

UCC :: Survival Guide

The University Computer Club Inc.



<www.ucc.asn.au>

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2015

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0. Introduction

0.0 President's Welcome

Message From Mitchell Pomery <mjpomery@ucc.asn.au>:

Welcome to UCC and our Survival Guide!

We are a combination of students interested in computers and people in the workplace who have failed to escape the clubs grasp. Our club is a no knowledge needed place where you can come to meet friends, work on your own projects or play games and socialise. The events we run range in skill level to make sure everyone is catered for. You can find out exactly what events we are running this year later in this guide.

If you want to get the most out of UCC, come visit us in our clubroom. It is open pretty much all the time. If you want to keep up to date with what is happening at UCC, you can join our mailing lists or our facebook group.

Mitchell Pomery [BG3] UCC President 2014

1. Finding the Clubroom

1.0 Maps

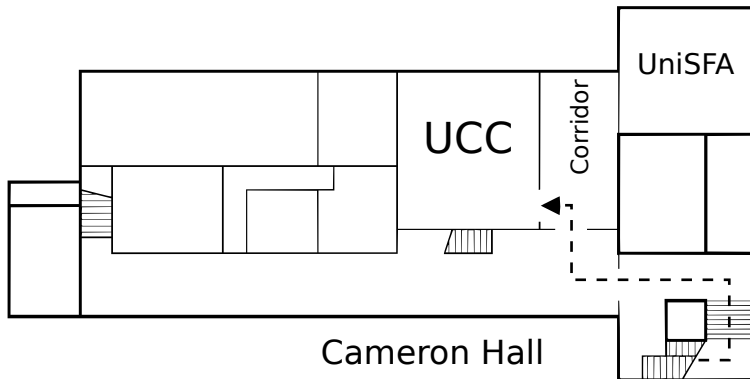


Figure 1.1: Second Floor of Cameron Hall

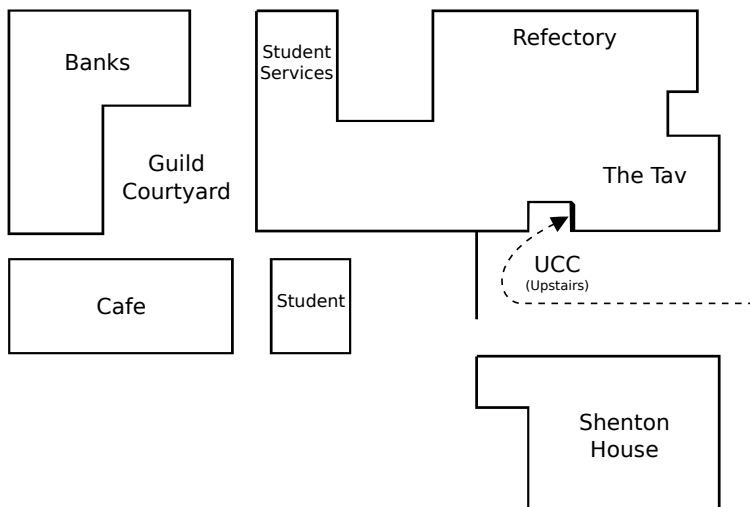


Figure 1.2: The Guild Village. Cameron Hall = The Tav

2. Your Account

2.0 Getting it

SIGNING UP AT THE O'DAY STALL IS THE FIRST STEP TO GAINING ACCESS TO ALL OF UCC'S SERVICES. THE NEXT STEP IS VISITING THE CLUBROOM TO CREATE AN ACCOUNT.

Your UCC account is *the most* important thing you can have as a member. The account lets you log into any of our clubroom machines, user servers, wireless network, online drink and snack machines, and more. It also provides you with an email address that we may use to communicate with you.

Once you're at the clubroom and ready to create an account, ask around for a member who can set up your account. Members in UCC are kind and will let you know who can help if you ask. You'll get to choose your own user name and a password. The person who sets up your account will also show you around the clubroom and how to operate our drink and snack machines.

