

## Federated Access Management

## Institutional Access Management Support



Most of you will already know about Federated Access Management and the impact this will have on your

organisation. In many cases the implementation of Shibboleth, the underlying technology that links you to the federation, is a complete mystery. It is with this in mind that JISC are offering technical support to organisations in a bid to assist them in implementing Shibboleth, paving the way to becoming an Identity Provider. For your organisation to qualify for support it is vital that you apply to JISC to allow them to evaluate your eligibility and to coordinate across the whole of the UK.

An application form and details of the support on offer along with other FAM related information can be found on the RSC web site at.

Access Management support application form:  
<http://www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk/Technical/FAM.htm>

But do not delay, the deadline for applications for first cycle has already passed (Jan -Apr 2008), now you only have until **February 25<sup>th</sup> 2008** to apply to JISC for a chance to become part of the second and final cycle (May - August 2008), after which you could well be left on your own to implement the Identity Provider technology.

If you have any questions relating to Federated Access Management please don't hesitate to call Mark at the RSC.

If you would like to discuss this service or any other JANET (UK) service please contact Mark Clark  
0141 585 0022 / 23



Last term we launched a new series of 20 minute lunchtime on-line video presentations on recent developments, interesting features or future trends. The on-line presentation technology we use is a server based product which combines video/audio, text chat, slides and screen sharing capabilities to produce a media rich environment. The technology enables delegates to interact with the presenter and provides opportunities for them to ask questions, conduct polls, and feedback to the presenter in real time.

*"This was a great way of training without having to leave your desk."*

Our schedule for next term is taking shape - so tune in, chill out and spend 20 minutes with us to skill up.

15<sup>th</sup> Jan - Universal Design - how to structure a WORD document  
29<sup>th</sup> Jan - Joint with TechDis  
12<sup>th</sup> Feb - JANET Collaborate  
26<sup>th</sup> Feb - Senior Managers update  
11<sup>th</sup> Mar - Open source diagnostic tools  
25<sup>th</sup> Mar - Designing eAssessments - from elementary to higher order skills

*"Enjoyed it not just for the content but for the way it was delivered."*



# In ConTact

RSC's - Stimulating and Supporting Innovation in Learning

## And it's Goodbye from Him !

Well its that time again - food, drink, presents and holidays. Yet folk still say Christmas is too stressful!

Personally it's a bit different for me this year as I retire at Christmas after 37 years service in the FE sector.

Much has changed over that time and if I'm honest I think mainly for the better. Much will change in the years ahead - high speed wireless broadband, much more sophisticated software applications, educational simulations, social networking, facilitative teaching and increasing student IT skills - to name but a few!

Its an exciting time to work in FE, and I hope staff will manage to use these technologies to enhance their already impressive teaching methods. The RSC, of course, is here to help.

I hand over management of the RSC to Fionnuala Carmichael from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 and I sincerely hope you will be as generous in your support to her, as you have been to me over the last eight years. My sincere thanks to you all for that support.

So finally, I would like to pass on festive greetings from all at the RSC and my very best wishes for the years ahead.



Charles Sweeney  
RSC Manager



## NewsFeed

NewsFeed is a fortnightly service, from the two JISC Regional Support Centres in Scotland, designed to keep the FE & HE community informed about the latest ICT-related news, events, resources and training.

It has been designed to minimise the amount of email traffic you get by collating interesting and relevant information and presenting it concisely with electronic links to the full articles - all this delivered straight to your inbox every other Tuesday afternoon.

To subscribe, email us with the subject Newsfeed  
[support@rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk](mailto:support@rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk)

Newsletter of the RSC  
Scotland South & West  
Issue 12 - December 2007

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## Contact Details

JISC Regional Support Centre  
Scotland South & West  
1 Todd Campus,  
Acre Road,  
Glasgow  
G20 0XA

Tel: 0141 585 0022/23  
Fax: 0141 585 0020

Email:  
[support@rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk](mailto:support@rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk)

Website:  
[www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk](http://www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk)

