

ICT investment at UoN

IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION sector, the adoption and use of ICT services is realized by the extent to which ICT supports and fosters innovative research, learning and teaching in addition to supporting administrative processes in these institutions.

Taking the cue, the University has in the last five years, expanded and upgraded the internet bandwidth, launched a new look webpage, hosted the University webpage for ease of access worldwide, and increased the number of computers available for use by students and staff.

Currently, all staff and students have access to a computer. Data points have also been installed in all campuses. To support the function, the University has over 65 highly qualified professional ICT staff to plan, implement and support her ICT infrastructure and services.

The University continues to recognize the importance of a sound computing backbone infrastructure as the basis of efficient ICT services. This has led to the implementation of campus based fibre networks that facilitate students and staff to gain access to the university wide ICT services, with speeds of 100Mbps to the desktop as the standard. The University has realized an over 70 per cent network infrastructure coverage of all campuses with continuous expansions being carried out periodically, in line with the

University development plans.

The University also provides corporate Internet services on all networked computers for the benefit of staff and students. Current total purchased Internet access bandwidth is 15Mbps. The Bandwidth is expected to double in the coming months, through an ongoing infrastructure expansion project (KTCIP) that is spearheaded by the Kenya ICT board (under the Ministry of Information and Communications), and funded by the World Bank.

To enhance communication within the University, in addition to effective use of the network infrastructure, several integrated services have been implemented. These include the VOIP and data messaging services installed at a cost of Ksh. 28M, which included training abroad for three (3) personnel and supply of 175 VOIP phones

There are over 5,400 PCs at the University; about 2,400 dedicated to staff and close to 2,700 dedicated to student laboratories. This gives approximate ratios of 1:2 for staff and 1:14 for students. The plan is to achieve a ratio of 1:1 for teaching and senior administrative staff

and 1:10 for students in general by the year 2013 when the current strategic plan period ends.

The University has continued to automate its functions to increase productivity and enhance efficiency in its operations. The ICT centre has a portfolio of computer based Information systems that support administrative services, teaching, research and learning, with a vast majority being developed in-house. The current systems developed

include: Library information system; student management information system, human resource management information system, university system of websites, financial management information system, health management system, student's clearance system and student archiving system.

The automation status of the University is a dynamic function of many variables. New requirements and needs come up each day but there is a status that we want to achieve. The status in which we have empowered staff and students in their ability to use the ICT resources effectively for academic and administrative purposes; to use the resources to facilitate their research effort; faster access to information; and a flexible means of hosting of their own content. Raising the level of their ICT skills is key to achieving this productive status. It has become a lifestyle for all of the University community.

Period	Total No of PCs at end of Period
2004-05	2,800
2005-06	3,500
2006-07	4,015
2007-08	4,425
2008-09	5,100
Current	5,400
Total Investment	188Million

2400 PCs are dedicated to staff, while 2,700 PCs are used by students, giving a ratio of 1:2 for staff and 1:14 for students.