Now that you have an account, you can use it to log into any of our clubroom machines. If you want to log onto one of our servers, you'll need to use the SSH program. If you're having trouble, just ask someone in the clubroom — we don't byte!

Changing your UCC password can either be done by Ctrl-Alt-Del on a windows machine or using the command `passwd` on a Linux/Unix machine. Accessing the UCC WiFi network can be a bit tricky (particularly on Windows machines). Ask someone if you need help, or refer to <<http://wiki.ucc.asn.au/Wifi>>

2.1 SSH for Great Good

SSH is a program that lets you remotely access UCC's servers. These can be used for almost anything (legal) you can imagine; programming, website hosting, file storage, IRC chatting, dispensing drinks, and many more things.

From a windows computer, open a program called "PuTTY" (or "KiTTY"). Enter the address `username@ssh.ucc.asn.au` and click "Open". You can SSH from home using the same address.

3. Dispense 101

At the same time as you set up your account, you will also have your dispense account set up. Dispense is the program that allows users to store credit and purchase items from the coke/snack machines. Coke members can help you add credit to your dispense account. Call out for one in the clubroom if need be, there's always one around.

The easiest way to dispense a drink is probably the web interface at <https://secure.ucc.asn.au/dispense>. Simply enter your username and password and then select a drink.

Due to technical reasons, snacks cannot be dispensed using this interface. Getting a snack will involve typing a 5 digit User ID and a 4 digit PIN into the keypad. This allows you to dispense both drinks and snacks.

You can also use your Student Card or SmartRider as a log in device on the snack machine. To do so, log in to the Snack Machine and hold whichever card you want to use up to the card scanner (it's the thing with the blinking green light) and the card should auto- enroll. To log in using the card, simply hold the enrolled card up to the card scanner.

You can also access Dispense using the dispense command. Dispense isn't installed on clubroom machines so you will have to use SSH to access one of UCC's servers.



Figure 3.1: <https://secure.ucc.asn.au/dispense>

4. UCC::Events

UCC runs a lot of events. You should go to them! Dates and times may change.

4.0 Fresher Welcome

When: Friday, February 28th, 5:00PM

Where: Cameron Hall Loft (above the UCC clubroom)

The Fresher welcome exists to welcome you, a new UCC member, to the club. There will be a number of current members there to talk with and get to know, and all of your questions about the club and how to use it will be answered. As a bonus, all first time members get **FREE pizza**.

4.1 Annual General Meeting

When: Tuesday, March 11th, 1:00PM

Where: Guild Council Meeting Room

The AGM is the meeting at which the new UCC committee is elected for 2014. The only way to be represented is to attend on the day. As a Fresher, you should attend to either run for or vote for the position of the Fresher Representative, who will be your liaison for the committee. If you don't know where the Guild Council Meeting Room is, arrive at the UCC clubroom a little early to join the mass exodus.

4.2 Easter LAN

When: Easter Weekend, 3:00PM until the morning after

Where: The Loft (above UCC Clubroom)

UCC runs a number of LANs throughout the year, some with proper organisation, some without. The Easter LAN is the first big LAN of the academic year, taking place over the Easter weekend, the first weekend of mid-Semester one study break. We play a number of different games, and of course you can organise your own. LANs are free for all UCC members, but you can bring a friend for around \$5 (though of course you should encourage them to join). Bring your own PCs, or use one of the limited stock in the clubroom.

4.3 LANs

When: Throughout the Year, From Dusk til Dawn

Where: The Loft (above UCC Clubroom)

The UCC hosts a number of more LANs throughout the year. As above, the Easter LAN is the first big one. Expect other LANs during the semester and breaks.

4.4 Cameron Hall Quiz Night

When: First Semester, probably in May, Evening

Where: UWA Tavern

Bringing together the various clubs of Cameron Hall, the quiz night is the only proper time to use your smarts throughout your degree. (18+ Event).

