



Information &
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NHS-HE Connectivity

NHS/University of Dundee Collaborations



Scotland NHS-HE Forum

4 January, 2008

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Background

- Objective
 - “To achieve good inter-operability between NHS and HE networks that enable secure anytime, anywhere access by medical, nursing and allied profession students, clinical teachers and researchers”
 - NHS-HE Connectivity Project, Malcolm Teague





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Staff and student needs

- Access to the online resources to support development, research, teaching and learning
- Desktop, applications and filestore.
- VLE access
- Library facilities
- Single machine on the desk
- NHS to HE to NHS (expectations)
- Collaborative projects (across sectors)





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Technical Options

- Local
 - Authenticated Browser
 - Firewalls
 - Client/Server model - Using Citrix
 - Virtual Private Networks (VPN's)
- National
 - Gateway
- 3 Projects (Remote Access, Clinical Research Centre, SINAPSE)





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Project 1 - Remote Access

- NHS sites – Perth, Stracathro, Kirkaldy and home access.
- Access online resources supporting staff development, research, teaching and learning
- Normal desktop, applications and filestores, VLE access, Library facilities.
- Secure access, reliable service and making best use of limited bandwidth
- Single machine on the desk





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Remote Access - continued

- Citrix solution (security, performance, desktop, filestore), NHS happy with it and funded it
- Managed service initially (timing, resources and expertise)
- Reaction from users very good – scaling up the pilot for start of 2008
- Local solution – could potentially use the Gateway
- Issues later





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Project 2 - CRC

- New build and network infrastructure
- Access to NHS and University facilities – use of Citrix.
- NHS site – Ninewells – no performance issues.
- Secure and reliable service required
- Single machine on the desk
- Research activity??





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Project 3 - SINAPSE

- Direct impact with CRC new build
- Shared NHS and HE Access to PET and MRI imaging data for clinical and research purposes - complex
- Original plans for network infrastructure not appropriate. SINAPSE model better.
- Secure and reliable service. NHS governance requirements??
- Local solutions





Issues

- Collaboration (NHS-HE-NHS)
 - Strong demand
 - Increasing opportunities to benefit from collaboration
- Local/National
- Governance (across UK, NHS/HE)
- Technical Solutions and Support
- Responsibilities (e.g. Citrix)
- Opportunities lost and time wasted



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Opportunities

- Develop an agreed NHS-HE framework for improved inter-working
- Improve NHS-HE collaboration
- Simplify and clarify NHS-HE network connectivity, technical structures, management and support
- Implement consistent, secure and reliable access from NHS to HE (to NHS?)
- Develop the security and information governance policies associated with such access
- National rather than just local solutions (strategic as well as pragmatic)
- Improve support for NHS based University staff and students





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Scottish Science Advisory Committee - December 2006

“need for Scottish imaging strategy to improve links between academia and the NHS to foster fundamental clinical interactions, shared planning of resources (human and hardware) and data processing systems to bridge strategic gaps to catalyse more effective research but also with improved clinical care ”

