



## Inside this Issue:

- Welcome
- 2016 Priorities
- PowerHEDA Switchover Project
- IDSC contribution in relation to the 2016 Zero-Percent Class Fee Increase
- Get to know the new IDSC Staff
- IDSC laptop handover
- "Sonopkoms" school has a new location
- Next publication

## Welcome

It is difficult to believe that the weather is already changing with cooler mornings and evenings and beautiful autumn leaves. The very busy 2016 IDSC-year started with a new Centurion Office and we again welcome our three new colleagues!

In addition to providing on-site support at University of Johannesburg for a number of years already, we now also provide on-site support to Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, University of Pretoria, University of Limpopo and Vaal University of Technology.

In our first newsletter of 2016 the focus is on the exciting PowerHEDA Switchover project and the other 2016 priorities. We also provide feedback to you on our community projects.

We would again like to thank all 16 University-clients for their continued support. This year, for the first time, IDSC also provided additional support to our clients in relation to the financial impact of the 2016 zero-percent class fee increase.

Lastly, we aim to visit all our clients in the next quarter and are looking forward seeing to you all!



## 2016 Development Priorities

| Project   | Description or Status  | User Group Priority |
|---|--|---------------------|
| <b>PowerHEDA V2</b>                                     | Fixes and improvements are rolled out almost every two weeks and version 2.1.2 will be rolled out shortly. All PowerHEDA clients are currently on Version 2.1.1. The PowerHEDA switch-over project is scheduled to be completed by the end of May. | Yes                 |
| <b>Student Tracker</b>                                  | Enhancements and rewrite of the current Module. Project to be finalized by the end of April.   | No                  |
| <b>Enrolment Planning and Business Plan Generator</b>   | Cancelled due to lack of interest. Only individual support will be provided.   | Yes                 |
| <b>Annual Performance Plan Monitor (APPM)</b>           | Project to be finalized by the end of May.   | Yes                 |
| <b>Financial Viability</b>                              | Preparations to be redeveloped are underway with the final implementation due end of June.   | Yes                 |
| <b>IDSC Dynamic Data Warehouse</b>                      | In process. New add-ons and improvements will be done by the end of July.  | Yes                 |
| <b>HEMIS Data Warehouse</b>                             | Revisit current structure by end of July.  | No                  |
| <b>HEMIS Manager</b>                                    | Due to a need expressed by clients, IDSC will develop a new Module by combing the best features of the InterrogatorPro and the Audit Modules. This Module is scheduled to be finalized by the end of August.                                       | No                  |
| <b>ITS View Data Warehouse</b>                          | Revisit current structure by end of August.  | No                  |
| <b>Peer Data Warehouse</b>                              | Revisit current structure by end of September.   | No                  |
| <b>Predictive Learner Analytics and Cohort Analyses</b> | Awaiting interest from clients. This is a service that IDSC provides.  | Yes                 |
| <b>Funding Allocation Model (FAM)</b>                   | Revisit current structure by end of November.  | No                  |
| <b>Workload and Staff Time Sheets</b>                   | Revisit current structure by end of December.  | No                  |
| <b>Online Help</b>                                      | Online Help is updated and new versions will be rolled-out with the 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> version of PowerHEDA.  | Yes                 |
| <b>PowerHEDA Dashboards</b>                             | DHET Enrolment KPI Dashboard is rolled-out at all clients. The PDS dashboard will be rolled-out by end April 2016.   | Yes                 |

## PowerHEDA Switchover Project

The PowerHEDA Switchover Project is an initiative of IDSC to ensure that all our clients get the best service and support from our team. This includes training on the latest version of PowerHEDA and the kind of support that we promised at the 2015 User Group – to walk with you.

We realised that some clients were still on the old HEDA2011 while some clients had PowerHEDA but installed on a different server. This meant that we were supporting multiple systems at a client with data imports and ad-hoc requests where we could be better spending time improving PowerHEDA. Users would benefit from more focused support and clients would receive improved service and enhanced software.

So we started by sending out a Project Plan to every client. Our request was so that we could ensure that all critical objects of the old HEDA2011 were available in the new PowerHEDA.

The PowerHEDA Handover and Training session was envisaged to be a significant step in this process, which will empower PowerHEDA Administrators as well as core users to create Dashboards and Reports in PowerHEDA. This hands-on session was designed to take a real problem

and solve it with a Dashboard, drill-through Reports and Key Performance Indicators in minutes.

We also recognised that in order for PowerHEDA to be used and the institution receive a proper return on investment, it may require that its features and benefits be demonstrated to key individuals. We therefore committed to support your institution with a Roadshow, where we could be called on to present or demonstrate PowerHEDA and associated Modules in an internal Roadshow process.

Additional PowerHEDA support includes identification and implementation of non-critical reports available on HEDA2011 as well as new requests. While this is nothing new, it does become a project-based approach to identifying and managing user requirements.

Our progress so far:

At this stage, only two of our clients are still operating on two servers. We aim to get all institutions operating on one server as soon as possible.

PowerHEDA training has already been completed at 56% of our clients, and more sessions are scheduled in the next two weeks. Four institutions must

still receive training on How to build a Dashboard and PowerHEDA Administration.

During our training sessions with institutions we've identified 87 discussion points that needed investigation. Of these, only 14 were bugs that have already been addressed and scheduled with subsequent rollouts. The rest are potential enhancements that will be considered for future PowerHEDA versions.

We are already seeing the results of this initiative. While much work remains to be done, we remain committed to walking with you to ensure that your requirements are met.