4.5 Camp

When: 18th to 21st July

Where: Lake Leschenaultia

The UCC goes camping! Without tents. There is a dormitory. During the winter break, UCC will host a camp at Camp Leschenaultia. This is a chance to get your computer out of the house for a few days, tinkering and playing games with a whole bunch of other members. Don't worry, you won't be without precious internet. (18+ Event).

4.6 40th Anniversary Dinner

When: Saturday, September 13th, 7.00 PM til late(r)

Where: South Perth Yacht Club

The big non-tech event of the year, the 40th Anniversary dinner is an opportunity for new members to meet the old blood of UCC, the ones that are still kicking on. Taking place in the lovely South of Perth Yacht Club, this fully catered dinner will be a good celebration of 40 years of computing. Expect entry prices to be around \$60 to \$80.

4.7 Cameron Hall Charity Vigil

When: Semester 2 - mid-semester study break - Overnight

Where: Cameron Hall

Once a year, all of the clubs in Cameron Hall get together and hold a night of fun and games to raise money for charity. While the details of the night are still to come, the UCC will probably host a LAN. There will be an entry fee for this event, but expect it to be fully worth it.

4.8 Tech Talks

When: Throughout the Year, as Interest Demands

Where: UCC Clubroom and/or the Loft

A chance to demonstrate your own tech-y knowledge, or learn from someone else. Previous topics include: "Introduction to TOR"; and "The Magic of Data Compression". Early on in the semester, a number of tech talks will cover learning to use the club's machines.

4.9 FUCC Camp Scholarship

Incoming message from James Cox and Lionel Price:

For new members to UCC, Lionel and I would like to tell you about our full-ride scholarship program. We realise that Camp is fairly expensive, but as once-freshers made good we are financially able to provide unto others. Previous recipients of these scholarships have gone onto great things so we are proud to offer it once more in 2014. I would encourage everyone who is interested to take advantage of this offer - I had a great time my first UCC Camp which is part of the reason why I now offer this scholarship.

Two first-time UCC Campers will have their entry fee paid for by us. As before, you will also obtain the privilege, if you should so wish, to add a pink F to your UCC tags, denoting sophistication, intellect, and exclusive membership of an elite group of teamkilling imbeciles.

To be eligible for this award, you must be a UWA student, member of UCC, and to not have attended a previous UCC Camp. Applicants will also need to declare in writing that they will participate in at least one game of DotA during UCC Camp, and that when we play ET you will not be a noob in the back with a mortar accomplishing nothing all match.

5. UCC::Clubroom

The clubroom is usually open from about 9am until 11pm (staying later than this requires a *good reason* and giving notice to UWA security). It is also sometimes open on weekends, and most days during university holidays. There is a map to the clubroom in Chapter 1. If you want to check the clubroom is open and who is there, check out <<http://webcam.ucc.asn.au>>

The clubroom has a heap of desktop computers, a server room, a projects area with tool cupboard, and assorted storage areas for parts, books and components. These things are all there for members to use — the locks on everything are to keep thieves out, so please don't be put off, and just ask if you need to get into something.

We don't have cleaners, so look after the clubroom! There is always a door group member in the room, AND YOU WILL DO WHAT THEY DAMN WELL TELL YOU TO DO AS THEY ARE THE ONES WHO HAVE TO COME TO CLEANUPS IN THEIR FREE TIME. Of course, if you see something that needs doing such as cleaning up, feel free to do it!



Figure 5.1: <<http://webcam.ucc.asn.au>>

6. Communication Technologies

6.1 Social Media

Dragging itself kicking and screaming into the 21st Century, UCC has managed to set up a social media presence in something called the "cloud".

