Five things you never knew about CSG
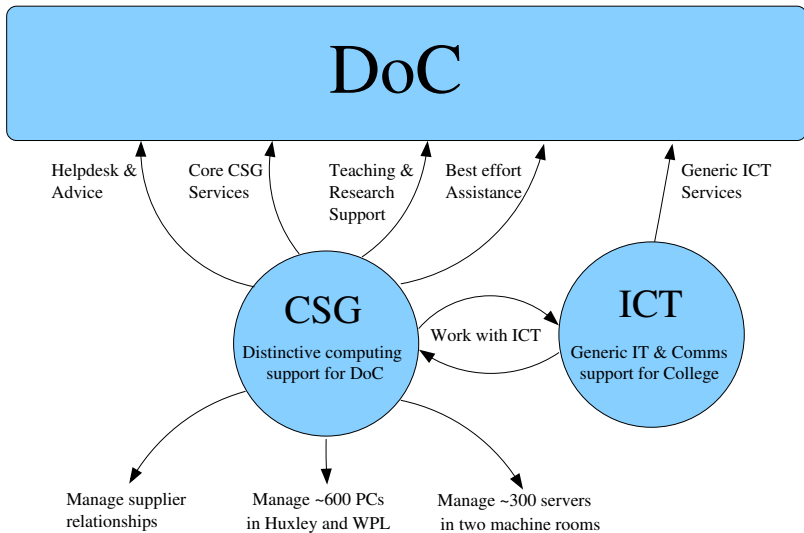
Duncan C. White,
d.white@imperial.ac.uk

CSG Systems Manager,
Dept of Computing,
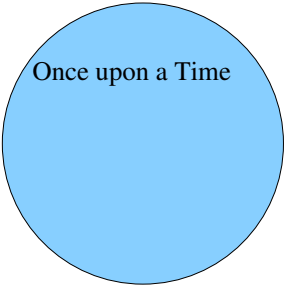Imperial College London

29th May 2013

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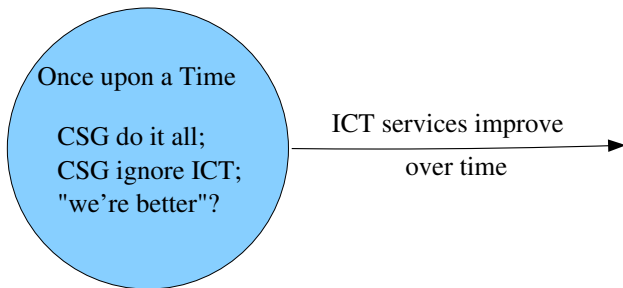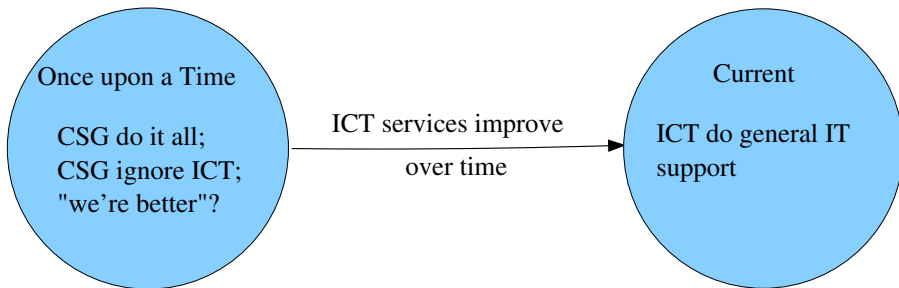- CSG concentrate on doing distinctive things that ICT don't do.

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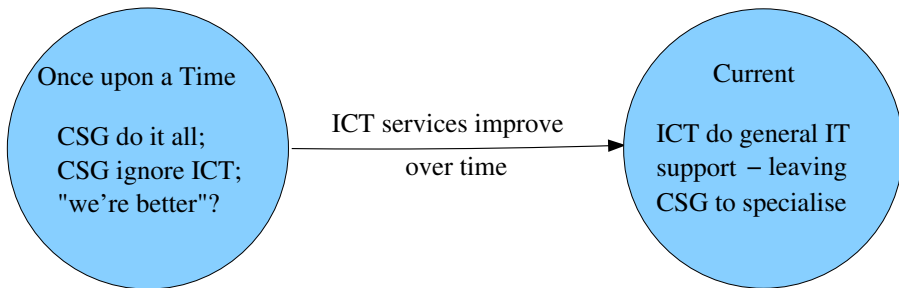
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- Mac support and Windows laptop support, provided by our in-house ICT Faculty Support engineer - currently Niels Boyadjian. (Although we'll help on a best effort basis if Niels is not in the room).

