

## MEMORANDUM

To: Undergraduate Students in the Math Faculty  
From: John Beatty, Director of MFCF; Ken Salem, Director of CSCF  
Date: July 2, 2003  
Re: Division of the Math Teaching Environment  
CC: Faculty, Staff and Graduate Students in the Math Faculty

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As part of the process of creating the new Computer Science Computing Facility (CSCF), the Math Faculty's computing environment for teaching will be split into two: a CS environment and a Math environment. The split will allow the School of Computer Science, through CSCF, to assume responsibility for the CS environment. The CS environment will be used for all CS courses. All other courses will continue to use the Math teaching environment, which will be supported by MFCF.

MFCF and CSCF have been working to minimize any disruption that may be caused by this transition. Although the two teaching environments will evolve separately after the split has occurred, they will initially be very similar. In addition, there will be some coordination between the two teaching environments, as described below.

Preparations for the split have been on-going for several months. MFCF and CSCF expect to be ready to split the environment in August of 2003, in time for the F03 term. However, it is possible that the split will be delayed until the W04 term or the S04 term if that is necessary to ensure a smooth transition. If such a delay is necessary, we will announce it at the end of July.

The following are some questions you may have about the split, with answers.

- *Will I have one account or two?*  
Each student (and instructor) in the Math faculty will have two accounts, one in each environment. Each account will have its own home directory, disk quota, and so on.
- *Does this mean that I will have to remember two user IDs and two passwords?*  
No. Your CS account and your Math account will use the same user ID. Account passwords will be synchronized too. For example, changing your CS account password will also change your Math password.
- *What about e-mail?*  
If you are a CS student (or instructor), mail sent to *youruserid@student.math* as well as mail sent to *youruserid@student.cs* will be directed to your CS account. If you are a Math student (or instructor), mail sent to either address will be directed to your Math account. Thus, CS students should use their CS account to read mail, and Math students should use their Math account.
- *I am a CS/Stats/Basket-Weaving triple major. From which account should I read my mail?*  
Pick one. If you try reading from the wrong account, you'll find in your mailbox a special mail message from us. The message will tell you that you need to read mail from your other account.

- *Machines in the current computing environment are already overloaded at peak times. Won't this problem get worse when the environment is split?*  
Although we are creating two computing environments out of one, we are not simply partitioning the existing computing equipment. Some very old equipment is being retired, other equipment is being upgraded, and a substantial amount of new computing capacity is being added. As a result we expect the situation to improve, not deteriorate.
- *Will I have access to my Math files from the CS environment, and vice versa?*  
Yes. We plan to make Math home directories visible in the CS environment. Likewise, CS home directories will be visible within the Math environment.
- *What about my home page?*  
Math and CS will have separate web spaces. Home pages created in Math accounts will be accessible through [www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca](http://www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca). Home pages created in CS accounts will be accessible through [www.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca](http://www.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca).
- *What about the terminal rooms? Will they be split?*  
Yes. From a CS terminal room, you will be connected to the CS teaching environment. From a Math terminal room, you will be connected to the Math environment. Once you are connected to an environment, you will of course be able to establish a remote session to the other environment or to any other environment in which you may have an account. MC3008 and MC6080 will be Math terminal rooms. MC2037, MC2061, and MC3022 will be CS terminal rooms. We will be adding signs to these rooms so that it will be clear which kind of room you are in.
- *What about Nexus?*  
The Nexus environment will also be split, so there will be a Math Nexus environment for Math courses and a CS Nexus environment for CS courses. Nexus PCs in MC3006 and MC3009 will be part of the Math environment, while those in MC3004, MC3005, and MC3027 will be part of the CS environment. From any Nexus PC, regardless of the environment it is in, you will be able to access both your Math home directory and your CS home directory.
- *What about the Macs?*  
The Mac labs (MC2062, MC2063, MC3003) will be managed by CSCF, since they are used almost exclusively for CS courses. There will be no changes in these labs as a result of the split.
- *How will the two environments differ?*  
Initially, the two environments will be very similar so that the creation of the new environment can be as smooth as possible. Over time they will be allowed to diverge. You can expect to see some differences right away. For example, licensed software used only by CS courses will be available only in the CS environment.
- *Will there be two printer rooms? Will I need two CAS accounts?*  
No. The existing self-serve printer room will serve both environments. CAS accounts are managed by IST, and are not affected by the split.
- *Will there be two Help Centres?*  
No. The Help Centre will serve both environments.