- UCC Facebook Group: <<https://www.facebook.com/groups/universitycomputerclub/>>
- UCC Steam Group: <<http://steamcommunity.com/groups/UCC>>
- UCC Status Twitter Account: <https://twitter.com/ucc_status>
- GitHub: <<https://github.com/ucc>>

6.2 Mailing Lists

UCC often uses email for communication. There are various lists that you can sign up for at <<http://lists.ucc.asn.au>>. The most popular lists are `ucc-announce@` for announcements and `ucc@` for general discussion.

If you are interested in technology, join the `tech@` list. If you want to be kept up to date with management of the club, join `committee@`.

6.3 IRC

Without a doubt, the easiest way to waste time in or out of UCC is chatting on our Internet Relay Chat (IRC) server.

You'll get to chat with some of the older members of the club who may not even be in Perth. Some of these old guard may seem a little grumpy or intimidating at first, but give them a chance, they are gold mines for information about the club and all things tech! We also have members from CASSA and ComSSA, clubs at other WA unis.

You can connect with an IRC client to `irc://irc.ucc.asn.au:6667` and join the channel `#ucc`, or with a web browser go to <<http://irc.ucc.asn.au>>

IRC produces some incredible quotes. You can see these at <<http://zanchey.ucc.asn.au/qdb/>>.

I didn't say they were wise or funny, just incredible.

7. UCC::Games

Do you like Steam? Of course you do! Join UCC's Steam Group: <<http://steamcommunity.com/groups/UCC>>

UCC runs its own TF2, WolfET and Minecraft servers. There's also a range of other games that members enjoy playing in the clubroom.

7.0 Minecraft

Minecraft is a game where you mine blocks and craft things out of them. It is more exciting than it sounds - within 5 minutes you will be addicted. Our (modded) Minecraft server is at minecraft.ucc.asn.au. The modpack changes every three to six months, so you will never get bored!

For more instructions, visit <<http://minecraft.ucc.asn.au/ucc>>. You can also find maps of the world there. (Figure 7.1).

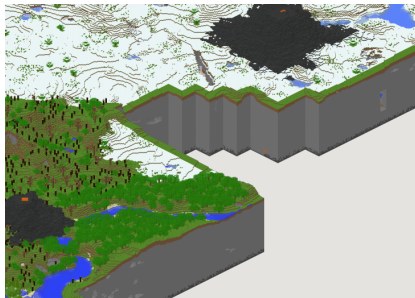


Figure 7.1: Part of the UCC Minecraft world

7.1 WolfET

Wolfenstein: Enemy Territory, (or just ET) is an old game but is still incredibly popular at LANs. There is a scholarship (See 4.9) available for the camp which requires playing ET. The ET server is at heathred.ucc.asn.au.

7.2 TF2

Team Fortress 2, also known as Hat Fortress 2. The TF2 server is located at `heathred.ucc.asn.au`.

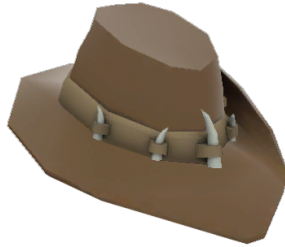


Figure 7.2: The ultimate goal of TF2 is to aquire these

7.3 DoTa

DoTa is a game that involves a lot of clicking and people yelling about 'Q's and 'W's and 'alties'. Apparently it's fun. UCC doesn't run its own server but it is the most popular game in the clubroom. Unless that's LoL. I can't tell the difference.

7.4 LoL

LoL is a game similar to DoTa but not the same because it is different.

8. UCC::Services

8.0 Games

The Heathred A. Loveday memorial games server hosts many games including: Minecraft, TF2 and Wolfenstein: Enemy Territory (ET).

Administrator access to heathred is fairly unrestricted; it is also available as a general use server. For example, its GPU has been used in the past for number crunching projects.

8.1 Drinks and Snacks — Dispense

UCC's most successful service is undoubtedly the internet connected coke machine and not quite internet connected snack machine. These use serial communications to talk to merlo, which runs open source software written by talented members including John Hodge, Mark Tearle and David Adam.

