

e-Update November 2006

Welcome to the 22nd edition of e-Update, the monthly electronic bulletin from the Buckinghamshire ICT Curriculum Support Team.

The purpose of this bulletin is to keep you informed with the latest developments in ICT.

The information in e-Update has been taken from a variety of sources including ICTSN and Becta. Details on how to subscribe to these and other sources of information can be found at the end of e-Update.

e-Update can also be found on the Buckinghamshire ICT Curriculum Support Team's website at <http://www.bucksict.org.uk/e-update/> and on the Buckinghamshire Grid for Learning website at <http://www.bucksgfl.org.uk/resources/course/view.php?id=126>.

If you have any comments on e-Update, please send them to adickson@buckscc.gov.uk.

If you wish to unsubscribe from e-Update, please send an email to adickson@buckscc.gov.uk with the title **Unsubscribe**.

General News

Home Access for BucksGfL Users of Espresso

Andy Dickson

Buckinghamshire LEA schools that are on BucksGfL Broadband have Espresso to use free for a year as part of their broadband subscription. Previously the Espresso content was only available in school. Now teachers can access the content from home.

To do this, go to <http://espresso.bucksgfl.org.uk>. At the login screen type in your BucksGfL username and password. Your BucksGfL username is the first part of your BucksGfL email address (i.e. the bit before the @).

If your school is on BucksGfL Broadband and you haven't got a BucksGfL email address, ask the person in your school who is the BucksGfL key contact to arrange for this to be set up.

Internet Explorer 7 now available

Andy Dickson

On 18th October Microsoft released version 7 of Internet Explorer and it was available through Windows Update from 1st November.

RM reports:

"Our internal testing has shown that some applications that run well with Internet Explorer 6 do not work with the new version. Therefore, to avoid disruption and the loss of use of applications, we strongly recommend that you

- *verify that the applications you use, work with Internet Explorer 7 before your computers are upgraded.*
- *advise teachers, learners and parents of the potential issues resulting from the installation of Microsoft Internet Explorer 7.*
- *take steps to prevent your PCs from being updated until you have carried out these actions."*

[Further details](#)

Schools that use other hardware and software providers should check with them before upgrading.

Note: Home users who have already downloaded Internet Explorer 7 and like the new look and tabbed browsing may like to try Mozilla Firefox, which has had tabbed browsing for a long time and many consider to be a superior browser. It includes a host of other features including a built-in spell checker.

<http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/>

Making the most of your investment in ICT

Rebecca Singer, ICTSN

Becta's latest publication provides an easy-to-follow guide through the main issues of purchasing ICT. Aimed at school leaders, this guide on purchasing ICT provides information on buying what is right for a school from authorised suppliers at educational prices.

"[Making the most of your investment in ICT](http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=lv&catcode=ss_lv_str_02&rid=10059)" is divided into four sections; making the most of your broadband; ensuring that ICT equipment meets your needs; learning platforms and personalised learning and being able to make the most of your data, which correspond with Becta's model for ICT infrastructure in schools - The National Digital Infrastructure (see http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=lv&catcode=ss_lv_str_02&rid=10059).

The new booklet has already been distributed to the schools and local authorities involved in Phase 2 of the One School Pathfinder project. It will also be distributed to all attendees at the National Digital Infrastructure seminars for local authorities. Copies of the booklet can be ordered, free of charge from <http://becta.org.uk/corporate/publications/index.cfm>

FITS (Framework for ICT Technical Support) OM Pocket Guide

Rebecca Singer, ICTSN

A new pocket guide for FITS OM (Operations Management) is now available at http://becta.org.uk/fits_om/
The pocket guide is ideal for use by:

- ICT managers in schools - <http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=ch&client=mi>
- Local Authority advisors and school support officers – <http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=ch&client=la>
- Supplier service delivery managers and technicians - <http://industry.becta.org.uk/display.cfm?page=1792>

Where FITS (Framework for ICT Technical Support) (<http://becta.org.uk/fits/>) focuses on the management and support of ICT services, FITS OM helps schools manage and administer the underpinning technology in the ICT infrastructure. Operations Management breaks down into six functions:

