

# Using SOLAR in practice



**APPLIED COMPUTING TECHNOLOGY  
CURRICULUM TEAM**

# Registration



- **Student Registration**
  - Can be done by with reference to Enquirer
  - Always organise into Cohorts (typically based on class groups)
- **Possible problems:**
  - No Student Candidate Number (Required). This can in some circumstances take a while to obtain. A dual system of paper and SOLAR best avoided.
  - Student registered at other Centres, SOLAR has to be contacted to deregister such effected students from other Centres before being added.
- **Staff Registration – done on an individual basis**

# Benefits



- Widely used in Computing cognate area for many years (partially driven by vendor related units)
- Pre verified assessments
- Automated marking
- Sector wide – consistent unit assessment
- Easy to check results
- Gives instant result and feedback to students
- **Liked** by students
- Easy to administer and setup assessments

# Challenges



- No prior view of assessments
- Quality of assessments variable
- Blooms Taxonomy – most questions are MCSA/MCSA which only test knowledge and comprehension
- Assessment errors, in terms of incorrect questions, difficult to rectify.
- There can be limited re-sit assessments – varies with area
- The printing of Key Codes can use a large amount of paper
- No built in help facility

# Challenges



- Not able to install the secure client due to difficulties in detecting the College Proxy Server
- Limited formative assessments
- No linkage to other SQA systems
- System not well maintained, for example old Cohorts not deleted
- Unable to include simulations into questions
- Pedagogy and the move to NCNL

Q & A ?



THANK YOU