Darwin College IT Strategy

Introduction

The first direct contact a prospective student has with Darwin College is probably the College website and from that point onwards the majority of formal communications between the College and student will be made electronically, through matriculation, teaching/research years, graduation and beyond to their years as Alumni.

Darwin College recognises that Information Technology is an essential enabler of its institutional purpose[1], goals and strategies. Students, Fellows, staff and visitors depend on technology to facilitate communications and collaborations, organize and distribute information, and support the basic services of the College.

Information Technology (IT) has increasingly, for the College most noticeably so in the past decade, become a fundamental tool throughout all Higher Education Institutions and the College anticipates the importance of technology will continue to grow in context of technological change that is altering how organizations deploy and manage technology.

The effective use of technology and information is vital to Darwin College's strategic directions and institutional goals across all its fields of activity and the IT Strategy should fit in to and be part of the overall College Strategies and Goals.

1. Strategic Themes

1.1. To offer all students the very best educational experience possible, supporting academic and research excellence, and their quality of life while they are in Cambridge.

1.2. To offer high quality services to conferences, visitors and guests.

1.3. To use technology to improve business processes, create cost-effective administrative services and assist data-driven decision-making.

1.4. To sustain core technology infrastructure that is secure, reliable, and robust.

1.5 To be scalable, flexible and, where practicable, stay near the leading edge[2] of technology adoption and not lag in the ability to meet reasonable expectations for technology.

2. Strategic Opportunities

2.1. Support Student, Fellows, Staff and guests' ability to work effectively and securely at anytime, with any device, wherever they are within the College or beyond.

2.2. Improve constituency engagement using web-based technologies.

2.3. Enhance self-service provisions to allow members to get and act on information at any time while at the same reducing the pressure of routine tasks on administrative staff and improving responsiveness for all parties.

2.4. Improve business processes by strengthening data integration, increasing data visibility to administrative staff and automating data transfer tasks to improve availability and quality.

2.5. Improve resilience and develop plans and capacity to prevent or recover from disaster, including the use of shared and cloud services where appropriate.

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[1] "to advance education, learning, and research in the university, and to provide for members a college where they may work for postgraduate degrees or carry out postgraduate or other special studies"

[2] Organizations at or near the leading edge of technology adoption are those that seek to be among the early majority of adopters of technology, or apply proven technologies in innovative ways. An example of where the College has achieved this has been the early adoption of wireless technology (2003), use of the University Card proximity technology across a range of services (2006–).