

Building a user group: the benefits for academic staff and students

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This poster outlines the creation of a vibrant .Net user group and the benefits it has produced for the institution, the local business community, the staff and the students involved.

The .Net user group is growing to be a key part of the culture of our computing programme. The students have Tuesdays firmly bookmarked for pizza and drinks plus the opportunity to win prizes. It's not all fun and food however there is also the serious enculturation with the professional development community mixing with local developers, while listening to real development issues and solutions from speakers both local and international.

It is proving a very useful method to help keep skills current with industry practice, and a useful source of 3rd year projects. It has raised the profile of the polytechnic and its graduates within the New Zealand and the international development community.