

inside|out

IT Services at ETH Newsletter

Deutsch

Dear Reader



I am pleased to present you with the second edition of the IT Services newsletter inside|out.

The first issue of our newsletter received a very positive response and we are gratified by the large amount of subscribers. polybox service, as announced in the first edition, is well into the public beta phase and already has over 1600 users. We recommend polybox as the ideal solution for sharing documents with outsiders.

With the establishment of the Scientific IT Services division (SIS) we have set ourselves the goal of improved cooperation with the departments. Learn more about this new division as well as our Software Project Services and video conferencing in teaching and research in this newsletter.

Wishing you an enjoyable read,

Reto Gutmann
Director of IT Services

Contents

Scientific IT Services

→ Launching of a new division for ETH research

Software Project Services

→ Developing new software solutions

More convenient than travelling

→ "Good morning, Boston – good evening, Singapore"

→ Scientific IT Services

The IT Services has established a new division to strengthen research at ETH Zurich. Scientific IT Services (SIS) provides researchers in compute- and data-intensive fields with research-related IT services. The services include providing HPC clusters for scientific computing, development, maintenance and operation of research-related software, and also consulting and training. The ITS High Performance Computing group has joined SIS.

SIS customers are research groups and scientific facilities. The service offering is defined and developed in collaboration with the customers. A focus is placed on combining data-intensive methods of measurement as e.g. used in genome sequencing, and the computationally expensive analysis of those data. SIS puts an emphasis on the integration of services and will, wherever possible and appropriate, build on already existing services of ITS. SIS services are available to all ETH researchers based on a cost contribution. This is implemented as a shareholder model similar to the one used for the HPC cluster Brutus, however shareholders pay for services by SIS professionals instead of computing power. The departments D-BSSE and D-BIOL have already decided during the design phase to participate with their research groups in SIS. Other departments and units have also expressed an interest in participating. During the last months the conceptual foundations of the Scientific IT Services division have been developed. Now the actual build-up is in full swing. For more information on the spectrum of services visit the [ITS blog](#) or contact Dr. Bernd Rinn.

Dr. Bernd Rinn, Division Head SIS



Dr. Olivier Byrde with a computer node; Dr. Bernd Rinn and Manuel Kohler showing the interior of a sequencing machine.

→ Software Project Services

In order to support research, teaching and administration, the IT Services (ITS) at ETH continuously provides new software solutions (SW) or develops existing ones. ITS has many years of experience in software development and manages large portfolios of standard and custom application software.

The ITS core competencies in software project methods, technologies and quality assurance are available to the entire ETH. Often project collaboration already begins at an early phase: requirements analysis and specification, design of software architectures or software evaluation, estimation of expenditure for development and/or integration work etc. ITS can also realize software implementation projects: development of customized software, integration of standard software or cloud services and deployment and implementation of software solutions. Additionally, the ITS is also available for: consulting in software project matters, software project management, conducting code reviews, allocation of development capacity, providing software quality management, integrating existing components and software migration. To find out which specific projects the group is currently working on, read the interview in the [ITS blog](#).

Andreas Jost, ITS SWS, Group Manager SW Project Services



Software components are assembled to applications brick by brick. Dr. Benno Luthiger and Andreas Jost.

→ Video conferencing for Teaching and Research

Cooperation and knowledge transfer between universities, research institutions or companies play a crucial role in the (global) world of research and commerce. In academics as well, inter-site communication and cooperation have become increasingly important, as for example in the case of guest lectures or doctoral examinations. The IT Services at ETH Zurich operate a video conferencing service that provides ETH members with video conferencing at the highest level of quality.

The wide range of products available, tailored to meet the individual needs of our customers, includes high-definition video conferencing in five supervised MMS video-conferencing rooms, customer support in running your own video conferencing facilities and providing infrastructure for office conferencing. Accordingly, use of our services is very diverse. Whether for doctoral examinations with an external co-supervisor, live lecture transmission to other universities with interactive communication or weekly research meetings where latest developments are presented and discussed on screen, our modern technology makes it all possible. Primary benefits that video conferencing offers our customers are time and cost efficiency. An important additional factor is the advantage of reducing their carbon footprint. The group "Video Conferencing and Collaboration" of Multimedia Services is pleased to provide you with the above services. Additional information can be found on the ITS blog [ITS blog](#).

Christopher Sauder, ITS MMS, Videoconferencing & Collaboration



From video phone to iPad: Pedro Ottiger, Christopher Sauder and Philippe Koch, MMS VC.

Imprint

Editors:
ITS Management, Marketing & Communication, Sabine Hoffmann
Address:
Stampfenbachstrasse 69
8092 Zurich
Email: insideout@id.ethz.ch
www.its.ethz.ch

The newsletter "inside|out" appears in German and English. Use the following link to [subscribe](#) or [unsubscribe](#).