



Scottish further education
funding council

IN.FACT & FES on Line

OR

**The tale of a 'wee' package and
its big sister**



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BACKGROUND:

The Funding Council was founded on 1 July 1999 to deal with the Funding of FE Colleges and to ensure adequacy of FE provision throughout Scotland.

The Statistics Branch took over responsibility for the national collection of FE statistical data returns at this time.

The biggest collection is the Further Education Statistics (FES) return.



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One collection - several aspects

IN.FACT

Publication

FES

Data
collection
and cleaning

FES on LINE

*a SAS
world*

Analysis

**Access
EXCEL
& SAS**



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The data collection /cleaning problem

The existing method of collecting and cleaning the data:

- received data electronically but was then a manual editing and paper based system;
- required large amounts of central time;
- required large amounts of college time at a very busy period;
- was an entirely retrospective collection;
- gave colleges very little control.



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The data collection / cleaning requirement

- to provide a secure electronic mechanism for colleges to submit and identify errors in their data;
- to enable data to be submitted to use at time during the course of the academic year;
- to provide information in a format the colleges were familiar with;
- No 'rocket science';
- Use existing IT and fitting into current practice as far as possible;
- Be available yesterday.



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The publication problem

The existing method of dealing with data requests:

- was essentially paper based;
- did not meet the needs of users;
- did not fit with the organisation's commitment to openness and use of the web;
- often needed to be supplemented by writing ad hoc programs in SAS in deal with specific requests.



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The publication requirement

- to make all data easily and quickly available to ANY user;
- to provide information in an easy to understand way;
- to provide information in a format helpful to a user
- No 'rocket science';
- Use existing IT and fitting into current practice as far as possible;
- Be available yesterday.

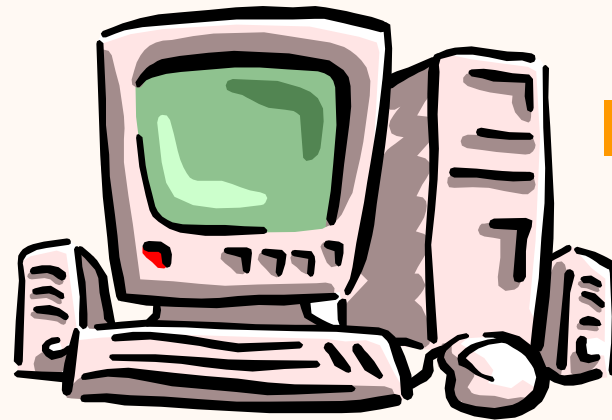


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The solution

SFEFC server
with SAS data,
programs and
IntrNet

Anyone with a
web browser



IN.FACT

FES on LINE



FE college staff
with a browser
and their data



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THE SOLUTION

- **the user has a web browser;**
- **the user makes choices from simple screens and pull down menus;**
- **SAS IntrNet put on our server;**
- **JavaScript communicates between the user's browser and our server;**
- **FES on LINE users send their data and run against SAS checking program. User picks up an error report and the cycle continues until the data is clean.**
- **IN.FACT user choices are converted to SAS queries and run against the full raw data sets. Results sent back to user as simple tables or charts and they be copied / pasted into other packages.**



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**INFACT and FES on Line web NT
server - DELL PowerEdge 1300
Dual 550 MHz Pentium III 512 MB
ECC SDRAM. NT Server 4.0 SP5**

**General web server- DELL
PowerEdge 1300 Dual 550 MHz
Pentium III 256MB ECC SDRAM**



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Benefits

- Very easy for users;
- Very popular with users;
- Huge time savings for data providers and SFEFC ;
- Increased awareness of FE activity and access to information;
- More control and flexibility for data providers;
- uses SAS data sets we already had for other purposes and simple web IT;
- Up and running within a year.



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WWW.sfefc.ac.uk/infact

in.fact enquiry specification - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites History Mail Print Edit

Address http://www.sfefc.ac.uk/scripts/broker.exe?_program=sascode.genenqpg.sas&_service=infact&_debug=0&_refine=0&_rvarid=1&_avarid=1 Go

 **in.fact**
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- ◆ In.fact home
- ▶ Run
- ◆ Help

Variable

Statistic as

Output format

☒ Show totals

Show data where

The **in.fact** summary information enquiry allows you to request tables or graphs that provide information relating to further education qualifications in Scotland.

Internet



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www.sfefc.ac.uk/infact

in.fact enquiry results - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Address www.sfefc.ac.uk/infact/index.htm Go

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- ◆ [In.fact home](#)
- ◀ [Back](#)
- ▶ [Refine](#)
- ◆ [Help](#)

College name	Count	% of overall
N. Highland Coll	81	0%
Inverness College	438	2%
Sabhal Mor Ostaig	7	0%
Moray College	269	1%
Banff & Buchan College of Further Education	118	1%
Aberdeen College	1,331	7%
Angus College	118	1%
Perth College	557	3%
Dundee College	419	2%
Fife College of Further & Higher Education	1,199	7%
Glenrothes College	88	0%
Elmwood College	72	0%
Lauder College	200	1%
Oatridge Agricultural College	65	0%
Edinburgh's Telford College	772	4%

<http://www.sfefc.ac.uk/infact/index.htm> Internet



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FES Online - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Address <https://www.sfec.ac.uk/fesonline/servlet/UserInterfaceServlet> Go

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FES ON-line

[Upload](#) [Help](#) [Log out](#) [Change password](#) [Email SFEFC](#) [Browse last year](#)

User C1234567 logged in (1234567 - FESADMIN TEST COLLEGE)

FES Uploads 2000-2001

Files	Uploaded Date	Status	Actions
You have no files uploaded yet for this year			

Notes:

- For more information please see the [FES On-line user Help](#)
- Click on a file to view its contents

Done Internet



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FES Online - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites History Mail Print Edit

Address <https://www.sfec.ac.uk/fesonline/servlet/AdminInterfaceServlet> Go

FES ON-line Administration

Help Log out Change password

User FESADMIN logged in

Current Options	SASWaitTime:5 Year:2000-2001 PasswordExpiryTime:90 MaxFileSize:5 VirusCheck:1	MaxFileSize is in megabytes PasswordExpiryTime is in days VirusCheck: 0=Off 1=On
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User Functions

Check user state for All Go

Admin Functions

Set Year Set Option Add User Lock Users Collate

Done Internet