## RSC Training & Events

### January 2008

**15th RSCtv** Universal design - how to structure a WORD doc  
**17th RSC LRC** event: Federated access & Digital Repositories Update  
**24th Janet** Workshop: Using logfiles for security  
**29th RSCtv** with TechDis  
**29th Webquests**, Treasure-hunts, Hotlists & Subject Samplers  
**30th Mobile Learning**: Education on demand  
**31st** Assessment solutions for eLearning  
**31st ePortfolio** conference: Providing the Evidence

### February 2008

**12th RSCtv** JANET Collaborate  
**12th eBooks** Roadshow  
**14th UK Access** Management Federation Briefing  
**21st JISC InfoNet**: Project Management Masterclass  
**26th RSCtv** Senior Managers Update

### March 2008

**11th RSCtv** Open source diagnostic tools  
**25th RSCtv** Designing eAssessments - from elementary to higher order skills

For more information visit:  
[www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk/events.htm](http://www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk/events.htm)

**Saying farewell to Charles** on his retirement at the end of December feels very much like marking the end of an era. Charles has been the manager since the RSC Scotland South & West was established in 2000. It was evident from the earliest days that our RSC was onto a good thing with Charles as manager.

In his 30 years of experience in the FE sector, he had taught at the chalk face, been responsible for IT services and educational development and been a member of a college Senior Management Team. He has a real practical awareness of the challenges faced by colleges in trying to transform the delivery of learning and develop the "e-agenda". The tremendous strides that have taken place over the last seven years to increase use of ICT in curriculum delivery in our colleges must give Charles great personal satisfaction.

Charles has a long list of achievements that include: in the early days Scotland south & west was the only regional centre with its own training suite that helped the team to gain an enviable reputation for the quality of its training; he identified the need and secured additional funding for a Curriculum Development Officer post in 2001; he devised the system that all RSCs use to formulate their Forward Plan and he organised the relocation of the RSC lock, stock and barrel to new, larger premises in 2004.

Charles recognised the need for the provision of strategic advice on learning space design to the many colleges in our patch that were engaged in new build projects or major refurbishments. His team has been involved in a number of effective collaborations and he has forged good personal relationships with colleagues in numerous organisations, and even in the supposed "run down" to retirement Charles has continued to introduce new innovations of which one of the latest is the successful RSCtv pilot.

In such a successful career, it is not always easy to pick out particular aspects to highlight. However, for me, it is Charles' strategic vision that is a defining characteristic of the man. Two examples are particularly apt.

Our RSC was unique in securing funding in 2004 under the European Objective Three Programme for our project "RSC's do IT". Charles identified that our supported institutions would greatly benefit from more specialist support. The augmentation of the core team with three European funded posts enabled a step change in the depth and range of RSC activity in advising and supporting staff in partner colleges to get to grips with new technology and to feel confident in its use to enhance the learning experience of students. Charles' foresight has been vindicated by the decision of SFC to fund the continuation of two of the posts in the areas of Accessibility and eAssessment.

Charles formulated ePlan to assist institutions meet the transformation agenda and accelerate e-development. Like all the best plans the essence is simplicity and practicality. The ePlan concept has been taken up by other RSCs as a strategic tool to support and inform institutions UK wide.

The success of our RSC mirrors that of Charles himself. As one who has been involved in the formulation of all the bids to JISC for RSC funding, I am particularly proud of the fact that Charles secured the full explicit support of all our institutions for our round 2 and 3 bids. This is indicative of a striking degree of support for the operation of the RSC and reflects the respect in which Charles is held.

Looking back over the past seven years leading the RSC, Charles must gain tremendous satisfaction from all his numerous achievements. However I'm sure that what he is most proud of is the RSC team that he has forged into such an effective unit. What a legacy to leave!

Whilst friends and colleagues convey their very best wishes to Charles for a happy, healthy and interesting retirement, I can't really believe that someone with so much energy, experience and commitment to education will actually totally retire. Hopefully the sector will not completely lose Charles' expertise....

