Introduction to Mythic Beasts

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Guest lecturer for Part 2 Computer Science
Who are Mythic Beasts?

- Started 2000 after our founders graduated and wanted to keep access to university like services
  - Four from Clare College
  - One from St John's
  - One from the other place (Lady Margaret Hall)
- Founded because we could offer better hosting services more cheaply than we could buy.
Ancient History

• We picked a silly name because we didn’t want anyone to take us seriously – Mythic Beasts Ltd
• Friends kept hosting their personal + company services with us
• 2007 we ran out of spare time to run our hobby company, but had enough income to pay a salary
• We started taking it seriously and jumped to work full time
Fast forward 14 years

- 12 staff members
- 6 zones across Amsterdam, London, Cambridge and Fremont
- Staff distributed across the UK and Ireland
- Wide array of hosting services and customers from single page websites, to 1000+ core distributed compute clouds.
Managed Web Service

- Customers get
  - A dedicated virtual machine managed by UIS
  - Debian Stretch (end of life June 2022)
  - Automated management for website hosting
- Significant work required to upgrade to Buster (current Debian) and Bullseye (release due 2022).
  - Instead service going end of life end of 2021
Mythic Beasts Services

- Shared hosting
  - Unix account on a Debian Buster server (Bullseye later this year)
- Automatically set up for web/email hosting
- SSL automatic
- Raven authentication for SSL sites
  - Covers 90% of MWS
- No persistent processes (i.e. no WSGI)
Mythic Beasts Services

- Virtual servers
  - Virtual server from 1GB to 256GB RAM, 1 to 16 cores, 10GB – 3840GB disks
  - Debian / Ubuntu / CentOS
- Dedicated servers, colocation, domain names.
Management services

- 3 levels
  - None
  - do it all yourself.
  - Managed
- We take nightly backups
- 24/7 monitoring of your site
- Security updates
Management services

- Managed applications (Wordpress, Nextcloud, Mattermost, Mediawiki, Indico etc)
  - We also install and update your application as releases come out
  - For Wordpress we scan for security issues in plugins and themes
  - We fix your application if you break it
Shared Hosting

- Shared hosting account (ssh access, SSL, 15GB)
  - £65pa + VAT
- Good for HTML, PHP, includes 5 MySQL databases
- Supports self managed Wordpress
- SSL configured through control panel
- Raven integration for SSL protected sites
- Other account sizes are available
Virtual Servers

- Unmanaged virtual server
  - 1GB/1core/5GB SSD = £69pa
  - 4GB/2core/20GB SSD = £171pa
  - 64GB/8core/320GB SSD = £1976pa
- Disk and RAM/CPU are independent (8p/GB SSD)
- You need to do your own backups, monitoring and security updates.
- Install your own OS (bring your own ISO)
Virtual Servers

- Managed virtual server (+£250pa)
  - 1GB/1core/5GB SSD = £319pa
  - 4GB/2core/20GB SSD = £421pa
  - 64GB/8core/320GB SSD = £2826pa
- First 50G backup included, more is extra.
- We do your backups, monitoring and security updates.
- Debian / Ubuntu supported
Exim security update not critical (no remote code), if you want us to read the security advisories for you.

mythic-beasts.com/sales/managed
Wordpress

- Unmanaged on a shell account
  - £65pa
- Managed by us on a shell account (up to 4 sites)
  - £350 £262.50pa (inc 24/7 monitoring + updates)
- Managed by us on a virtual server (up to 8 sites)
  - £850pa (inc 24/7 monitoring, updates, install own software and supporting libraries)
What to buy?

- Simple HTML / PHP
  - Shared hosting £65pa
- Wordpress if you have your own ops team
  - Shared hosting £65pa
  - Virtual server £171
  - A 24/7 on-call rota needs 5+ people (we have 10)
What to buy

- Wordpress if you don't have a 24/7 ops team
  - Managed Wordpress £262.50pa
  - Managed Wordpress Business £850pa if you need your own server
- Python / WSGI based applications
  - Managed Virtual server £421pa
How to buy!

- Ask any questions you have by email to sales@mythic-beasts.com
- Set up an account at [https://www.mythic-beasts.com/customer](https://www.mythic-beasts.com/customer)
- Tell us the customer number and send us a purchase order to sales@mythic-beasts.com
How to buy

- Wait several months whilst accounting departments sort out credit terms, references and argue about tiny irrelevant details.
- Account approved!
- We’ll include a link in the reply with the PO to place the order online.
- Depending on the service, it’ll be available immediately (automated provisioning), or shortly (managed services).
# How to buy (shared hosting)

## Shell account

Add the `shell access` option to turn your hosting account into a shell account, giving you the full power and convenience of the Linux command-line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Disk</th>
<th>Monthly Bandwidth</th>
<th>Databases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email only</td>
<td>£10.67</td>
<td>2GB</td>
<td>25GB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web 25</td>
<td>£25.00</td>
<td>5GB</td>
<td>100GB</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web 35</td>
<td>£35.00</td>
<td>10GB</td>
<td>150GB</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web 50</td>
<td>£50.00</td>
<td>15GB</td>
<td>250GB</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web 70</td>
<td>£70.00</td>
<td>25GB</td>
<td>350GB</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web 100</td>
<td>£100.00</td>
<td>40GB</td>
<td>500GB</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web 150</td>
<td>£150.00</td>
<td>100GB</td>
<td>600GB</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web 200</td>
<td>£200.00</td>
<td>150GB</td>
<td>750GB</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web 300</td>
<td>£300.00</td>
<td>250GB</td>
<td>1TB</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web 400</td>
<td>£400.00</td>
<td>400GB</td>
<td>1.5TB</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Shell account**

- **Shell Access** [ + £15.00 ]

**Raven authentication support**

- **Raven Authentication** [ + 0 ]

Shell access allows you to run commands directly on the server by connecting with `ssh`.

