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Search

**Admin ▶**

- About ICTS ▶
- Core SLA ▶
- Helpdesk ▶
- Desktop Support ▶
- Anti-Virus & Security ▶
- Identity & Access Management ▶
- Training ▶
- Email & Newsgroups ▶
- Phone & Fax ▶
- Networking ▶
- Admin Systems ▶
- Academic Computing ▶
- Classroom Support ▶
- Research Computing ▶
- Student Computing ▶
- Web Publishing ▶
- Technical Writing ▶
- About This Site ▶
- Contact Us ▶
- Utilities ▶
- Web-based services ▶
- ICTS Staff only ▶

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[About](#) >> **ICTS Bits & Bytes Newsletter Vol3 Number 1**

[ [Edit](#) | [Delete](#) ]

# Bits & Bytes



Volume 3 Number 1

### In this issue:

1. [Looking back at 2011](#)
2. [Web publishing made easy](#)
3. [ICTS takes part in UCT's O-week](#)
4. [Textbooks now available for iPads](#)



### Dates to remember:

#### Scheduled maintenance slot

The next **ICTS monthly maintenance slot** is scheduled to take place **19 February 2012** from 09:00 to 17:00.

#### Training

It's a new year and we have a few new courses that you can attend. Take a look at our [Training calendar](#) for a detailed list of the workshops and courses for 2012. In the meantime why not book yourself on one of the courses that are taking place over the next few weeks?

#### Make your lectures come alive with PowerPoint

Come and see how you can use PowerPoint to make your lectures [come alive with animation](#). This new workshop takes place **28 February - 1 March** (13:30-16:30).

#### Simplify the way you create forms

Attend the [Adobe Acrobat X: Forms course](#) for a basic introduction to generating forms and see how else you can use this tool to simplify the way you manage administrative tasks.

The course takes place **6-7 March 2012** (09:00-12:00).

### Looking back at 2011

ICTS had a very busy and exciting 2011. We introduced some new ICT services and took a proactive approach to improving some of our existing services so that we can offer you a better IT experience. We have communicated many of these activities during the course of last year, but thought it may be interesting to look back on what kept us busy in 2011.

We initiated a number of new projects, one of which was the launch of the web-based email platform, [myUCT](#), for undergraduate and honours students. Through the [Wireless Campus Project](#), four UCT buildings (Bremner Building, Wemher Beit Building North, Wemher Beit Building South and Wolfson Pavilion) now have 100% wireless coverage. We also connected various UCT buildings to the high speed South African National Research Network (SANREN), which is designed to bring research institutions across South Africa together and enable collaborative research. As a result, remote sites such as some of the student residences, the Hiddingh campus and the GSB now have faster connection speeds and improved bandwidth capacity to other UCT remote sites, main campus and research institutions in South Africa.

In addition to the abovementioned projects, we introduced an [equipment rental service](#) where you can hire netbooks, notebooks and PCs on a day to day basis. We also updated our existing web hosting environment by introducing two new [web publishing solutions](#) which can be used to create a website for your faculty, department or associated unit. To simplify the way you [access the wireless network](#), we removed the *res-secure* and *uct-secure* wireless network connections and replaced them with one option namely, [eduroam](#). This unified approach allows you to use the same login process anywhere on campus or when visiting another university campus that also uses the eduroam service to access the UCT network, Internet and your email.

Towards the end of the year we launched the [Student Laptop Initiative](#) at UCT. This is the result of a joint initiative of two associations to which UCT belongs: ASAUDIT (the association of South African University IT Directors) and PURCO (a purchasing consortium). Two vendors, [Acer](#) (selling Acer laptops) and [Pinnacle](#) (selling Lenovo laptops), were selected to sell laptops at reduced prices to all participating South African universities including UCT.

This year aims to be just as productive with the introduction of some of the new services that we initiated last year. In addition, UCT staff and postgraduate students are moving to a new email platform later this year. We'll keep you updated as developments unfold.



[Projects](#)

[Service catalogue](#)

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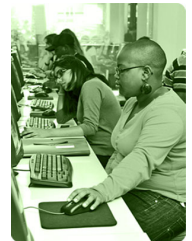
[myUCT](#)

[Outlook Web App](#)

[Password Self Service](#)

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## The largest citation database at your fingertips

If you would like to see who is citing your work or just stay updated on what other researchers are publishing, then [Scopus](#) may just be the tool you need.

This is the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature currently available. It provides researchers with a quick and easy resource to support their research needs. There are over 46 million records (70% with abstracts), nearly 19 500 titles from 5000 publishers and more than 4.6million conference papers. Very useful!

Thanks to UCT Libraries, all UCT staff and students now have access to this incredible database which contains information in the scientific, medical, technical and social sciences fields. More recently information related to the arts and humanities fields was included.

## Need help?

Log a call via our:

- [Online call logging system](#)
- Email: [icts-helpdesk@uct.ac.za](mailto:icts-helpdesk@uct.ac.za)
- Telephone: (021) 650 4500

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## Contact us

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## Web publishing made easy

Websites are currently one of the most effective communication tools used at UCT. Over 400 websites have been developed to promote the various faculties, departments, support services, organisations and projects across campus. If you need to create a website for your department, unit or faculty you can do so using one of UCT's web publishing solutions.



Up until last year UCT only had three web publishing options from which to create a website. We have since added an additional two platforms which you can use to either create a basic website that requires no HTML coding or one that is of a more technical nature.

The [Web Publishing at UCT](#) web article provides a brief overview of each of these environments as well as how they can be used. Use this guide to help you decide on which environment suits your needs best.

## ICTS takes part in UCT's O-week

ICTS staff were out and about at [UCT's annual orientation week](#) (O-week) providing IT support to UCT students. Over the three days we assisted students and staff to reset their passwords, set up wireless on their mobile devices, answered IT-related queries and informed them about IT support available on campus.



[This event provided the ideal opportunity to showcase the work that ICTS does.](#)

## Textbooks now available for iPads

Apple has made learning a lot more fun and interactive with the launch of their [iBooks Textbooks for iPad tool](#). Using Apple's [iBooks Author](#), leading textbook publishers McGraw-Hill and Pearson Education have created textbooks that can be downloaded onto your iPad at a cost, but then updated for free.

This option is much cheaper than the standard paperback and is a lot lighter to carry around. What's even more exciting is that these textbooks contain interactive images, videos and rotating 3D objects. You can even highlight text in the textbook, which then appears on a study card, making it easier for you to remember the information.



While this may seem like a more interactive way of learning, the jury is still out as to whether this type of technology will [benefit schools and universities](#). Consumers, however, are not planning to wait until then; more than [350 000 textbooks](#) were downloaded in the first three days and it seems as if sales are continuing to rise.

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Last updated on Friday, 16 October 2015 @ 09:59 SAST. (Read 861 times)

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