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- Refresh Desktop PCs (and Macs): Each year we receive about 15 free staff PCs, and about 40 free lab PCs, under the College PC renewal scheme. The Dept typically buys another 140 PCs for new PhDs, RAs, staff, and the labs.

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- Plus of course the recently purchased Departmental cloud servers, currently doing service as experimental proto-clouds, or ad-hoc compute servers/clusters.

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- For servers: ICT now offer copper 10Gb ethernet via "top of rack switches" - we have bought 4 x 10Gb network switches, first two installed in Huxley machine room. Core fileservers to get dual 10Gb connections over the summer.

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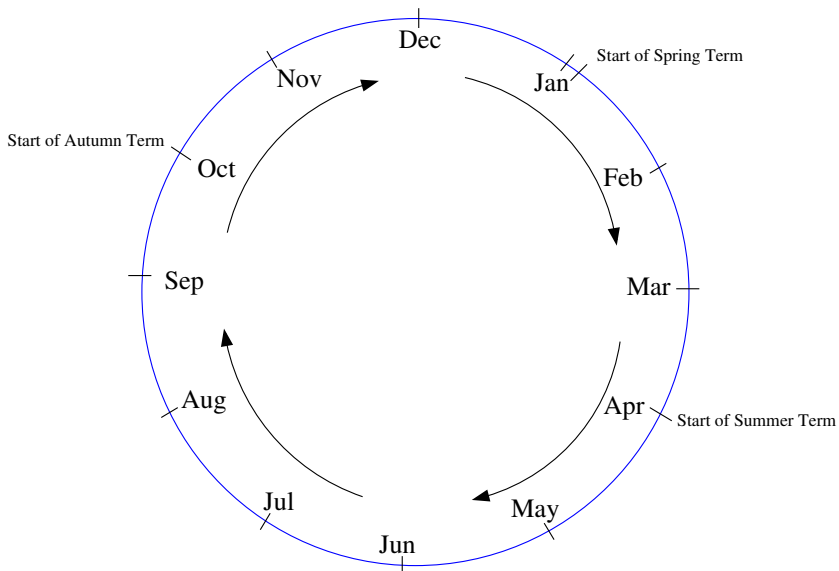
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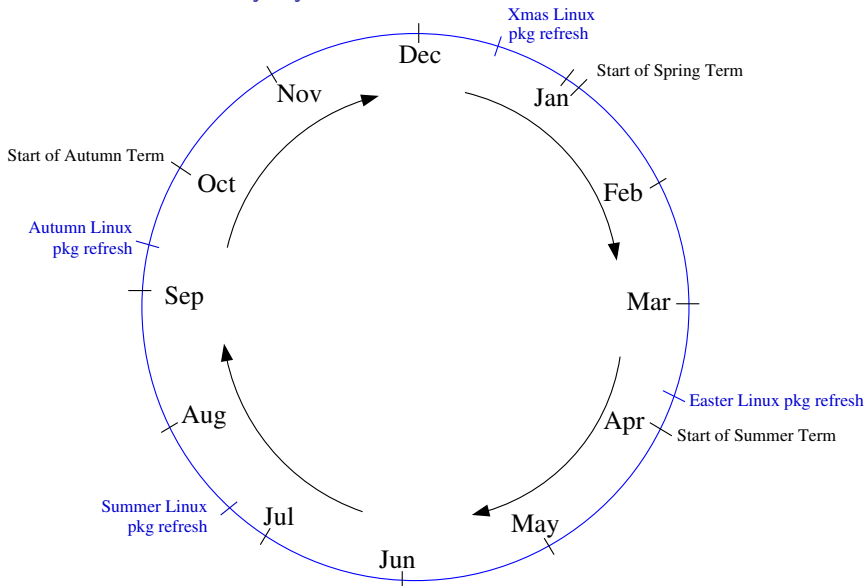
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- This keeps our computers more secure, more up to date, risk: slightly greater instability - we're being very cautious!
