

# MSc in Computing Science

## Lab Information

### Introduction

The Integrated Laboratory is one of the assessed components of the MSc in Computing Science, the others being coursework, exams and the individual project. Its objective is to allow students to gain experience by becoming familiar with programming languages. Note that all the practical work will be carried out using WindowsNT .

### 1 Before you Begin: Change your Passwords

The first time you log on to the lab network, you must set up a private password to protect your account. Since the lab network depends on services that run under two different operating systems (Windows NT and Linux), you will need to set your password under *both* operating systems. Try to choose a password that is not a word (in any language) and does not relate to your login or name. *You must use the same password under both Windows NT and Linux.*

#### 1.1 Logging into NT

- From the Windows NT startup screen, press Ctrl, Alt and Delete simultaneously.
- At the login window, enter your login name and initial password as supplied on the sheet you received from CSG in your Welcome Pack. Note that passwords are case sensitive (*i.e.* a distinction is made between upper case and lower case letters). Once you have finished, click the OK button, or press Enter.
- At this stage, you may be prompted for a new WindowsNT password. If so, follow the on-screen instructions to select a new password. If not, do not worry — you will have the opportunity to set your WindowsNT password later (in Section 1.3 on the following page).

#### 1.2 Setting your Linux password

- While logged into WindowsNT, click on the Start button and select **Run...** .
- Type either **ssh owl** or **ssh emu** into the box that appears and then click OK. (**owl** and **emu** are two machines running Linux. Pick either one.)
- A window entitled **SECURITY WARNING** may appear. If it does, select the option **Add this machine to the known hosts list** and click **Continue** .
- In the **SSH Authentication** window, select **Use plain password** to log in. Then enter your login name (in the **User name** box) and password (in the **Passphrase** box). Then click OK.

- You should then see a terminal window, which may display a Welcome message and then a prompt. At this Linux prompt, type **passwd** and press Enter. Follow the instructions to set your new Linux password. You should expect to see something like this:

```
ob3@lazy{~}% passwd
Changing password for ob3
Enter old password:
New Kerberos password:
Retype new Kerberos password:
passwd: all authentication tokens updated successfully
ob3@lazy{~}%
```

*Remember that your Linux and WindowsNT passwords must be the same.*

- Type **exit** at the Linux prompt to close the window. If you have already changed your Windows NT password you are finished. Otherwise proceed to Section 1.3.

### 1.3 Setting your Windows NT password

- While you are logged in, Press Ctrl, Alt and Delete simultaneously. A window called **Windows NT Security** should appear.
- Click on **Change Password** .
- Follow the on-screen instructions to set your new password.

If you have any problems, please ask the lab helpers for assistance.

## 2 Laboratory Sessions

Programming is considered such a core skill in computing that you will be spending a lot of time in the computer lab doing programming exercises during the first term (October – December).

There are a number of timetabled laboratory sessions. During these times, you have priority use of equipment in the designated room(s) and lab demonstrators are in attendance to help you out with queries and problems regarding the on-going lab exercise(s). You are also asked to respect the priority access to equipment that other groups of students have during their lab sessions, in order to avoid conflicts.

The computer system is maintained and developed by the Computing Support Group (CSG) in the Department of Computing (DoC). They deal with any problems that the computers and networks may have. For immediate problems, such as a terminal is not responding, you should see the operators who are on duty during normal office hours in room 218 (Computing Help Desk).

The Lab Organisers for your course are Theodore Hong (email [twh1](mailto:twh1)) and Olav Beckmann (email [ob3](mailto:ob3)). You can contact them regarding any questions about the Lab part of your course.

## 3 Submissions and Assessment

All the exercises in the first two weeks are unassessed. Starting from week 3, there will also be lab workshops, where the assessed exercises will be handed out and briefly introduced. Assessed laboratory work will be submitted electronically: you simply follow the instruction given in each specification.

Your exercises will be marked and graded as follows (in terms of percentages):

A+	[90,100]
A	[70,90)
B	[60,70)
C	[50,60)
D	[45,50)
E	[40,45)
F	[0,40)

You may develop your program on another machine, say your own PC. It is your responsibility to ensure that the file(s) you submit do compile and run under WindowsNT.

**Backups.** The work you store on the network file server ( **H:** drive) in the Department of Computing Labs will be backed up by CSG. However, it is very advisable to keep your own backups of important work (*e.g.* on floppy disk or zip disk<sup>1</sup>) because CSG may only have a complete backup of your work from about 2 days previously (at best, from the previous night). Losing a whole day's work if you delete something by accident can still be very frustrating, so do keep backups. Having lost your work is no excuse for not submitting!

## 4 Electronic Mail and Internet

These two mechanisms are highly used in the Department as a means of communication and distribution of information. We very much recommend that you familiarise yourself with both.

We recommend that you use Netscape Messenger for email (an icon for this should be on the WindowsNT desktop when you log in).

- Important email addresses:

- [fs](#)  
Dr. Fariba Sadri, your Course Director
- [twh1](#), [ob3](#)  
Theodore Hong and Olav Beckmann, your Laboratory Organisers
- [all-msc](#)  
All Msc students registered on your course.

- Important Web pages:

- <http://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/>  
The Department of Computing Home Page
- <http://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/teaching/post/conver.html>  
Detailed Information about your course
- <http://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/lab/msc-conv/>  
Information related to lab work: regulations, timetables, documentation, etc.
- <http://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/csg/>  
Information about operating systems, dial-in, computer software, and the resources available in the department.

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<sup>1</sup>Please look after zip disks very carefully when in the Labs; they are known to have “disappeared” from there . . .

## 5 A Note on Copying

You can discuss problems with each other. Plagiarism is something else: it is representing someone else's work as your own. We are obliged to inform the college authorities in the event that we discover that work is copied.

## 6 Lab Times

The Teaching labs are open to Department of Computing students from 8am to 11pm everyday except when the college is closed (*e.g.* Christmas Day). There are booking sheets in the labs which permit you to book terminals. Someone who has booked a terminal has priority for use of the terminal.

**Exceptions.** If another year or course are having a lab session in a particular room, they have priority for use of the terminals in that room. The machines may be unavailable some Monday mornings when maintenance or systems work may be taking place.

## 7 Regulations

Please take note of the regulations covering computer use in the department:

<http://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/csg/newuser/#regs> .