- Systems Administration - http://becta.org.uk/fits_om/systems_administration/index.cfm
- Storage Management - http://becta.org.uk/fits_om/storage_management/index.cfm
- Directory Services Administration - http://becta.org.uk/fits_om/directory_services_administration/index.cfm
- Print and Output Management - http://becta.org.uk/fits_om/print_output/index.cfm
- Security Administration - http://becta.org.uk/fits_om/security_administration/index.cfm
- Patch Management - http://becta.org.uk/fits_om/patch_management/index.cfm

To order the pocket guide or to get more information please contact: paul.stonier@becta.org.uk

ICT Schools Team – Remote Backup Service

Steve Rowland, ICT Schools Team

We are delighted to announce that following some extremely successful testing, the ICT Schools Team are now in a position to offer BucksGfL schools a remote backup service. This will enable schools to backup their admin and curriculum data to a central server, eliminating the need for backup tapes. The backups will be scheduled to run overnight, and the admin backups will be monitored by ICT Schools Team (PC Support) – an email will be sent to the school if the backup fails. Curriculum backups will be monitored by the schools.

Schools can choose to buy into the service for their admin network, curriculum network, or both. The service is offered on a three year contractual basis with the annual charges shown below. We have however managed to secure funding which enables us to offer schools the backup service free of charge for the admin network up until October 2007, with years two and three chargeable.

If you wish to take advantage of this offer, please complete the acceptance form. ICT Schools team are able to install the necessary software on your admin server at no cost to the school. Please note that in requesting this, you are giving permission for us to access your admin server remotely, but purely for the purpose of installing the backup software.

Schools wishing to install the software themselves will need to contact ICT Schools Team for instructions. Full technical support for the admin systems will be provided as part of the Gold or Silver packages.

All schools wishing to buy into the backup service for their curriculum network will be required to install the software themselves, using instructions and telephone support which will be provided.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Celia Collicott on 01494 540204.

Primary and Special	
Admin (up to 10GB storage capacity) - free until October 2007	£140 + 10p per pupil
Curriculum (up to 30GB storage capacity)	£220 + 20p per pupil
Secondary	
Admin (up to 30GB storage capacity) - free until October 2007	£150 + 15p per pupil
Curriculum - 2 servers (up to 100GB storage capacity overall)	£470 + 20p per pupil
Additions	
Additional server	£160
Additional plugin eg Exchange	£30
Additional 10GB storage	£20
Additional 25GB storage	£50

Secondary News

Key stage 3 ICT test - National Assessment Agency materials help schools prepare

TeacherNet

The NAA will shortly be launching new materials to help all schools to achieve success in the 2007 full national KS3 ICT pilot between 30 April and 25 May 2007.

The materials include a new termly newsletter 'Countdown', which contains important information about the new Key Stage 3 ICT test. Each issue will provide a broad overview of what SLTs need to do to prepare for the onscreen tests, together with some helpful hints. Watch out for your copies arriving this week.

The NAA are also producing an 'essential guide' which will help schools prepare for the key stage 3 ICT test which will be arriving at the end of October. This guide has specific content for the SLT, ICT subject leader, network manager and test administrators.

The 'essential guide' is based on real school experience and includes: clear role definitions; hints and tips; checklists and strategies for challenging situations.

To register your interest to get involved in the 2007 pilot visit
<http://www.rm.com/qca/mainpage.asp?contentref=QCAP151293>

Subscription Details

Becta

To subscribe to the various publications, click here: [Becta Schools Subscription Services](#)

ICTSN

ICTSN membership is available to organisations that provide support to schools. Schools are therefore not eligible for membership. Information about ICTSN can be found at <http://www.becta.org.uk/ictsn/index.cfm>.

RM

To subscribe to the various RM newsletters, visit the RM website at <http://www.rm.com/Security/Login/FormsLogin.asp> and register. If you are already registered, log in and go to *Email Subscriptions* in *My Account*.

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