International Organisations
In the digital age

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ECMWF

ECMWF - Introduction

- European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts

- Founded in 1975

- 22 Member States and 12 co-operating states

- Collaboration with national meteorological and hydrological services

ECMWF - Introduction

- Mission:

  - Scientific and technical research into numerical weather prediction

  - Produce numerical weather forecasts

  - Monitor the earth-system

  - Maintain an archive of meteorological data

- Located in Reading, UK

- Approximately 300 staff

- One of the six coordinated IOs

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ECMWF & technology

- Use of technology has been core to ECMWF's mission from the start

- NWP relies on:

  - high performance computing (Supercomputers)

  - Handling large quantities of data

- Current HPC is provided by two Cray XC40s

- Current meteorological archive approximately 100 Petabytes

- Computing department supports all technology in use (HPCs, data archive, servers, PCs, etc)

ECMWF Employment conditions

- Defined in staff regulations

  - 40 hours per week, Monday to Friday

  - Most staff are office based, but explicitly defined hours for shift working

- No official policy or mechanism for flexitime (yet)

- Limited flexibility in working arrangements delegated to line managers

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What is the digital age ?

- Official definition is 1970s onwards

- Maybe better to refer to "digital generations" ?

- Driven by technology developments (Moores law)

- Faster, smaller, higher capacity, higher bandwidth

- Affects workplace and society in general – IOs are not immune

Industry & social trends

• IT and Telecommunications industry constantly changing

• Domestic technology changing rapidly

• Generational differences in experience

ECMWF Organisational IT (& BYO)

- ECMWF provides desktop PCs for all staff

- ECMWF provides laptops as required for job purposes (on-call, senior management, travel, etc)

- ECMWF provides iPhones as required for job purposes

- Remote desktop function enables flexible working

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ECMWF Organisational IT (& BYO)

- Limited policy for BYO (bring your own) devices

- Personal iPhones and iPads can be used if ECMWF policies enabled

- Other personal devices can be used but only by complying with security policy

ECMWF and social media

- No explicit policy about staff use of social media – left up to individuals

- ECMWF has twitter and facebook presence, but they are limited in use

  - Communication with the public is a function of our Member State met services

- Copernicus project related activities make more use of social media

Security in the digital age

- ECMWF ISGB (InfoSec Governance Board) created

  – Organisation wide

  – Representatives from all departments

- InfoSec policy in development (supersedes previous security policy)

- Information Security Officer position created

- Firewalls provide protection for internal network

- Access through firewalls only possible with token-based authentication

Collaboration in the digital age

- Human communication relies on: words, voice and body language – why VC important

- Video based tools have allowed:

  – Collaboration reducing travel

  – Recording lectures and training courses

  – Live streaming of events – workshops, seminars

- Copernicus project has added separate offices

Collaboration in the digital age

- Web technology is very important for delivering services and knowledge sharing
  - ECMWF has extranet, intranet, wikis, charts, etc

Employment conditions – private life

- Sometimes referred to as work/life balance

- Facebook started using phrase "work/life merge" recently

- Social media can blur distinction between work and private life

- Multiple communication channels – email, web, social media