others, and the server room refurbishment in the Department of Engineering that it has stimulated. Following sessions will cover server/HPC room refurbishment at Herts and Leeds Universities, cloud computing developments and the JANET brokerage, and a BCS perspective on storage and other innovation. The event is a must for STEM department computing officers, data centre managers and others.

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Sustainable E-Learning

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The sustainability of e-learning is contentious. Do virtual technologies have a lighter or heavier environmental footprint than traditional methods? And does e-learning create greater social inclusion, both globally and nationally, or will it lead to a second class educational system with face-to-face methods

supported Welsh language teaching in the Principality, and provides figures on travel avoidance derived from a recent survey. (The survey, which has now been run at over 10 universities, could be repeated at others for free in September - contact us if interested). A new [briefing paper on Embedding VC Use](#) in universities also has a case study of senior management use at Trinity St David, as well as more general advice on how to improve uptake.

Facebook's Efficient Processors

Facebook says in a [new White Paper](#) that the Tiler TilePro processors it is using in some data centres are three times more energy efficient than Intel x86-based servers. and four times better than AMD.

About Us

This newsletter is from the JISC funded SusteIT initiative. Its aim is to publicise the outputs of both our own activities and those of the JISC Green IT programme as a whole, and to provide brief updates on other developments within the field. See www.goodcampus.org for more details on our work including copies of previous newsletters. You can unsubscribe by clicking on the link at the bottom of this page.

reserved for an elite? A free 1 day exploratory workshop organised in collaboration with the Open University will explore this question, and showcase best practice e-learning technologies.

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Green Storage Calculator

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The beta version of a new online tool, StorC (Storage Calculator) for calculating the environmental and cost savings of different scenarios of tiered file storage is now available for testing. Cardiff University's Information Services Directorate's StorC project, part-funded by JISC, follows the success of Information Services' project Planet Filestore, which investigated solutions for greener, more sustainable and more cost effective data storage using dynamic storage tiering. The technique, which identifies files which are used less frequently and automatically moves them onto lower-cost, greener storage, can easily transfer to different file storage systems in a range of organisations across the world.

Project Leader Paul Rock explains that: "StorC has the potential to empower institutions across the UK and further afield to plan their data storage in a way that reduces energy and cost. We will use the feedback we collate from this beta version to inform the final release of the tool, ensuring that the Storage Calculator will be as useful as possible for the widest possible audience."

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