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## Greetings

**And so we enter the last stretch of 2015 - Time flies when you are having fun!**

As we draw closer to the 2015 PowerHEDA User Group, we at IDSC are hard at work to complete milestones set for ourselves. We hope that you, our clients, are as excited as we are for this Annual User Group.

Thank you to all of our clients for your continued support thus far. This newsletter aims to keep you informed of our progress, and interesting developments at IDSC.

Let's focus on the major projects for 2015, as agreed at the 2014 Annual User Group Workshop and our achievements thus far:

## 2015 Major Projects – Status to-date

| IDSC Major 2015 Projects                                      | Status        |
|---|---------------|
| SQL 2014 and PowerHEDA Roll-out                               | In Progress   |
| One Module for Enrolment Planning and Business Plan Generator | In Progress   |
| IDSC Dynamic Warehouse  | In Progress   |
| Viability Module  | 2015 Priority |
| Performance Evaluation Scorecard / APPM                       | Completed     |
| Data Mining / Predictive Learner Analytics                    | Completed     |
| Workload Model & Staff Time Sheets                            | Completed     |
| Interrogator Pro in the Cloud                                 | Completed     |
| UP Implementation   | Completed     |
| VUT Implementation  | In Progress   |
| Online Help   | In Progress   |



## 2015 PowerHEDA User Group

**28 - 30 October 2015**

**Sports Village of the North-West University, Potchefstroom**

**Please e-mail [corne@idsc.co.za](mailto:corne@idsc.co.za) or visit our website for further details**

## PowerHEDA... Moving Forward

PowerHEDA is evolving into a mature software platform for HEDA users. With version 1.7.7 we have given users so much more than they had before, with an emphasis on an improved user experience.

The quest for reliable, timely and accurate data is a constant process of pushing boundaries to balance the requirements of users with the capabilities of current technologies.

## PowerHEDA User Experience

The user interface is friendly, easy to navigate and use. Widgets have more features that make them flexible for you to display data as you want it. We constantly work on performance issues so that you are ensured the best possible return on your query or refresh of data. We help you build scenarios based on our robust Data Warehouse and industry experience. You can rely on PowerHEDA and the IDSC team.

## APPM – Annual Performance Plan Monitor

APPM – the Annual Performance Plan Monitor has been upgraded with brand new features like the ability to add a KPI directly into a Performance Plan.

KPIs now only need to be set once in PowerHEDA and can be viewed in multiple Dashboards, compared in APPM, and reported on in SQL or Cube reports ensuring that KPIs can be used more accurately.



With latest technologies like SQL Server 2014 we are able to bring a

range of offerings that improve and enhance PowerHEDA.



### How to Build a PowerHEDA Dashboard

**27 – 28 October 2015**

#### Overview

This training session will provide our users an opportunity to learn more about the PowerHEDA Dashboard Key Features.

- Building interactive dashboards to display key statistics, charts, tables and filters
- How to create and access a dataset
- Table relationships
- Data criteria
- Calculated columns & measures
- KPI mapping
- Data cube reports

**Registration fee per person: R450**

Your **registration** will only **be confirmed** once we have received your registration fee.

| Registration  | Training Venue   |
|---|--|
| Please forward the following information to <a href="mailto:corne@idsc.co.za">corne@idsc.co.za</a><br>Name, Surname, Tel Number, E-mail & Special Dietary Requirement | IDSC<br>10 Stil Street<br>Potchefstroom<br>Tel: 018 297 3612 |

**Seats for this training session is limited to 18 delegates**



## PowerHEDA YouTube Channel

All training material for PowerHEDA is available on YouTube. Subscribe now! We are creating new material, updating existing material and improving the quality of material without the hassle of sending updates or upgrading help files.

All links in our documentation will remain unchanged until new links need to be added. We still offer training sessions and hands-on training at our offices in Potchefstroom or at your Institution, but now we've put the knowledge in your hands, right when you need it.

Visit our PowerHEDA YouTube Channel at:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiy4mh4086GTc1Cr-u7\\_7\\_Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiy4mh4086GTc1Cr-u7_7_Q)

## PowerHEDA Enhancements

The most significant feature of these enhancements is that data is brought in from HEMIS and operational data stores in a controlled, safe and clean environment, emphasising the objective of reliable, timely and accurate data.

At IDSC we go to great lengths to ensure that the user experience gets highest priority. We constantly add and update applications that help you work smarter. All our modules are in the process of being converted to PowerHEDA, to take advantage of a more reliable platform.

Most of the new features originate from user suggestions, like the HEDA



Explorer that is now accessible from any screen.

Even less obvious suggestions like the location of buttons, pop-up windows and notifications have been incorporated into the latest versions.