## IDSC contribution in relation to the 2016 Zero-Percent Class Fee Increase



IDSC acknowledges the financial impact of the 2016 zero-percent class fee increase at universities in South Africa.

We decided to assist our clients in this regard by increasing the 2016

annual HEDA license fee with only 50 percent of the agreed-upon annual increase.

As part of the new PowerHEDA launch, we additionally integrated some Department of Higher Education and Planning (DHET) Enrolment Data into institutions' PowerHEDA Databases and Dashboards at no cost and for ease of use by our clients.

We thank you for your loyal support and you can be assured of IDSC's continued dedicated and professional services to our clients.

## USEFUL POWERTIPS

### FILTERS

The **filter bar** manages all Global Filters on the Dashboard within a single, collapsible area.

All current global filters are displayed and can easily be amended by clicking on the Filter Bar.

Remember that a single Widget can be set to ignore the Global Filter if required.

### ZOOM

CTRL and -  
(Control key and Minus key)  
Zoom the screen out

Ctrl and +  
(Control key and Plus key)  
Zoom the screen in

If your mouse has a scroll wheel, you can hold the Ctrl key down and scroll on the mouse wheel to zoom in or out.

## Get to know the new IDSC staff



### Deon le Roux

Before joining IDSC in January 2016, Deon worked at TUT for 19 years. While he held different positions at TUT over the years, he was for the most part responsible for the development and maintenance of the MIS system. His responsibilities also included the development and implementation of the annual Student Enrolment Plan (SEP) and the Resource Allocation Model (RAM) amongst others.

*"While at IDSC, I hope to share my experience with the IDSC team and all our clients".*

### Thea Neethling

Thea joined IDSC as a Business Analyst in January 2016, with the establishment of the new Centurion office. She has 15 years' of experience in Higher Education having worked for the MIS Directorate at TUT.

Her main focus at IDSC will be on HEMIS Data as well as the Interrogator Pro application.

*"I look forward to share my Power HEDA knowledge with you".*



### Alfred Mutanga

Alfred joined IDSC as a Manager of the IDSC Centurion Office and Africa Region. He joins IDSC coming from the higher education sector, where he has been a middle manager both in South Africa and Mozambique. His experience among others include proposing Business Intelligence Systems that have been used for strategic decision making, supporting strategic planning and Quality assurance processes within the higher education institutions I worked for.

Alfred has 16 years of experience in Computing and Information technology including eLearning, lecturing in computer science, systems administration and implementing decision support systems particularly for the higher education landscape.

Over the past 10 years he has been involved in Coordinating Information

## USEFUL POWERTIPS

### DASHBOARDS

**Dashboard design** is all about customizing your dashboard to the look and feel you require.

You can select from:

- 52 different customisable chart-type widgets;
- 2 table-type widgets;
- 3 control widgets;
- A fully customisable rich text widget.

You can choose from 18 layouts or create a custom layout.

It is important to know what data you want to present on your Dashboard.

### PERSPECTIVES

Always build a specific perspective to be used for a Dashboard, never use the Default perspective. Name this perspective 'Dashboard' to indicate the scope thereof.

- Only include the fields in this Perspective that are used in the Dashboard – nothing more.
- Perspectives can now also be filtered – apply a year filter or even a filter for a specific Faculty if possible. If you're building a dashboard focusing on Under Grads only, create a perspective called Under Grads and filter it accordingly. This will ensure the smallest possible Perspectives with best dashboard performance.

and Communications Technology research projects which involved African regional partners, such as the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). One of the project is the First Mile First Inch (FMFI) regional project which emphasized on the use of innovative ICTs and wireless solutions to reach the under serviced and rural populations.

His Master's Thesis with the University of Amsterdam has been published as a book on robotics education.

**ADD THIS DATE TO YOUR CALENDAR!**

**PowerHEDA User Group**

**15 – 17 November 2016**

## IDSC

**Potchefstroom Office**  
10 Stil Street  
POTCHEFSTROOM  
Phone: (018) 297-3612

**Centurion Office**  
Unit 19  
Cambridge Park  
5 Bauhinia Street  
Highveld Technopark  
Centurion  
Phone: (018) 297-3612

**Postal Address**  
PO Box 20600  
Noordbrug  
2522 POTCHEFSTROOM

**E-Mail:** [info@idsc.co.za](mailto:info@idsc.co.za)

**Web Site:** [www.idsc.co.za](http://www.idsc.co.za)

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



Keep up to date by visiting  
our Facebook Page  
Remember to like our page to  
stay informed

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

**Simplicity Through  
Innovation**

## IDSC laptop handover

IDSC donated a laptop to the family of Judas Nruli from kwaMhlanga during the December festive period.

The laptop will be used by his children to help them with their future school education.



## “Sonopkoms” school has a new location

For the past few years an old milk stall has been home to “Sonopkoms” school. Since more parents brought their children to “Sonopkoms” this class room was becoming too small for them.

During November 2015 after discussions with the principal of Vyfhoek Primary School, a decision was made that Sonopkoms will join them on their school grounds.

What an exciting venture this was! Packing up the old classroom and moving to a new school, new classroom with new possibilities. The children of Sonopkoms couldn't wait to see more of their new school.

Since the move the school numbers have increased significantly due to the fact that the school is more central and accessible to student. At the moment there are eighteen pre-school children attending Sonopkoms and they are joined by thirty Grade R children later in the morning.



The children are still very excited and enjoy to be taught in a proper class room.

*“What we learn becomes  
a part of who we are”*

*Kathy R. Jeffords*

## Next publication

August 2016