



Understanding IT Costs, 10 Feb 2014

Main Workshop 12.15 for 13.00 – 16.15

Optional Accountancy Primer Session 11.00 -12.00

*Jisc London offices, Brettenham House South Entrance, 5 Lancaster Place,
London WC2E 7EN (near Waterloo station)*

This free workshop provides a unique opportunity to review the detailed costs of an IT department; to discuss with peers the relative costs of cloud and local solutions to HPC, storage and other areas; and to identify means of developing better financial data for IT decision-making. It is based on work that has been undertaken by the University of York, in collaboration with the Jisc Costing IT Services (CITS) project. The event should be of value to both IT and finance staff who are interested in any or all of:

- A granular understanding of where IT expenditure goes.
- Data to support benchmarking and/or as a prelude to identifying improvement and cost saving opportunities.
- More robust data for specific decisions, e.g. internal provision (of data centres, HPC, storage, VLE etc.) versus outsourcing to the cloud or a shared service.
- New or revised charges for services provided either internally or externally.
- Devolving budgets or assigning financial responsibility for particular activities.
- Tracking cost improvements over time.
- Improving accountancy systems, e.g. by modifying or introducing new cost codes.

The main workshop will build on a precursor workshop held in York on December 16 (see Past Events section of www.goodcampus.org for details and presentations). It will have initial presentations from York staff on their detailed IT costings (which will be sent to participants in advance) and their implications. Two subsequent breakouts will focus respectively on IT management accounting issues, and data centre costs.

In response to feedback from the York event, an optional pre-session has been arranged on basic accounting and finance concepts and terminology. This will be informal and mainly driven by participants' questions.

The workshop is an output of stage 2 of the CITS project. Stage 1 of the project developed a 'Financial X-Ray' Tool under the Janet Cloud Services that allows institutions to benchmark their IT service costs. Stage 2 involves more detailed costing work, with a particular focus on decisions where lack of availability and transparency of costing data is potentially distorting decisions, e.g. on use of cloud or shared services; local versus central computing provision within institutions; data centre replacement or refurbishment. Visit www.goodcampus.org to book and – in the SustelT section of the site – to see further details of the project and the work that has preceded it.



Understanding IT Costs, 10 Feb 2014

Optional Pre-Session:

- 10.30 – 11.00 Refreshments (no registration at this point)
- 11.00 – 12.00 **Everything You Wanted to Know About Finance but Were Afraid to Ask**
Martin Bennett, Emeritus Reader in Financial Management, University of Gloucestershire

Main Workshop

- 12.15 – 13.00 Registration and lunch
- 13.00 – 13.20 **Overview: Key Issues in IT Costing**
Rob Bristow, Jisc Programme Manager
Professor Peter James, Director, SustelT and CITS Stage 2 Project Leader
- 13.20 – 14.20 **Costing IT Provision at the University of York**
Heidi Fraser-Krauss, IT Director
- 14.20 – 14.45 Refreshments
- 14.45 – 15.45 **Breakout 1: Better Decision Making by Understanding IT Spend**
Martin Bennett, Emeritus Reader in Financial Management, University of Gloucestershire
Danny Bramman, Head of Corporate Services, University of London Computing Centre
- 14.45 – 15.45 **Breakout 2: Data Centre Compute and Overhead Costs**
Stephen Bowes-Phipps, Data Centre Manager, University of Hertfordshire and *Michael Rudgyard, CTO, Concurrent Thinking*
- 15.45 – 16.15 **Plenary Discussion**
Reflecting on breakout discussions, sharing experience and discussing barriers and opportunities

Please book now at www.goodcampus.org.

