

## ICT Hub Newsletter – September 2007

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This month we focus on good ICT management and online security. Think about investing now or risk paying more later.

### Latest articles

**[How safe are your IT systems?](#)** Online security is vital for charities to operate, there are so many dangers out there that can compromise your computer systems. Find out how one charity learnt the hard way and was compromised by hackers

**[Good ICT Management in a Nutshell](#)** What is good ICT management all about and why you should read the new ICT Hub publication Guide to Managing ICT in the Voluntary and Community Sector. [Don't forget to get your free copy of the Guide.](#)

**[The Need for Trusted Local Advisors](#)** How do you know your source of ICT information and advice is right? Tony Okotie on the importance of working with those you can trust (and pop round and visit).

### This month's case studies

**[Technology is not always the answer](#)**

Good ICT management can mean knowing when not to use the technology. A pensioners group in Ealing found out to their cost.

**[The perils of not looking after the system](#)**

It's almost unbelievable, but disasters do happen in voluntary groups. Find out what happened to a small North West charity which didn't look where it was going...

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### New resources on the Knowledgebase

New this month on the ICT Hub Knowledgebase...

- **[Writing for the web](#)** - How to write great website copy to attract your audience and keep them interested.
- **[Developing a web publishing policy](#)** - Guidance on what to include in your organisation's Web publishing policy
- **[Implementing a database: practical and strategic issues](#)** - Practical advice for successfully implementing a database in your organisation
- **[Help, I've become an Accidental Techie](#)** - Valuable information for anyone who finds themselves as an Accidental Techie

- [Choosing bulk email software](#) - Guidance on choosing software tools for sending bulk emails (e.g. for e newsletters and marketing communications)

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## Stories from around the Web

[Personal contact still preferred to online communications](#) 'The internet in Britain 2007', a survey by The Oxford Internet Institute, shows that personal contact wins over online activism. Only 9 per cent of respondents engage in any civic activity online compared with 36 per cent offline.

[£2,000 from TalkTalk for your internet project](#) Talk Talk Innovation in the Community Awards 2007 are open to community groups and registered charities in the UK that are seeking funding for new and existing Internet projects. Closing date is 28<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

[New Media Conference](#) The Institute of Fundraising are holding a new media conference in London on 26<sup>th</sup> September featuring case studies, debates and surgeries.

[Virtual homes – raising funds and awareness](#) Homeless charity Shelter have created their own virtual city, selling virtual homes online and encouraging people to build virtual communities. They hope to raise awareness around homelessness and support their fundraising efforts. The city itself is at [www.buildacity.org.uk](http://www.buildacity.org.uk)

[World Usability Day](#) Still a couple of months away – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2007 – but worth preparing for. This year's theme is exploring how health is impacted by design. \_\_\_\_\_

[Is a Script Kiddie Phishing Your ICT With Worms?](#) The BBC have published a handy glossary to ICT crime. Understand terms like phishing and spoofing and much more

[Birmingham gets community groups online](#) The Birmingham VOICE project is helping hundreds of Birmingham community and voluntary groups to create their own website and network with other groups by harnessing the power of the internet.

[Petcasting –woof woof!](#) The Blue Cross are running petcasts – podcasts about pets – giving users the opportunity to hear web content on the move. \_\_\_\_\_

[How to read a hardware or software review](#) When you don't have access to one-to-one advice, how do you get the best of the many reviews available. TechSoup help you become a discerning reader of advice.

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## News from the ICT Hub

### **Managing ICT – A New Free Publication from the Hub**

The Guide to Managing ICT in the Voluntary and Community Sector, a comprehensive guide to all aspects of working with technology, is available now. Download free from the [www.ichub.org.uk/publications](http://www.ichub.org.uk/publications) or email [michael.laffan@ichub.org.uk](mailto:michael.laffan@ichub.org.uk) for a hard copy.

### **National ICT Hub Conference**

The 2008 ICT Hub national conference and awards will be held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008 in London. It aims to help voluntary and community organisations with an income of less than £1m make the most of their ICT. [www.ichub.org.uk/Conferences/National\\_Conference\\_2008](http://www.ichub.org.uk/Conferences/National_Conference_2008)

### **ICT Hub Unmet Needs Fund**

The Unmet Needs Fund supports innovative ICT ideas - new projects that will leave a lasting impact, inform funders of potential areas for further funding or to encourage others to take further and sustain. £50,000 (in total) is available to fund 4 or 5 projects to be completed by 31st March 2008. Closing date for applications is 5pm, September 17th 2007.

[http://www.ichub.org.uk/commissioning/Unmet\\_Need\\_Fund.html](http://www.ichub.org.uk/commissioning/Unmet_Need_Fund.html) or contact [paul.webster@ichub.org.uk](mailto:paul.webster@ichub.org.uk)

### **Focusing on the frontline – BME conference**

On 9<sup>th</sup> November the ICT Hub will be hosting a workshop at this London conference which aims to support frontline BME charities. The conference will be focus on making the link between policy makers and frontline charities.

[http://www.ichub.org.uk/events/focusing\\_on\\_the\\_frontline.html](http://www.ichub.org.uk/events/focusing_on_the_frontline.html)

### **Helping hard-to-reach groups to have their say**

For Hard to Reach groups, a web presence is vital to get your message out there. The Media Trust are running free 'Introduction to Web Design' sessions between October and December, helping organisations improve their new media communications needs. More information at [www.mediatrust.org/improving-reach](http://www.mediatrust.org/improving-reach) or contact the Improving Reach team at [improvingreach@mediatrust.org](mailto:improvingreach@mediatrust.org) or call 020 7874 7657.

### **Circuit Rider Round Up**

The latest issue (August/September) of the Circuit Rider Round up is now available at <http://www.lasa.org.uk/circuitriders/>

### **Voluntary and community organisations working with older people**

The ICT Hub is running a series of events addressing the ICT needs of different areas within the voluntary and community sector. The first of these events, on 22<sup>nd</sup> November in Liverpool, is for organisations working with older people. It will address the general ICT issues such as planning and funding ICT as well as issues specific to their area of work such as accessibility, telecare, the future of digital tv, training for older people and online communities. For more information or to register your interest please contact [louise.brown@ichub.org.uk](mailto:louise.brown@ichub.org.uk).

### **New opportunity for support from your Regional Champion**

This summer saw the appointment of a South West Regional ICT Champion. Julie Harris of COSMIC, with the support of several colleagues, is helping individual third sector organisations to develop their use, understanding and improvements of ICT with advice and hands-on support. Julie is also travelling the South West, meeting organisations and consortia and developing a sector-wide plan. More about the work, its objectives and the people involved at [www.cosmic.org.uk/about\\_cosmic/ict\\_champion](http://www.cosmic.org.uk/about_cosmic/ict_champion)

### **IT Volunteer Awards 2007**

iT4C's second annual volunteer awards ceremony will take place on Thursday 29th November 2007. Details of the event and how to nominate at <http://tinyurl.com/393g69>

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## Noticeboard

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