**Linda McCormick**  
Chair  
RSC Steering Group

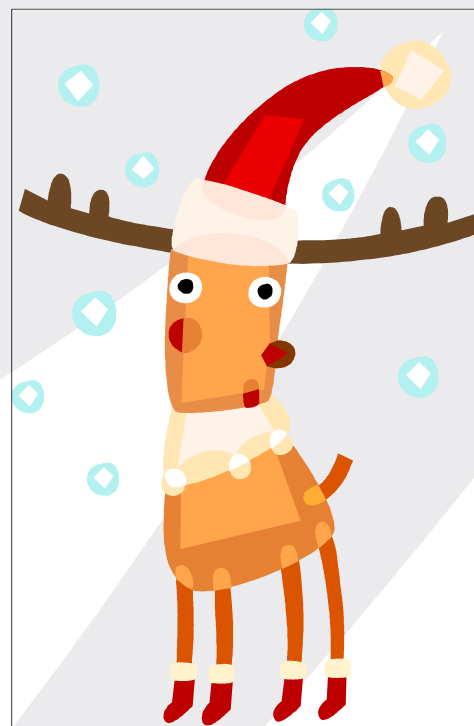


**ePortfolio Conference: Providing the Evidence**  
**31st January 2008**

The term ePortfolio may be one of the more popular buzzwords today, but how much do you really know about ePortfolios?

This conference organised jointly by the Scottish Regional Support Centres will provide you with an opportunity to listen to a range of stimulating presentations and participate in workshops which will give you the information you need to make up your own mind on how you might deploy an ePortfolio system. Experiences drawn directly from the Open University, the University of the West of Scotland, Queen Margaret University, Dundee University, Angus College and Dumfries & Galloway College will be shared.

The conference will be held at the newly opened Queen Margaret University and is free of charge. For more details and to book a place go to:  
<http://www.rsc-ne-scotland.ac.uk/events.php>



## TechDis Accessibility Essentials 4

### Making the Most of PDFs

New to the series and following on from the previous three Accessibility Essential publications, TechDis presents their new guidance on making the most of PDFs. This has been designed to provide step-by-step information to enable anyone creating Portable Document Format (PDF) documents do so in a more accessible manner. These hints and tips will benefit those who create PDF documents using scanned materials or word processed documents, or receive a PDF version of publicity materials from a graphic designer.

The publication is supported by further supplementary material including the following:

### Hints and Tips for Screen Reader Users

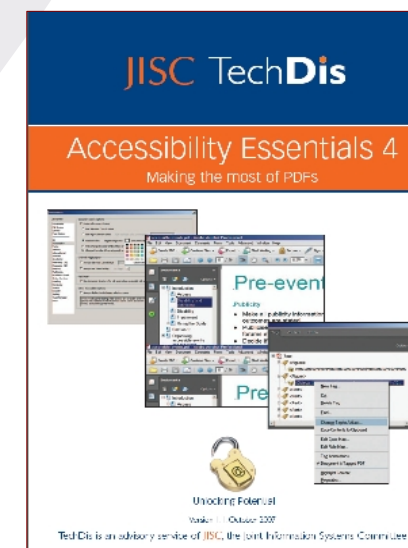
We have collected a number of hints and tips from screen reader users on accessing PDF documents more easily.

**Comparison of free PDF software**  
This section reviews some of the free PDF converters and readers currently available and look at whether they offer any accessibility benefits for users.

### Making Marketing More Accessible - The College Prospectus

This case study from Peter Symonds College, Winchester, looks at providing accessible PDF documents and alternative formats to prospective students.

For more information or to order copies of these publications:  
<http://www.techdis.ac.uk>



## e-Learning Questions? JISC Ask!

*Q: I've put together a PowerPoint resource with navigation that uses action buttons & hotspots rather than the normal slide transition. I was able to stop the slide transition by deselecting both "on mouse click" and "automatically" but I've discovered that users can still use the scroller wheel on their mouse to move to the next slide. Is there a way to stop this?*

**A:** Yes you can. By setting up the show in "Kiosk" mode the mouse is disabled. When you've finished



creating your presentation, go to slide show > set up show > click browsed at a kiosk. This means that the presentation will restart after 5 minutes of inactivity and loop continuously but it's useful for dealing with the mouse scroller problem that you've encountered.

If you would like to send in a question about using technology or e-Learning, we would be happy to help and if we use your question you will receive one of our pen drives with a JISC lanyard - JISC for the asking!

E-mail your questions to:  
[support@rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk](mailto:support@rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk)