UCLcloud.com

Launched in November last year, UCLcloud is an extremely simple, yet spectacularly useful site that contains quick links to all main UCL resources. NISHA GAIND chats to Bartosz Adamczyk, second year computer scientist and creator of UCLcloud.com

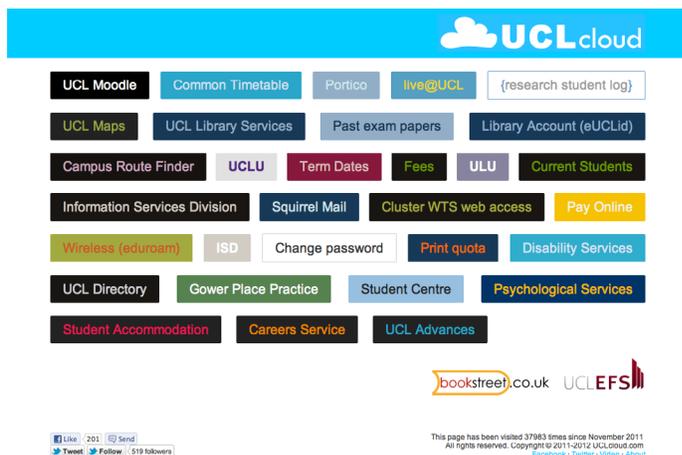**Where did the idea for UCLcloud.com come from?**
The idea of a page with bookmarks is already well known from web browsers such as Safari or Chrome. These applications help in everyday life, but don't always lend themselves to the complex structure of a university network. Of course, we all know by heart the basic links to UCL Moodle or Portico but to find term dates or past exam papers can be awkward. In my second year at UCL, I finally had to organise all the bookmarks and after a good night's sleep, I had the idea for UCLcloud.com.

How long did it take to develop?
The basic version of the page was done over one weekend, but work is still ongoing. Things like our Facebook fan page and Twitter have been with us since the beginning and continue to grow. To better understand the needs of users, I use a very accurate version of Google Analytics, so I am able to customise page content to the needs of students. However, the work to create a properly functioning website for all operating systems, browsers and mobile devices takes time.

Did you develop it alone or have you had input from others?
I did it alone, but I must say that in connection with this project, I received great support from friends and kind people who have helped me to promote the site and to catch small errors. The project was created for the UCL community and is not-for-profit,

so meeting random people with great enthusiasm is what really motivates me to keep working.

What have been the main challenges so far?
Aside from minor technical issues that we can overcome, the big problem is advertising. Facebook groups, Twitter, and UCL societies are useful, but contacting them is time consuming Observing and developing the site is very exciting, but it is easy to lose track of time. Despite this it's been a great opportunity to understand the process of creating a new product. From the initial idea through to development, testing, advertising and maintenance.

What's your biggest criticism of the UCL computer facilities?
Criticism is a big word. I think that a big organisation like UCL is doing quite well with the internet. Of course there are minor mistakes, but without them, there would be no UCLcloud. Obviously the system will keep evolving with time and new opportunities. I don't know how the computer systems operate at other universities, but I know ours isn't bad, and most importantly, I think it makes the user feel safe.

What's next for UCLcloud?
The main goal of UCLcloud is to help students. I'm going to continue developing the website and its possibilities. If the College is interested in my idea, I'm open to cooperation. In parallel to UCLcloud, I want to create more services for students to simplify their lives.

Is it true that our provost, Malcolm Grant, uses UCLcloud.com as his homepage?
These are just rumors for now, but I hopefully they will be confirmed! I know that the site is popular among academic staff, and soon there will be a version of the site for this target group.

Have you had an official response from the College?
The website has been well received by people officially representing UCL, but I haven't received any official response or proposal from UCL Information Services Division yet.

What is your favourite kind of pie?
Difficult questions always come at the end. But I think it is a cheesecake.

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