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Bits & Bytes

Volume 4 Number 10

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Dates to remember:

Scheduled maintenance slot
The final ICTS maintenance slot for the year is scheduled to take place Sunday, **22 December 2013** from 09:00 - 17:00. During this time there will be limited or no ICT services available.

Training

The ICTS Training curriculum for 2013 has come to an end. However, you can still use lynda.com to learn a new software package or to improve your business, photography, video or design skills.

There are over 2200 courses to

ICTS says farewell to its retirees

At the end of the year ICTS will bid a sad farewell to six of its staff members who have jointly contributed more than 160 years of service to UCT. While we wish them well in their future endeavours, their presence and the contributions they have made to the university and to ICTS will be missed.

Ahgiejat Rakiep started at UCT at a time when ICTS was known as Computer Operations and when staff and students had to come to the Computer Science Building to get their work printed and backed up on 9 track tapes and removable disks. When he started in 1979 he worked on standard mainframe operations until 1990 when PCs were introduced. He then asked to be a network engineer and has been working on the UCT network infrastructure since then. Ahgiejat says: "I have seen lots of changes at UCT and how technology has grown. I enjoyed working on the network infrastructure because I got to learn the latest technologies. If given the chance, I would gladly come back for a short while to help out the guys."

Yafa Abraham is one of ICTS's longest serving staff members with more 30 years of service. For a long time she supported the HR and payroll system, and for the last 8 years she has been the Specialist Systems Analyst supporting the University's admissions processes, in PeopleSoft.

John Crow from Classroom Support Services, previously known as the Classroom Facilities Unit (CFU), started out in UCT's Department of Accounting where he worked for 21 years as the messenger and postman. He then joined the CFU team where he has been an audio visual controller for the past 14 years. His responsibility included setting up data projectors in lecture theatres and classrooms and assisting lecturers at these venues. John says that every day is a "special day" and that he has enjoyed working at UCT.

Jhureen van Niekerk started as ICTS's data capture consultant 27 years ago. Over the years she has processed thousands of examination scripts, surveys, questionnaires as well as course and lecturer evaluations. Her clients ranged from UCT departments (research and non-research based) to UCT students and even to external customers.

Larry Margolis has been at ICTS for more than 26 years. He started out in the workshop where he used to help with printing documents and fixing PCs. He then moved to the newly established IT Helpdesk where he assists staff and postgraduate students with their ICT-related problems.

ICTS Systems Division Director, Allan Brinckmann, has been in his current position at UCT since 2002. During his tenure at UCT he has

choose from and you can watch it on your PC, laptop or mobile device. When you use lynda.com on campus it doesn't count towards your Internet quota. You can also opt to use this online resource off campus, but remember that you need to access it via EZProxy.

Apple Mac usage on campus increases

More staff and students are opting to
use Apple
Macs on
campus. For
this reason, we've created a list of all the instructions you will need to use an Apple Mac at UCT. You can see how to connect to the UCT network, Internet and wireless network, access the UCT Virtual Private Network, install McAfee and set up your mailbox.

We have also included a number of training opportunities on campus and online resources that you can use to get more out of your Apple computer or device.

If you are keen on purchasing an Apple Mac, contact the ICTS Acquisitions team for advice or to place an order.

Windows Azure for Research training at UCT

Microsoft Research and the University of Cape Town will be hosting a free two-day hands-on training event geared at post-doctoral researchers, research faculty, and postgraduate students interested in cloud computing using Windows Azure. The course will take place 09-10 December 2013 (08:30 a.m. - 17:15 p.m.) at G H Menzies Building on Upper Campus.

Azure is a flexible cloud platform supporting many languages, tools and frameworks - including Linux,

played a leading role in the replacement and /or upgrading of all of UCT's administrative systems including PeopleSoft Campus Solutions and the SAP for Finance and HR. He also directed the development and implementation of the Continuing Education system for short courses, the Online Applications system, the University's data warehouse for business intelligence, the constituent relationship management (CRM) system and the UCT Mobile app.

