DIGITS (Digital Campus and IT Services) Office is a unit set up by the Institute to conceive, plan, and create a best-in-class information technology (IT) and networking system, and implement agile IT and networking services for operational excellence in the Institute. The first issue of TERABYTES was published in August 2017. This is the second issue. During August 2017 – March 2018, the activities of DIGITS have expanded in many directions. At the outset, we make the following requests.

Fast and effective deployment of IT applications invariably involves adjusting our processes to suit the workflow programmed in the IT application. While configuration and customization are possible, we need to strike a lovely balance between degree of customization and retention of legacy workflows. The DIGITS team sincerely urges the understanding and cooperation of all users in the interest of timely implementation and deployment of new IT applications and the ERP system.

Since many parallel initiatives are in progress, it is important for DIGITS to get candid feedback on these initiatives. For any questions, you may please contact: office.digits@iisc.ac.in. For any specific questions regarding Active Directory implementation and email migration, please contact emailsupport@iisc.ac.in and networksupport@iisc.ac.in.

Selection of ERP Platform and System Integrator:
In preparation for selecting a University ERP system to be implemented in the Institute, the DIGITS team has identified an ERP platform through an RFP and competitive technocommercial bidding process. The platform selected is SAP S/4 HANA which is SAP’s latest offering. It will be a cloud-based platform. The infrastructure services on the cloud will be provided by the company CtrlS which is partnering with SAP. Having selected the platform, an RFP was issued in September 2017 for selecting an Implementation Partner (also known as System Integrator). Following a detailed technocommercial bidding process involving four major vendors, Wipro has been selected as the Implementation Partner.

Active Directory Implementation and Centralized Email Services
Implementation of Office 365 and Active Directory implementation have been completed for the entire Institute. The above departments also have moved to centralized cloud-based email services (this activity involves migrating user mailboxes to the Microsoft Azure cloud). We need to thank the entire TINA team (Telecom, Internet, and Network Access Committee) for making the smooth and successful transition.

Migrating Data into the ERP System
Currently, the existing IT applications in the campus invoke as many as 12 different databases leading to unproductive data redundancy and causing inconsistency of data across databases. A team from Integra Micro Systems is working on integrating all data in the campus into a single unified logical architecture. This ongoing exercise will have significant value for the data migration phase of ERP implementation.

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Online Course Evaluation Platform

DIGITS, with the help of its staff and outsourced team, designed and implemented an Online Course Evaluation Platform for obtaining feedback on courses and instructors corresponding to the August-December 2016, January-April 2017, and August-December 2017 semesters. The tool generates many useful reports and helps in carrying out a trend analysis.

Automated Ph.D. Thesis Processing

An automated online Ph.D. thesis processing system was rolled out through the Scholar One platform of Clarivate Analytics (formerly Thomson Reuters) in October 2017. More than 120 Ph.D. theses are currently being processed by this system.

Online Course Registration Module

An online course registration module was developed and tested during January 2017 and August 2017 in several Departments. This module was rolled out across all departments in January 2018. Also, the course dropping module has been developed, tested and launched in March 2018, to enable students to drop courses. This application is being stabilized.

Project ISTAR:

Following the selection of ERP platform and System Integrator, the Institute has signed three separate Master Service Agreements (MSAs) with SAP, CtrlS, and Wipro. The implementation commenced on February 20, 2018 when the three service providers, Wipro, SAP, and CtrlS made a joint presentation to the Director, IISc about the implementation plan.

The project is code-named ISTAR (Implementation of SAP for Transforming the Administration and Research). The Director has approved the appointment of the following two committees for overseeing the strategic, tactical, and operational aspects of ISTAR. In addition to these two committees, a number of faculty members and administrative staff members are helping with the ongoing implementation process: A formal kickoff meeting of ISTAR were held on March 2, 2018 in the presence of both these committees.

ISTAR Exe Com

1. Prof. Jayant Modak – Chair
2. Prof. Y Narahari - Co-Chair
3. Mr. V Rajarajan – Member Secretary
4. Ms. Indumati Srinivasan - Member
5. Prof. KVS Hari – Member
6. Prof. Joy Kuri – Member
7. Mr. H Krishnamurthy –
8. Mr. Ganesh Gopalakrishnan – Advisor
9. Mr. Amit K Chakraborty – Advisor
10. Mr. Hemant Dabke - Vice President, Strategic Industries, SAP
11. Mr. Vivek Iyer - Director, Higher Education & Research, SAP
12. Mr. Mohan R - Vice President, India-BAS, Wipro
13. Mr. Veluswamy Ganesh Kumar - Practice Head, India SAP, Wipro
14. Mr. Sanjay Arora, Delivery Head, SAP, Wipro
15. Mr. Sleeva Reddy - Global Service Delivery Head, CtrlS
16. Mr. Sai Venkatram – Regional Head SAP (South), Ctrl
Online Portal for Faculty Recruitment
An online portal is currently under development for receiving applications from prospective faculty candidates. The portal is expected to be ready by April 2018.

