Computer Programming and Skills 1h

Accessing the Informatics "DiCE" machines from the University public laboratories.

The University has many public laboratories available to students. A list of these can be found at http://www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/fmd/central_labs.html. It is possible to access DiCE machines from most of these using the eXceed application as described below. This note relates to machines that have been upgraded to Windows XP. At the time of writing some machines remain on Windows NT. eXceed is available on these machines as well but the user interface is rather different and not documented here.

How to Access Informatics

- Type Ctrl-Alt-Delete at a suitable public laboratory machine
- Click "OK" to any warning screens about R.I.P and other legislation.
- Log on using your University microlab username and password.
- You may see browser windows and messages – do what seems sensible.
- When the desktop and the menus and toolbars have appeared, follow the menu boxes to eXceed as follows:

    Start > All Programs > School Applications > Science and Engineering > Informatics > Connect to Gateway.

- Click to launch the "Connect to Gateway" icon
- Click "OK" to the box about unauthorised access. You should see a dialogue box offering to connect you to gateway.inf.ed.ac.uk.
- Supply your DiCE username to the prompt in the dialogue box

You should see a "DOS" window – white clunky text on a black background. In it:
- Say "yes" to any warnings about tickets, spoof hosts etc.
- Supply your DiCE password when asked.

You should be finished with the DOS window now and as soon as you see the "authentication successful" statement you can iconise it using the '_' tool at top right.

You should now see a small Unix-like window and a tool bar. Click over the window to "warp" to it then type:

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xemacs &
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and you should see the familiar xemacs window. At the time of writing, key bindings in the Unix window were not working properly. If you mistype the command just retype the whole line or delete individual characters using "Ctrl-H".

When finished, exit from Xemacs and the Unix window (if being tidy) then when ready logoff from the laboratory session by following   Start > Log off.

jhb 19/9/2003