This will set up your hosting account on a server with support for Raven authentication.

£85.00 per year and no setup

[Continue]

Show price inclusive of UK VAT?
# Hosting account

**Type**: Hosting, Web 25 [50GB disk, 100GB/month]

**Username**: pete

**Server**: fentiger.mythic-beasts.com

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## Hosted domains

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Email addresses</th>
<th>Email settings</th>
<th>Web settings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>fentiger.saxonroad.uk</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Add domains or sub-domains: Add domain groups: Autoreponders**

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## File upload

To upload files, use SFTP or SCP with the following details. FTP is also supported, but is not recommended.

- **Host**: fentiger.mythic-beasts.com
- **Username**: pete
- **Password**: Your hosting account password
- **Web space directory**: www/website-name

**Disk usage**: 70.70 MB / 5.00 GB

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## Shell access

Your account includes shell (SSH) access. You can connect via SSH to:

- **Host**: fentiger.mythic-beasts.com
- **Username**: pete
- **Password**: Your hosting account password

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## Databases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Web admin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pete</td>
<td>MariaDB (fentiger)</td>
<td>phpMyAdmin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Hosting Account

Configure hosting for domain

Select a domain to add to your fentiger.pete hosting account. The hosting account will be configured to host web and email for your domain.

Domain: saxonroad.uk

If you want to add a domain that is not shown, please see the add new domains section below.

If you want to add web hosting to a domain that is already associated with a hosting account, use the add web site hosting option menu for the domain on the hosting account page.

Add sub-domains

Configure web and email hosting for a hostname within one of your domains.

DNS entries for the sub-domain will be added automatically if DNS for the domain is managed with Mythic Beasts.

Sub-domain: hashing.beer

Enter the hostname and select a domain. If the domain you want is not shown, please see the add new domains section below.

Add new domains

The list above contains domains that you have registered with Mythic Beasts. To configure other domains, or to add sub-domains of domains that are not shown above, you should either:

- Transfer the domain registration to Mythic Beasts;
- Add the domain as a third party domain.
Hosting account

Website fentiger.saxonroad.uk

Logging
- Default setting
  Use the default setting: logging is enabled till 22nd June 2018, and will be disabled after that. (This change is being made to comply with GDPR.)
- Enable logging
  Write access and error logs for this site under my home directory so they are available to me.
- Disable logging
  Web server logs will not be accessible to me.

Behaviour
- Standalone site
  A normal website, serving the content uploaded to the appropriate directory on our host.
- Redirect to another site on this account
  Redirect to another website on this account. The URL displayed in browsers will update to show the target of the redirect.
- Redirect to any URL
  Redirect to any other website. The URL displayed in browsers will update to show the target of the redirect.

Security
- Disable TLS
  Only http:// URLs will work.
- Enable TLS
  Generate and maintain a TLS certificate for this site. Both http:// and https:// URLs will work.
- Enable TLS and redirect to https://
  All http:// URLs will redirect to the corresponding https:// URL.
- Enable TLS, redirect to https:// and enable HSTS
  HTTP Strict Transport Security (HSTS) tells browsers to only use https:// for this site for 14 days from the most recent visit. This makes it harder for attackers to impersonate your site without a valid certificate, but also makes it difficult for you to disable TLS in the future. It is recommended that you only select this option once you are confident that TLS is working correctly for your site.

Test fentiger.saxonroad.uk  Install WordPress  Delete website
Domains

- External domains
  - Buy through us [https://www.mythic-beasts.com/domains](https://www.mythic-beasts.com/domains)
  - Transfer to us
  - Use our third party service
- cam.ac.uk subdomains
  - Use our third party service
Domains

Add domain

Use this form to add a domain that is registered with another domain registrar to your Mythic Beasts account without transferring the registration to us. This will allow you to configure Mythic Beasts services for the domain, such as web and email hosting, DNS, or our v4 to v6 proxy.

Before adding the domain, we need to verify that you own the domain, and we provide three different ways to do this.

If you want to transfer a domain registration to Mythic Beasts, please use the domain transfer process.

Domain name

mythic-beasts.com.ac.uk

Enter just the domain name (e.g. example.com, not www.example.com)

Verification method

- Email
  Receive an email sent to an address at your domain

- DNS
  Create a DNS record containing a special code within your domain

- Web
  Upload a file to a specific path in your website

- Manual
  Submit your domain to our support team for review

Add domain
3rd party domains and subdomains

DNS: challenge at _mythic-beasts-challenge.mythic-beasts.cam.ac.uk

- Email: reply to a mail at postmaster@mythic-beasts.cam.ac.uk


- Manual: Ask us to approve it for you by checking with UIS
Raven

- Raven protect – restrict access to your site to just cam.ac.uk logged in users
- Register your site at metadata.raven.cam.ac.uk
- Copy XML from our magic URL
- Add .htaccess rules to protect your site
New registration

A short name for this registration (e.g. St Botolph’s main site):

Description of the registered site (e.g. The main web site for St Botolph’s College):

The SAML metadata XML describing the site:

Please fill out this field.
Raven protect
Raven protect
Add .htaccess rules for directory and all subdirectories
Raven

- Virtual server
  - If managed we can set up Raven protection in the same way for you
  - Like our shared hosting service, only for SSL (free of charge via Let’s Encrypt)
  - If not managed, https://docs.raven.cam.ac.uk/en/latest/
Questions?

- sales@mythic-beasts.com / support@mythic-beasts.com
- See what we’re up to
  - https://twitter.com/Mythic_Beasts
  - https://www.mythic-beasts.com/blog/