Online Portal for Staff Recruitment
An online portal is currently under development for recruiting permanent administrative and technical staff at various levels. The portal is expected to be ready by April 2018.

Equipment for Next Generation Network Infrastructure
A detailed plan has been drawn up for procuring equipment for a modern networked campus. The equipment is being procured through NICSI, a subsidiary of NIC and a Govt. of India company.

Vehicle Information System (VIS)
Phase I of VISE, deployed in 2015, covers 26 locations. The RFP for Phase II of VISE covering more than 70 additional locations is ready and an open tender is expected to be released by April 2018.

ISTAR OpsCom
1. Mr. V Rajarajan - Chair
2. Ms. Indumati Srinivasan - Co-Chair
3. Prof. KVS Hari - Member
4. Prof. Joy Kuri - Member
5. Dr. K Pannerselvam - Member
6. Mr. P Manivannan - Member
7. Dr. M Krishnamurthy - Member
8. Mr. M.C. Jayaprakash - Member
9. Mr. V Nagaraja - Member
10. Mr. Veeranna Kammar - Member
11. Col. Arun Sharma - Member
12. Mr. Ganesh Gopalakrishnan - Advisor
13. Mr. Amit K Chakraborty - Convener
14. Mr. Rakesh Pargi, Customer Solution Director, SAP – Invitee
15. Mr. Sanjay Arora, India SAP Delivery Head, Wipro – Invitee
16. Mr. Neeraj Kumar, Project Manager, Wipro – Invitee
17. Mr. Yogesh H S, Account Manager, CtrlS – Invitee
18. Mr. Karthic V, Project Manager, CtrlS – Invitee

Wave 1 and Wave 2 implementations and Timelines
Project ISTAR will be implemented in two phases. As per the planned schedule, Wave 1 will go live by December 2018 and wave 2 will go live by June 2019. This is an aggressive schedule that requires total support of the entire Institute community.

Key Success Factors for Project ISTAR
- A culture of Change Leadership that aims to build commitment through accountability, role clarity, and executive development from all stakeholders’ organizations
- Time Commitment – Dedicated Core/Operation team members/SAP Consultants
- Be Ready to adopt SAP Best Practices & Minimize customization.
- Timely availability of Clean Data (Master/Transaction Data) from current systems
The Institute website has metamorphosed into a more contemporary platform with continuous updating of content. The following website committee has been the key driver in transforming the website into a content rich, lively platform. DIGITS would like to express grateful thanks to the committee for the wonderful work over the past two years.

Prof. G K Ananthasuresh, ME (Chair) [Overall coordination; policy documents; faculty, staff, and student matters]
Prof. Anil Kumar, Phy. [Admissions related pages]
Mr. Mariyappan Arumugam, DIGITS [Plug-ins, forms, and other technical matters]
Mrs. M. K. Champaka, EE [Daily updates to web pages]
Prof. Narendra M Dixit, ChE [Research related matters]
Prof. Namrata Gundaiah, ME [Research related matters]
Mrs. S. Jayashree, DIGITS [Content collection]
Prof. Vijay Natarajn, CSA [Social media related matters]: Sliding Images
Mrs. Ranjini Raghunath, ODAA [Social media sites of IISc]
Mr. P Raghuraman, SERC [Technical help; tenders]
Dr. Karthik Ramaswamy, APC [Content and general matters]
Prof. Annapoorini Rangarajan, MRDG [Hindi version]
Mr. Nithyanad Rao, APC [Content]
Prof. Yogesh Shimmhan, CDS [Aesthetics]

SAP S/4 HANA ERP Overview Training Sessions for IISc Business Process Owners, Business Users and Subject Matter Experts

As a major step of Project ISTAR, our System Integrator, Wipro Project Team, has started conducting classroom training sessions on SAP S/4 HANA ERP Overview w.r.t. the IISc Business Functions and Processes for seven days commencing March 20, 2018 covering the functional areas – Finance & Accounts, CSSP, Purchase & Stores, HR & Payroll, Academics, Hostel Management, and CCMD.