Welcome to the School of Computer Science and Information Technology (CS&IT) at RMIT!

As a CS&IT student at RMIT you have access to wide range of facilities that you will find useful whilst completing your program. Most of these facilities are computer-based.

This handbook and the induction sessions introduce you to some of the facilities you have access to as a student, and have been designed to equip you with the necessary skills to utilise them properly.

The laboratory sessions are split up blocks in which you will be given the opportunity to gain some hands on experience using some of the basic computing facilities that will assist you with your studies.

If you have any quick questions about the material we will be covering please feel free to ask during the information session. If you would like something explained or answered in detail then you will have the opportunity to ask your question during the question and answer session.

You will find links to useful resources at the address:


We hope that you find this session both useful and enjoyable.
Exercises

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- Check the Induction session bookmarks page at:
  

- Check the timetables for your courses:
  

  You can print these timetables, but remember that they may change.

  Allocate yourself to tutorial and lab classes via the students page:

  http://www.cs.rmit.edu.au/students/

  Check your lecturer’s home page for additional information on your courses, and
  check to see if there is an associated forum. You can find this home page by looking
  in the CS&IT staff contacts page:


- Check your student email:
  
  http://studentems.rmit.edu.au/

- Take a look at information on your study program:
  
Using a web browser to read News

Internet "News" is a worldwide discussion forum where people can post articles related to topics they are interested in. This discussion forum is organized by topic, so that users can quickly locate relevant articles. Each topic area is referred to as a "newsgroup".

At RMIT CS&IT, newsgroups are one of the main forms of communication between students and their tutors and lecturers. Most courses have their own newsgroup. Students can find information in the course newsgroup, and can ask questions. It is important that students read the course newsgroups regularly. In order to read or participate in a discussion in one of the newsgroups you first have to join that news group by "subscribing" to it.

You can do this via your web browser. There are two ways to do this.

You can use WebNews:


Alternatively, you can configure your browser to communicate directly with the news server. To do this you will need to click on the menu option 'Window' then select 'Mail & Newgroups' from the drop down menu.

As you will find out in later Induction lessons, you can also do this via Unix.

Discussion groups that you may find useful are as follows:

For general issues related to RMIT:

rmit.general

For general issues related to RMIT CS&IT:

rmit.cs.general

For general issues related to specific courses:

Graduate Diploma students:

rmit.cs.gdip.cs

Masters by Coursework students:

rmit.cs.mbc

Announcements about facilities in the School

rmit.cs.announce

Announcements about items wanted or for sale:

School of Computer Science and I.T. Student Induction Session
As a general rule, there is a newsgroup for each course (and some programs also).

The name of that newsgroup will be in the form rmit.cs.xxxx, where you replace xxxx with the name of the course (with no spaces).

eg: For students undertaking COSC1321 Computing Fundamentals this semester the newsgroup is:

rmit.cs.computingfundamentals

Subscribing to Newsgroups

At the moment you are not subscribed to any discussion groups so this list will be empty.
To subscribe to a newsgroup so that you can join the discussion in that group, you can click on 'Communicator' from the menu bar within your Netscape browser, then select 'Newsgroups'. You should then be faced with the following screen:

Figure 24: Mozilla Newsgroup browser

Now you are ready to subscribe to a selected newsgroup.
Reading the articles in a newsgroup

To subscribe to newsgroups you can right click on the 'news' folder and select 'Subscribe to Newsgroups...' option which will allow you to browse the available options.

Figure 25:- List of Newsgroup Options

Enter ‘rmit.cs’.

You will see quite a number of newsgroups that are available. Today you will subscribe to the ‘rmit.cs.general’ newsgroup. To do this, you can either double-click the title of the newsgroup, or click on the 'subscribe' button, so that a tick appears next to the name of the newsgroup. Once you have done this, you can click OK to return to the newsreader screen. You should be asked how many message headers you would like to download. A reasonable value would be 20 or 30.

You can now read through the messages, and respond as you would with a standard email account, replying to either just the sender, or replying to all (the entire newsgroup). Before you can reply you may find that you still need to set up your identity.
Setting up your account identity

To set up your identity within 'Mozilla' you will need to go into the 'Window' menu option and select 'Mail & Newsgroups' from the drop down menu. From there, choose the 'Edit' menu, select 'Mail & Newsgroups Account Settings' and then select the account (email or news) you would like to enter or modify the details for.

Figure 26: Setting up your identity

Insert your personal details and click OK.