

NewERPOL Project Progress

A Note by Daniel Hill - Deputy President (Finance & Services)

NewERP has been the database system that stored the information of our members, Clubs & Societies and their relationships for the last decade

NewERPOL is a project that was started two years ago with two main aims. One, to move the Access based NewERP to a SQL environment. Two, to provide a web front-end to the database allowing a quicker and more user friendly interface with which to populate it.

NewERPOL has been running off a SQL database for over a year now and the web front-end is also live with new features being added all the time.

Currently the main focus of the project is to deliver the newly renamed eActivities suite of tools to student groups. These tools are an online compliment to the service provided by the Student Activities Centre and associated staff. The ultimate goals of eActivities, and related projects, are to replace all paper processes with online ones. This makes the processes easier for our student volunteers who administer Clubs, Societies and Projects as well as reducing our staff costs and increasing the accuracy of our reporting.

Development follows an agile development method aiming to deliver functionality to a specified date with allowances for feature change in order to meet that deadline. Each iteration of the software includes specification from a stakeholder, design, coding and acceptance testing. This method is ideally suited to the aim of delivering online versions of offline processes as these processes have set deadlines during the academic year.

So far this academic year we have delivered the following new pieces of major functionality.

- Budgeting
- Affiliations
- Instructors
- Risk Assessments
- Inventory
- Next Year's Committee Details
- Profile Entries for online and handbooks

As well as many pieces of live information enabling better, more informed, administration of student activities. An example of this being highlighting uncashed cheques on a club's finance pages

Moving forward we aim to deliver more functionality based on our goal of removing, where possible, paper processes. The scope of this project does not include online invoicing (sales orders) or purchase orders for external organisations. This is covered in the Union's SAP Project 2 that is running in parallel with this. We are also putting together a User Group for next academic year that can feedback on new functionality, have input in interface changes and help us prioritise our feature list.