We will miss these familiar faces next year and we thank each one of you for the role that you have played in bringing ICT support to campus.

The new White Pages makes finding UCT staff contact details easy

Searching for UCT staff contact details has become a lot easier thanks to the new White Pages directory. This web-based application accesses a central repository of contact details for all UCT staff and on-campus traders.

Go to whitepages.uct.ac.za where you can search for a staff member's contact details by name, surname, faculty or department. Once you find who you are looking for, click on their name and their details, together with a photograph, will be displayed.

The White pages is accessible from off campus too, but public searches will protect your privacy by not displaying your photograph, email address or mobile number. External visitors to the site will be able to send you an email (via a web form) without having to know your email address. Unlike the previous staff search facility, which required ongoing maintenance by a group of directory managers, UCT staff members are now able to update their own profiles by logging onto the site using their UCT username and password.

The role of the directory managers hasn't disappeared though - each faculty and department is still responsible for updating their department or faculty's contact information should any changes occur. The White Pages also contains a list of food vendors who operate on campus, so if you're looking for a sandwich or roll, go and check out the list.

Tablets now on offer in addition to laptops

The national Student Technology Program (STP) allows university staff and students to purchase a laptop or tablet at a reduced price - as long as it is for personal use. All purchases using UCT funds still need to go via the ICTS Acquisition Services team. To make it easier to transact, the STP site has been designed as one central web portal with options to select either Laptop or Tablet. A range of laptops and tablets is available from reputable companies such as Acer, Dell, Proline, Samsung and Lenovo.

Once you've made your selection, you will arrange directly with the vendor for delivery or collection of your new item. The vendor will also be your

Java and Python. Attendees are not required to have any prior experience of Windows Azure training (which will include programming examples predominantly in Python and Java), but basic programming experience in some language is a prerequisite. You will need to bring a laptop to the training, from which you can access Azure.

If you are interested in attending then send an email to azuretraining@microsoft.com and include the following:

- Your name
- Name of your academic or non-commercial research institution
- Your job or role description
- Short summary of your science and programming experience
- Location = Cape Town

For more information about the course view the Windows Azure for Research Training web article.

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Technology plays key role in assisting those affected by Super Typhoon Yolanda (Hayian)

Recently, those living in and visiting the Philippines have been trying to get their lives back on track following the devastation caused by Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan). Even though it will take a long time to determine the complete extent of the damage caused, aid workers are using various technologies to help survivors who require their assistance.

Using OpenStreetMap, an open source mapping system, people from around the world were asked via Twitter to map areas in the Philippines that were struck by the storm. In the first three days more than 400 volunteers have made nearly 250 000 additions to the map by tracing roads and adding buildings.

Even though the new data predates the storm, the detailed maps can assist aid workers with determining which routes to take to deliver food, water and supplies. The after-effects imagery can then be compared to these detailed maps to see where buildings and roads used to be.
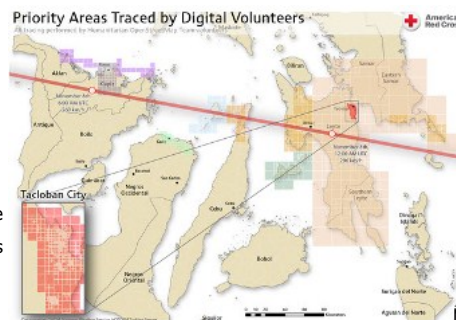
Google has also upgraded its maps of the Philippines by providing up-to-date information about shelters, hospitals, command centres and communications posts. In addition to this, Google has created a specific Person Finder application to assist families in locating loved ones that were in the Philippines at the time of the storm. When accessing this resource, you can either enter the name of the person you are looking for or provide personal information about the person.

These are just some useful ways that technology is being used to help people affected by natural disasters.

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