All of this to make your PowerHEDA experience more enjoyable, while we take care of reliable, timely and accurate data.

## Workload & Staff Time Sheets – A Summary

IDSC has developed an Academic Workload application based on the model proposed by MUT, to distribute academic workloads equitable and transparently. The new application uses either existing time table records, which sets the base for staff members to work from quickly, or time allocations manually, to create a comprehensive Workload profile.

A number of defaults, tests and guides were established to form a user friendly and informative application to make the cumbersome task of capturing a Workload profile, quick and easy. We've also taken it one step further and created Staff Timesheet records based on the Workload profiles of staff members. Look out for the full presentation at the upcoming SAAIR Conference end of September.

**Reliable,**

**timely**

**and**

**accurate data**

### POSITIONS AVAILABLE

#### Software Developer and BI Consultant

For more information, contact Corné on 018-2973612 or [corne@idsc.co.za](mailto:corne@idsc.co.za)

## Predictive Learner Analytics Consultation Services

IDSC is in the process of introducing predictive learner analytics consultation services to our clients and other interested institutions.

A pilot project was completed with CPUT and a joint manuscript (A Lourens and D Bleazard) is being finalised for submission to an accredited journal.

We are aware of the importance for a university to identify potential 'at-risk' students early in the first year of study in order to implement institutional support and intervention programs to improve the retention rate in the second year of study at

qualification programme level. The first institutional predictive modelling project whereby the most appropriate learning algorithm for the prediction of students dropping out before the second year of study, was completed at CPUT. This second year dropout model was deployed at programme level using pre-university and first semester data derived from HEDA.

An open source platform namely KNIME was used to perform the predictive modelling. The results from the predictive model are used in HEDA to automatically recognize students with a high probability of

dropping out before the second year of study.

The relevance of this service is demonstrated by the practical application of real-time scoring by providing a list of names of students at-risk of dropping out before the second year of study.

Using a predictive analytics tool such as KNIME and importing/exporting the data/results in HEDA provides a list of student names to be targeted in terms of providing additional academic support in ensuring that some students will not drop out in the second year of study.

## New Staff



**Evan Witten**

Tel: 27 (0)18 297 3612  
E-mail: [evan@idsc.co.za](mailto:evan@idsc.co.za)

IDSC is proud to announce the appointment of Evan Witten to the IDSC family.

### Meet Evan...

I am a Business Analyst with 19 years' experience in the IT industry having worked in the Banking, Insurance, Healthcare and Wellness sectors.

While at IDSC, I will use my skills in Project Management, Data Analysis and Systems Analysis to improve and enhance systems, user experience and training.

My family is my driving force and we take responsibility towards our environment and our fellow human beings in every aspect of our lives.

## HEMIS Institute Experience



IDSC joined the HEMIS Foundation and HEMIS Institute presented by SAAIR, this year as exhibitors as well as attendees. It was a first for the two Stanley's, but they were welcomed by a very friendly Tukkies crew and current IDSC client.

The HEMIS foundations gave a very good overview of the workings of HEMIS and it was good to have such a large group together, discussing the same issues and challenges.

The remaining two days for the HEMIS Institute was very informative, giving so much insight into the Higher Education organism and all the challenges, breakthroughs and future and upcoming developments.

IDSC doesn't always have the opportunity to be part of these discussions, but these sessions really help in getting some perspective.

**Thank you to SAAIR and Tukkies for a great HEMIS Institute!**

## Did You Know?

You can change the layout of your dashboard by simply clicking on customize and selecting a new layout

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**Facebook Link:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/idsc.idsc>**

**Simplicity Through  
Innovation**

## Building HEDA Reports with Microsoft Report Training



On 20-21 May 2015 the first of many to come training sessions were

presented by IDSC. This practical training class taught attendees how to create, format and customize HEDA Reports using Microsoft Report Builder.

This session covered basic to intermediate concepts in Report Builder 3.0 and the HEDA reporting environment. Attendees also learned how to use the HEDA templates to extend their reporting capabilities.

## Update on our Community Service

*Not even the cold could stop  
the children from Sonopkoms!*

So much has happened at Sonopkoms school during these winter months.

### Visit to the Potchefstroom Edufarm

On a cold May morning the children had the opportunity to visit the Potchefstroom Edufarm. The children were able to feed the animals, had pony rides and rowed a boat on the dam. All of these excitement lead to a lot of hungry children. On the way



back to school we treated them for a "lekker" Kentucky Meal.

### Celebrating Mother's Day and Father's Day

Every child had the opportunity choose a scarf for mommy and a buff for daddy. We helped them to decorate brown bags and used it as a gift bag. For some of these children this was the first time they were able to celebrate these special days by giving their parents a warm gift, showing how much they love them.



## Next Publication

December 2015