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Doing More for Less

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Doing more for less

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IATUL
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Covering

- Background
- CHEST& NISS
- Datacentres (BIDS, MIDAS, EDINA)
- CHEST
 - Products
 - Agreements
 - Selection Process
 - Pricing and Licencing
- Recommendations

Background - History

- CHEST & NISS set up by Computer Board (predecessor of the JISC) on 1 Jan 1988
- CHEST negotiate for quality commercial software, data and training materials for the use by the UK education community
- NISS provide information services to the UK education community

Background - UK higher education

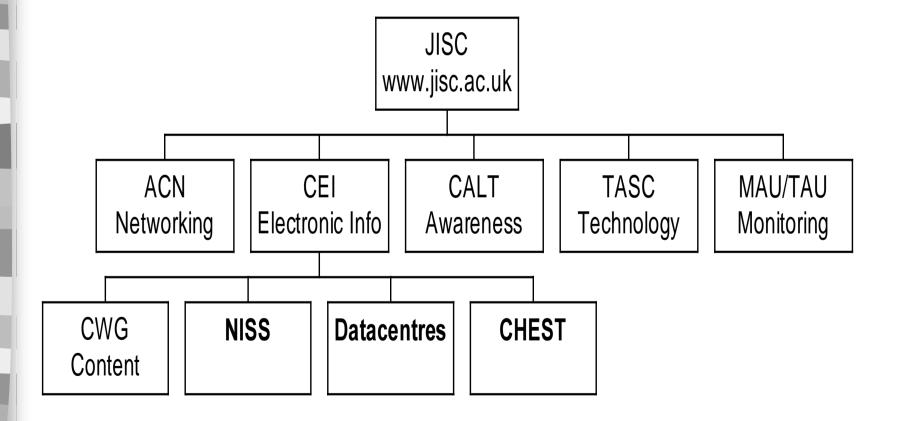
UK HE

DfEE Scottish Office Welsh Office DENI

HEFCE SHEFC HEFCW DENI/HEFCE

Background - JISC

JISC



CHEST & NISS

- Based at Universities of Bath & Southampton
- Part funded by JISC, part by earnings
- Approx 23 staff in total
 - (CHEST has 9 staff)
- NISS is part information service, part datacentre, part technology provider

Datacentres

- Created by JISC
- BIDS EDINA MIDAS (NISS)
- Resulted from 3 invitations to tender
- Specialisation expected to evolve
- Datacentres run data
 - negotiated by CHEST
 - negotiated by themselves
 - negotiated by others

CHEST Products

- Agreements
 - Software (55 agreements)
 - Data (30 agreements)
 - Courseware (5 agreements)
- Special Offers
- Directory entries (approx 1000)

Agreements

- Institution licences
 - "free at the point of use"
 - common licence conditions
 - all non commercial use
- Most are 5 years
 - fixed price
 - committed till end of agreement
- CHEST collects fees, pays supplier
- CHEST manages & administers

Selection Process

- Product selected as a result of
 - comparative evaluation
 - feedback from the community
 - formal
 - informal
 - request from JISC (CWG)
 - offer from supplier

Pricing

- Price the institution pays comprises
 - cost of data
 - cost of service
 - cost of management
- less
 - any central subsidy by
 - datacentre funding
 - contribution to data cost

Pricing

- Take-up estimated on anticipated level of subscription
- Total cost / take-up / years of agreement = price to institutions
- JISC may underwrite
- Experimenting with move to tiered pricing
 - banding institutions by subject size
 - banding institutions by specific characteristics

Licencing

- All staff and students
- All non commercial use
- Licence based on CHEST Code of Conduct which most institutions incorporate into regulations
- Access control by Athens
 - single sign on, national usage
 - multiple databases and datacentres
 - control devolved to institution

Athens Access Management

- protects resources
 - on geographically distributed servers,
 - under the control of different organisations.
 - on external, commercially operated, internet services.
- distributed user management
 - authorisation properties are hierarchically inherited by default.
 - facilities for self registration and bulk loading.
- Single sign on.

Athens

- any type of resource from database down to individual documents and multimedia objects.
- Supports access using web, telnet and telnet based windows clients.
- Scaleable and resilient.
- More information:

http://www.athens.ac.uk

- Win win agreements
 - good for users
 - good for vendors
 - more institutions at a lower price = more vendor revenue
- Collaboration
 - shared support and training costs
 - shared voice to vendor

- Critical mass
 - more institutions, lower service costs
 - add functionality
 - expand the user base
 - safety in the herd
- Competition
 - between databases
 - between service providers

- Consistency/conformity
 - standard license agreement
 - long term agreements
 - standard access methods
 - standard user interfaces

■ Problems

- "rogue" institution purchases
- getting decisions from institutions
- estimating the likely take up
- getting the timing right
- herding cats
- dealing with low volume products
- committees
- money

- Is it worth it?
 - Cost reduction for institutions
 - subscriptions
 - service
 - negotiation
- Added value to community
 - -£750 m?
- Adds to sense of community

Advice for any consortium

- Enthusiasm and Dedication better than committees
 - pick your people well
 - give them room to manoeuvre
 - give them your support
 - don't let your organisation get in the way
- You can't do it on a part time basis
- You can't do deals to a timetable
- Agreeing the price is about 1% of the work

Further Info

- Current CHEST list at http://www.chest.ac.uk/datasets
- The CHEST brochure http://www.chest.ac.uk/about-chest/aboutchest.html
- Code of Conduct http://www.chest.ac.uk/conduct.html
- General licence conditions http://www.chest.ac.uk/appendix-a-data.html
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