A relay connected to merlo can be activated by door members from the snack machine to open the club's electronic door lock.

8.2 Clubroom Music

From within the clubroom, you can navigate to [<http://robotnik>](http://robotnik) to play music over the speakers. Beware, as repeated abuse may lead to activation of the dreaded "loldongs" mode.

8.3 Email

UCC proudly runs its own mail server. You have an email account `<username@ucc.asn.au>`.

Upon creating your account you can choose an address to forward all emails to. You can change this at any time by editing the ".forward" file in your home directory.

8.4 Web Hosting

Members can publish their own sites! SSH to a server and edit the files in the directory "public-html". The website will appear at [<http://username.ucc.asn.au>](http://username.ucc.asn.au).

8.5 Wiki Hosting

UCC uses a Wiki called "MoinMoin" to store documentation on servers, events, and miscellaneous things. It is visible at <<http://wiki.ucc.asn.au>>.

8.6 Virtual Machine Hosting

Members who are particularly nice to wheel group can get their own VM hosted at UCC.

8.7 Windows Server

`maaxen` is our token Windows server. It can be accessed through RDP, but beware, as it only supports two simultaneous sessions. `maaxen` boasts a range of useful programs including Notepad and Matlab.

8.8 IRC

Our two IRC servers are bridged with CASSA and ComSSA, computer science associations at other Universities.

8.9 General Use

SSH access is available to several servers, but `motsugo` is the best choice for general use.

9. Common UNIX/Linux Commands

In the Beginning was the Command Line.

Command	Description
logout	Logs you off the system. Do this before you leave
ls <directory>	Lists the files in the given directory (folder)
cd <directory>	Change to the given directory (folder)
mkdir <directory>	Add the specified directory (folder)
rmdir <directory>	Remove the specified directory (folder)
pwd	"Print Working Directory" — Displays the path of the directory you are currently in
less <file>	Read through a file (<i>space</i> scrolls, <i>q</i> quits)
cp <source> <destination>	Make a copy of a file in a new place
mv <source> <destination>	Move (rename) a file
rm <file>	PERMANENTLY DELETES A FILE. THERE IS NO "RECYCLE BIN"!
nano <file>, vim <file>, emacs <file>	Three different text file editors. nano is the simplest
finger <username>	Check to see who someone is and if they are logged in
tla <username TLA>	Look up a UCC TLA
ssh <username>@<hostname>	Log in (securely) to another (UNIX) machine
ping <hostname>	Ping another machine to see if it is up and what the latency is. Press <i>Ctrl-C</i> to cancel
man <command>	Displays the manual for a command. See <i>man man</i> for more information
top	Displays an updating list of current processes
ps aux	Lists all processes running on the system
kill <PID>	Tell a process it should stop. <i>kill -9</i> will kill a process immediately
passwd	On <i>musse1</i> - Change your login password
dispense	Get yourself a delicious drink!
gcc/g++	C/C++ compilers for compiling some awesome code you wrote
python	Python interpreter for interpreting some OK code you wrote
irssi	Join IRC to chat/argue with other members

