

Platform-TNW: 30 years of faculty IT collaboration



Introduction

Since 1987 Information Technology (IT) personnel at the faculty of Applied Sciences (TNW) have held regular meetings to share knowledge, experience and support in order to improve the use of informatics in the broadest sense within our faculty. Not only technical support staff working with computer hard- and/or software but also scientific staff involved with informatics have joined these meetings.

The platform is still very alive now and convenes every month. Colleagues from all departments at the faculty visit these meetings and participate in this broad collaboration.

Also central Information and Communication Technology (ICT) facilities as the Faculteit IT Manager (FIM), the Werkplek Services (WPS) and the central IT department (SSC-ICT) are regular visitors of the meetings.

Keywords



Participating departments

- Bionanoscience
- Biotechnology
- Chemical Engineering
- ImPhys
- Quantum Nanoscience
- Radiation Science & Technology
- FIM
- WPS
- SSC-ICT

Regular topics

To ensure coverage of relevant subjects a permanent agenda is used. The meeting is however of free-form and any ICT subject can be discussed. Typical topics discussed are:

measurement and control Dealing from hardware issues in the laboratory to software solutions for converting measurement data

high performance computing (HPC) This topic has gained considerable attention in the last years due to the increasing use of HPC systems both at our campus and outside (notably SURFsara). See below for more information concerning HPC usage at our faculty.

development systems A fair amount of compute time is spent on software development for data processing, controlling and simulation. This is done with a wide range of programming tools varying from C++ to Matlab and COMSOL to Python (just to name a few...).

computer and network security Topics concerning ICT security at the campus are discussed with the FIM and WPS.

licenses Software used for research, education and office tasks is mostly subject to licenses. During meetings we discuss the need for new packages and the necessity to maintain or change current licenses.

policy and personal Traditionally at our faculty IT matters are mostly dealt with on the informal level. It is therefore very important to know the people working in the field. Knowing the campus ICT policies and development can help in supporting our colleagues.

Practical

Meetings: every second Thursday of the month from 9:30 am to 11:00 am in room F431, building 22, chairman Henry den Bok.

If you would like to attend these meetings send an e-mail to h.denbok@tudelft.nl and you will receive an invitation for the next assembly.

As stated above these are informal meetings initiated by and for colleagues working in the field of IT independent without control or supervision by the management. This has proven to be of great value and we appreciate the support this platform has been given throughout the years by our co-workers and management.

Highlight: HPC

As the demand for large compute power is growing at our faculty we see an increase in the use of HPC systems for research. Typically these are systems acquired by the research-groups and installed in the campus server rooms. They can consist of many nodes, nodes with big memory or storage or equipped with high-end GPU systems. Administration and support is given by the SSC-ICT. Also external HPC systems like SURFsara have seen an increase in usage. The platform-TNW helps to create a more easy-to-use access to SURFsara by providing information on current usage and suggestions on how this improvement can be established.

Reference

For more information about this poster or the Platform-TNW please contact the author of this poster: r.ligteringen@tudelft.nl (or use the QR code). This L^AT_EX poster has been created with the baposter package.

