Changes to the Managed Web Service
Managed Web Service: NOW

- You will not be able to purchase new MWS instances
- High Availability being turned off
  - Unreliable, reduces availability!

- Contact the Service manager if this is an issue
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Managed Web Service: The Future

“The only constant in life is change”
- Heraclitus

Change is coming.
You can help shape those changes.
Managed Web Service: The Future

- This is your opportunity to:
  - Comment on published MWS paper
  - Highlight features that you wish to retain
  - Suggest features that you wish to be added
  - Discuss openly the future of the MWS
  - Help us to balance the needs of University institutions and the cost to UIS.
Goals and Guidelines

Whatever the change, our goal is to support all sites during the transition to the new MWS and minimise the pain to the end users.

We want to identify Institutions whose needs are not met by this proposed change.

We will need your help, but we will assist Institutions during the transition.
Options for current users

- Move onto new MWS service
  - Price change likely, but probably not for a year
  - Hopefully cheaper! (TBC)
- Move to UIS Falcon/Drupal service
  - For those who need CMS functionality
- Move to UIS Research Computing VM platform
  - For those who need a VM
  - Default offering unmanaged
- Move to alternate third party Service
  - For those that need features no longer provided
Why Mythic Beasts?

- They are a local company that the UIS has successfully engaged with in the past.
- They are small enough to be flexible, but big enough to offer a reliable supported service.
- They have **not** been chosen, but they are plausible, and a convenient place to start the conversation.
Straw Man

- Straw Man proposal using Mythic Beasts
- Transfer of sites will be assisted and coordinated with site admin.
- Sites have a single shared IP address routed through a load balancer front end which will direct them to the correct website.
- All offerings will permit multiple websites under the same service instance
Straw Man (2)

- We will facilitate the linking of .cam.ac.uk addresses with your site.
- Anyone hosted under the Cambridge University offering will be subject to a degree of control. For example:
  - UIS able to add admin contacts if none remain
  - UIS able to turn off the site if there is a sufficiently egregious problem, as with the current MWS.
- Want to move billing to be direct with the vendor (Mythic Beasts?) for a future billing round.
The Good

- This offering meets needs of many institutions
  - £72/year inc VAT (current Mythic Beast price)
  - Multiple websites per account
  - Database available
  - 15GB Disk, 250GB Bandwidth/month
  - Link to cam.ac.uk addresses
  - Support to link to Raven for authentication
  - Disaster recovery from backups
  - Managed Linux environment
The Bad

- Will not meet all current needs.
  - Only one user per account, requiring Institutions to share the account with relevant individuals
  - Up to 5 Databases per account
  - No snapshots
  - Not Highly available
Still to do

- Identify final vendor, complying with purchasing procedures
  - May result in company other than Mythic beasts
- Formalise offering
- Organise a timeline
  - Expect at least 1 year from announcement of details of changes before current MWS closed down
Comments or Questions

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