10. Glossary

what is this i don't even

Term	Translation
Dr ACC Murphy	A Computer Called Murphy. Dr ACC Murphy is infamous around the UCC. He even receives mail!
BSD	Berkeley Systems Distribution – a UNIX developed at Berkeley, now better known through the FreeBSD, NetBSD and OpenBSD UNIXes. musdea runs FreeBSD.
blog	aka. weblog – sort of like a journal on the Internet (you don't have one?). Think of it as a tumblr for grown-ups. Syndicated by a Planet.
Coke credit	If you gotta ask, you ain't got it! Coke credit is how people usually refer to money in your dispense account.
Coke Group	The people who can put money (Coke credit) in your dispense account.
Debian	a Linux distribution popular in the UCC due to its community nature.
DEC Terminal	A dumb serial terminal, useful for plugging into the serial console on servers (possibly via a terminal server). Has a model number like vt100 or vt420. There's one in the corridor you can log into musse1 and dispense drinks from.
dispense	dispense started off as a way to dispense Cokes from the online Coke machine, and has since grown into the way UCCans think the world should do business.
Door Group	the group of people charged with keep the room open, tidy and safe.
Firefox	A web browser by the Mozilla Foundation, arguably the second-worst Internet browser – the worst is every other browser.
Flame	Flame is the UCC's MUD (Multi-User Dungeon) and may or may not be haunted.
Fresher	A new university student, usually also a first time UCC member.
Fresher Rep	Fresher Committee member, usually chosen because they look like they'll make a good worker drone in the future. Represents the freshers at committee meetings, if they attend.
GNU	GNU is Not Unix – a layer of libraries and utilities to implement a UNIX like operating system, commonly used on top of Linux.

Term		Translation
Internet Explorer	Ex-	Just use Firefox. No, really.
IRC		The lifeblood of UCCan communication. Internet Relay Chat lets you share news, stories and terrible puns with other members worldwide.
kernel		The core of an operating system. All operating systems have a kernel, some popular ones include the Linux kernel and the Mach kernel.
LDAP		Lightweight Directory Access Protocol: the black magic used for authentication at the UCC.
Linux		the kernel (basis) of an open source UNIX operating system that has developed quite a following among computer scientists and engineers.
loft		the area above the UCC that looks down into the UCC clubroom. LAN gaming and other activities take place up there.
machine room		The UCC data centre. This is the small room with the glass doors that is located within the clubroom. All of our servers are kept in this room. It is locked when there is no one from Wheel around.
mailing list		a way of communicating with a very large number of people via email. The UCC has several mailing lists of varying popularity.
Mozilla		develop several open source web related products, such as Firefox and Thunderbird.
OCM		Ordinary Committee Member – the worker drones of the UCC Committee, they do lots of work, for little reward.
Oligoboot		boots more then one operating system (selectable when you boot). These all end up booted into Windows.
OpenSolaris		A UNIX developed by Sun Microsystems, and abandoned by Oracle.
open source		A software ideology, where the source code to software (what is compiled into the program you run) is freely available. Also known as Free Software, exactly what makes a program open source is a good way to get into an argument.

Term	Translation
Planet	A web page that syndicates blogs. UCC has one at http://planet.ucc.asn.au/
Secret Wheel Song	The song that is supposedly sung at the beginning of each Wheel meeting.
SLA	A Service Level Agreement. A document describing how reliable services are. UCC does not have one.
terminal server	Sort of a router for serial ports, allows you to connect to one serial port from another. Usually connected to DEC Terminals, servers and dispense. (It can also refer to other sorts of servers which provide login sessions over the network).
theft book	this is where you write down that you borrowed tools from UCC. It is not for borrowing books; you mail books@ucc.asn.au to do that.
TLA	Three Letter Acronym – a way to refer to UCC members, often used in the minutes of meetings. Use the tla program or visit the UCC website to decode them.
Ubuntu	A Linux distribution derived from Debian. Funded with space money.
UCCan	someone who spends a lot of time in the UCC. Some UCCans pass their units.
Unifi	The University wireless network. Available around campus where UCC's wireless is not. You need to be a student to access it though.
UniSFA	the University Science Fiction Association, the ones down the hall. "UCC and UniSFA, a twisted pair"
VM	A VM or Virtual Machine is a computer emulated on top of another computer. Many of the UCC's servers run inside VMs. The claim is that UCC's VMs are not a "single point of failure." That's the machine they are all running on: medico.
WAIX	WA Internet eXchange – a group of ISPs and interested bodies who peer resources on the Internet for mutual benefit.
Wheel Group	the group responsible for maintaining computers, accounts and services in UCC.