



The University of Glamorgan offers a wide choice of further education studies from Animation to Welsh and from International Wildlife Biology to the Computer Studies. It provides courses for students from all over the world to those who reside on-site and for those conducting studies by distance learning. The Faculty of Advanced Technology offers a diverse portfolio of courses, designed to prepare students for careers in the 21st century and who may shape the world we live in. The courses include Computer Forensics and Security.

In addition to its teaching, the Faculty of Advanced Technology conducts research and carries out commercial work on behalf of a number of Government Departments and Agencies, particularly in the discipline of Computer Security and Forensics. Computer Forensics at Glamorgan has established a reputation for being one of best in the country, in addition:

- ❖ *Glamorgan is one of only two universities approved by MI5 for graduate recruitment in Computer Forensics*
- ❖ *The University has established employment links with the Financial Services Authority (FSA), the Office for National Statistics and various law-enforcement agencies*
- ❖ *The University provides expert witness testimony in court*
- ❖ *The University undertakes analysis work every year in association with BT*

To enable the Faculty to grow their research and develop commercial opportunities, a new, high-security Computer Forensic laboratory was identified as an innovation that would enhance their capability. The nature of the work to be undertaken within the new facility necessitated a robust approach to security, both in terms of physical measures, but also an effective set of security policies and procedures.

To ensure that the appropriate level of security would be applied to this facility Advent IM was invited to review the security design documents and to provide ongoing security advice to the Faculty during the build phase of the new laboratory through to Practical Completion and finally to Accreditation.

The first task was to conduct a local Threat Assessment in order to set the security requirements for the facility into the environmental context and to understand exactly where threats emanated from in relation to the University of Glamorgan site. Without this it is impossible to determine whether security measures are appropriate or not.





The Threat Assessment took into consideration National-level Threats that could impact on work at the University. Consultation with the South Wales Police Safer Neighbourhood Team and Counter-Terrorist Security Advisor (CTSA) enabled the team to understand local crime in the area of the site and how this might impact on security requirements. In addition, an assessment of threats from natural sources such as fire and flood was also considered.

The Advent IM team reviewed the security design for the new laboratory and quickly realised that it was significantly over-specified and found immediate cost savings for the project that were in excess of £80,000. Further refinements to the access measures resulted in further savings to the value of approximately £10,000. Cost savings have been an important feature of the project with budgets being strained by the current economic environment. Additional savings on technical security measures have also recently been identified and are between £3000 and £6000. A conservative estimate of the total savings made on this project is therefore well in excess of £100,000.

Due to the nature of the services undertaken by the Computer Forensics Laboratory for its government clients, it has been necessary to gain HMG accreditation of the facility and assurance of its suitability to hold certain levels of government data. Advent IM's team has worked closely with the Accreditor to ensure that the facility meets mandated requirements in a manner commensurate with the potential protective marking of data.

The end result has been a first class technical facility that incorporates the necessary level of security together with the technical measures that provide adequate protection, combined with a wow-factor for potential clients.

Says **Dr Iain Sutherland, Project Manager** for the new facility:

“Advent IM provided an essential service for the University of Glamorgan in terms of their security expertise combined with an eye for detail and an understanding of the importance of cost. The security recommendations were pragmatic and ensured that all the necessary security requirements were met. The cost savings made by their consultants for this project have had a major impact on its viability. We would definitely use Advent IM again.”

These comments have been further endorsed by the Accreditor who adds:

“The quality and timeliness of Advent IM's advice and their deliverables to the University of Glamorgan and the Accreditation Authority easily made this the smoothest HMG accreditation assessment I have been involved on over the past decade.”



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