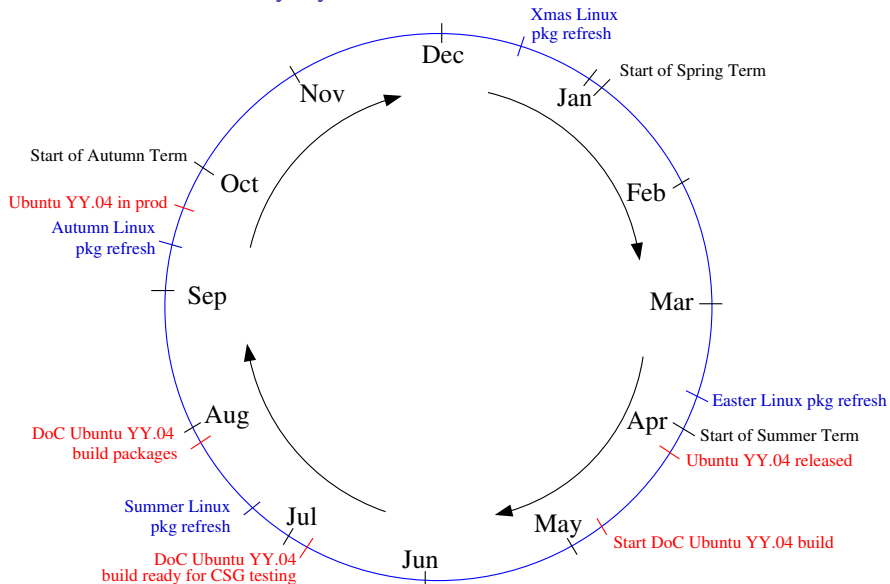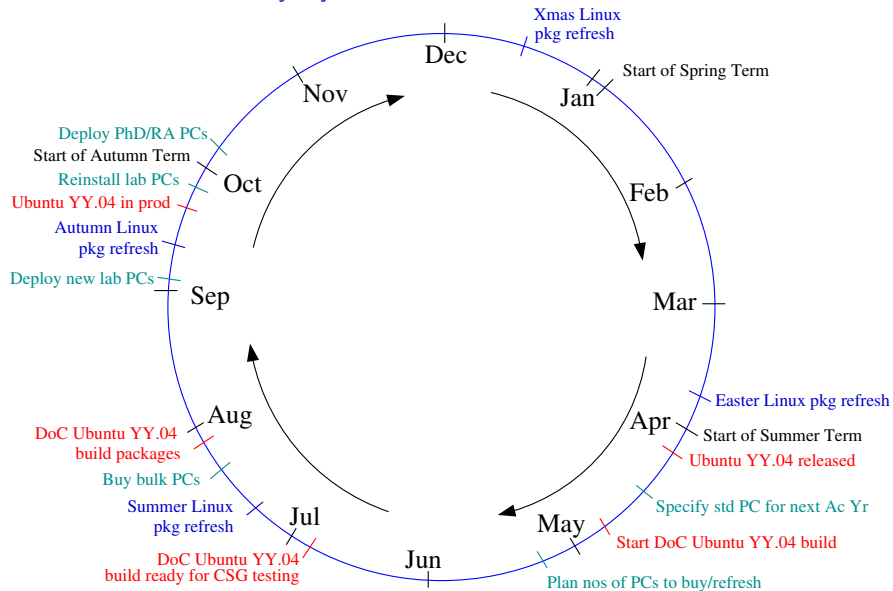
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Xmas Linux
pkg refresh

Start of Spring Term

Dec

Nov

Jan

Feb

Deploy PhD/RA PCs
Start of Autumn Term
Reinstall lab PCs
Ubuntu YY.04 in prod
Autumn Linux
pkg refresh

Oct

Deploy new lab PCs

Sep

Mar

Easter Linux pkg refresh

Apr

Start of Summer Term
Ubuntu YY.04 released

Aug

DoC Ubuntu YY.04
build packages
Buy bulk PCs
Summer Linux
pkg refresh

Jul

DoC Ubuntu YY.04
build ready for CSG testing

Jun

May

Specify std PC for next Ac Yr

Start DoC Ubuntu YY.04 build

Plan nos of PCs to buy/refresh

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- Finally, Maint: our Linux-based configuration management system, which, making extensive use of Postgres databases, automatically installs and configures a brand new Linux desktop or server for use in DoC, without human intervention!

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- Thank you very much for listening. Please send comments and suggestions to me.