

Research Data Services
a division of SAS Computing

State of Computing
2008

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Director of RDS

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State of Computing 2008

- **New name**
- **Staff changes**
- **Services improvements**
- **Special projects**
- **Questions**

New name

Research Data Services (RDS) hosts files for research projects to share. RDS has two units:

- **Social Sciences Computing (SSC)**

SSC will continue to be the Local Support Provider (LSP) for departments and centers in the Social Sciences

- **Statistical Computing Group (SCG)**

Research Data Services

The new name reflects:

- Our **mission**
 - Our primary mission is to facilitate collaborative research
- Our **clients**
 - Some of our clients are not in the Social Sciences division
- Our **role** within SAS Computing

Staff Changes

Adam Biedermann and **Chris Couples** left for new jobs.

Staff Changes

Taryn Kutish is moving from College Hall to the McNeil Building. She will be the support specialist for:

Criminology

Population Studies (1 of 2 specialists)

Sociology

Taryn was the specialist for History and MCEAS.

Staff Changes

Simon Dyjas is taking over support for
Economics.

Simon will also continue to support:
Population Studies (1 of 2 specialists).

Simon is handing off Sociology and Criminology
to Taryn.

Staff Changes

Joslin Pellerite is moving from the McNeil Building to College Hall. She will be the support specialist for

History

MCEAS

Joslin was an assistant support specialist.

Staff Changes

Internet Security and Unix Systems (ISUS), a division of SAS Computing is now administering Linux and Unix servers in the McNeil Building. These servers host web sites and databases and also run statistical software.

ISUS has a whole team of Linux/Unix administrators while SSC had only one. The team will be able to provide better service than a single person.

Warren Petrofsky is the director of ISUS.

Services Improvements

- **Instructional Technology**
- **Email**
- **Web**
- **Calendaring**

Services Improvements

- **Network file sharing**
 - *Core service of RDS*
- **Statistical processing**
 - *Core service of RDS*
- **Wireless**

Instructional Technology

- Portable video conference equipment is available
- The Multimedia Services (MMS) Lab at DRL has facilities for making screen movies.
- New computers for UDAL and new instructor's station (Fall 2008)
- More information is available at:
<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/computing/instructional/services.html>

John MacDermott is the director for Instructional Technology.

Email

Available: *Fall 2008*

- **New spam filtering system**
 - *Proofpoint*
- **Webmail**
 - Better interface
- **Mailing lists**
 - Mailman replacing majordomo and list proc
 - Web interface for management

Web

- **Drupal**
 - Content Management System (CMS)
- **Single source for information**
 - Calendar
 - Course listings
 - Faculty bios and titles
 - Information used on multiple pages

Web

- **Security and Permissions**
 - PennKey authentication
 - Delegation of rights to individuals and groups
- **Updates**
 - Stored on sever instead of PC so multiple people updating sites do not cause problem
- **RSS**
 - Built-in function for disseminating news and announcements

Calendaring

- **Meeting Maker**
 - Group scheduling
 - Room scheduling
 - Department or Center calendar

- **Penn Calendar**
 - Subscribe using ical or Google or xml
 - RSS feeds
 - Source for Drupal

Network File Sharing

- **New server**
 - **ssclion.ssc replaced zeus.ssc**
 - **seadog.ssc is the primary server for PSC**
- **Server for special shares**
 - **Some shares have extra security requirements**
 - **sscmonkey.ssc is dedicated for those needs**
- **SSH is available**
 - **Encrypting network traffic**
 - **Off campus or wireless access**

Statistical Processing

- **Dedicated server**
 - **pils.ssc replaced stout.ssc**
 - **Linux**
- **Stata-SE and Stata-MP are available**
 - **Graphical user interface available with X-Windows (free software is available)**
 - **Batch processing for large jobs**

Wireless

- **Replacing *AirSAS* with *AirPennNet***
 - Common system for campus
- **Guest Wireless**
 - Access to internet but not Penn systems
 - Visitors with laptops who need internet access

Change over to be completed by Fall 2008

Special Projects

- **Security and Privacy**
- **Secure research data**
- **Software notes**

Security and Privacy

- **Security and Privacy Impact Assessment (SPIA)**

- Determine where Penn has sensitive or private information (SSNs, addresses, salaries)
- Definition of private information has changed over the last decade, so old files must be reviewed
- Offer better ways to store sensitive information
- SAS Computing staff will be contacting you

Security and Privacy

- **Laptops**

- Information is compromised through lost or stolen laptops
- Penn will be recommending *PGP* whole disk encryption

- **Web applications**

- New web applications must pass a security audit

Secure Research Data

- **Protocols**

- Each data provider has different requirements
- RDS is available to help submit applications for sensitive data
- RDS is available to configure systems to meet requirements

- **Secure data enclave for PARC**

- Store data on network server with sufficient restrictions and safe guards to meet data provider requirements

Software Notes

- **Library of notes about software**
- **Currently available**
 - Stata
 - SPSS
 - R
- **In the works**
 - SAS

RDS staff

Robert Beck, Support Specialist

Tim Cheney, Programmer/Analyst

Simon Dyjas, Support Specialist

Adam Jones, Assistant Support Specialist

Jim Kane, Network and Help Desk Manager

Taryn Kutish, Support Specialist

John Marcotte, Director

Rumi Morishima, Programmer/Analyst

Joslin Pellerite, Support Specialist

Andre Prudhomme, Assistant Support Specialist

Ye Wang, Programmer/Analyst

Amy Zoll, Support Specialist

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Questions

We welcome your suggestions.