

How to Apply for an Account on the Maths UNIX System

Richard M. Timoney

October 2010

All Maths students (including Theoretical Physics and Two Subject Mod), and all Science students taking Maths MA1S11, *must* get an account on the Maths UNIX system. This note describes how to apply for such an account. You should apply as soon as possible.

Essentially, you have to login to one of the maths machines with username **apply** and password **apply**, and answer a series of questions from the computer. The procedure is described in detail below; please read carefully before you **apply**.

1. Go to the computer rooms 1.4 (there is another at 19.11 through the door at the end of the corridor) on the first floor of the School of Mathematics, and find a free terminal.
2. You should see a list of maths machines on the screen: **boole**, **bell**, **gosset**, **salmon**, **walton**, ... Move the mouse to highlight any of the top group of machines (they will have a little demon beside them) and click. After a moment a login window will appear. Login as 'apply' with password 'apply'. (The password will not appear on the screen. Press the '**Return**' or '**Enter**' key after each.)
3. You will be asked a series of questions. After each set of answers, move the mouse pointer over the box marked "Next", and click the left-hand mouse button. The questions are (more or less):

Surname:

First name: (one will do)

College ID: *You must know this 8-digit number before applying.* It will also be your CAO number.

Username: This is the name you use when logging in. It should consist of not more than 8 lowercase letters. With that proviso, you may use any name you like, provided it is not already in use (and is not offensive). Remember you will have to type it in often. Remember too that *you will be stuck with the name for the rest of your time in college*; your **username** cannot be changed, once chosen.

Password: This should consist of at least 6 characters, preferably mixing letters and numbers, or lowercase and uppercase letters. The program will reject insecure passwords. *You must remember your password.* It is encrypted as soon as you give it; and no-one else will know what it is.

What course are you doing Select one of:

- One year Mathematics or Theoretical Physics (e.g. SOCRATES)
- Mathematics or Theoretical Physics
- Science or Human Genetics or Computational Chemistry or Advanced Materials or Medicinal Chemistry
- Two-subject mentorship

What year are you in? [1-4]: Answer 1 if you are Junior Freshman (first year).

4. Finally, you will be asked a couple of questions concerning your previous experience with computers.

There will then be a short delay before the machine automatically logs you off.

Once your application has been accepted by the program, it will be vetted by one of the System Administrators.

This should not take more than a few days and should work by the beginning of term if you apply during Freshers' Week. You can tell if you have been given an account by trying to login with the login name you chose and the password you gave. In case of undue delay, or if the program rejects your application, please consult Helen Byrne-Jacob in the School Office 0.6; she will try to find out for you what went wrong.

You may be surprised later to find how useful it was to learn how to negotiate our UNIX system. Quite a few graduates have built their careers in ways that might not have been possible without this!