

The University of Melbourne Glossary

Specially related to .mame.mu.oz.au subdomain

Experienced from 2004-10-06 until 2005-04-08

Administrators Extreme euphemism for the departmental computing people. Also known as ‘Dumb and Dumber’ or ‘Laurel and Hardy’. Preferredly encountered in groups of two. Best counterstruck by own superior knowledge.

BBQ also: Barbeque [deprecated]. Charcoal sausages, extremely grilled steak, icy beer, veg[etari]an burgers, different flavours of spicings and more, food-resembling, niceties. Gregarious event, mostly held in H-Block’s courtyard during normal lunchtimes. Cheap.

Bureaucracy Something to excel at in dealing with if you’re willing to succeed at the amorphous, corporatised conglomerate of MU. Manifests in sh*tloads of organisational paperwork in addition to required research work. Resembles a maximum-spanning-tree, with even the smallest leaves having a tiny part of the overall work. Time-consuming. Could use WD40 to grease and speed up some rusty parts.

Chris Stand-up comedian and close to being a friend. Rides scooters and Smart cars to work and to Perth. Hates network proxies.

Citations Currency of research. Similar to Google-PageRank, albeit harder to tamper with. Talked about extensively by supervisors.

Construction site, permanent Perfectly characterises the campus of MU. Several roads were repeatedly ripped up and patched during six months.

Downtime, network Extended periods to be prepared for. Related to and cured by outsourcing. Caused by administrators.

Engineers Perfect people to work with. High-brained, yet down-to-earth. Men-saturated. They are the ones who get work done and not just talk about it lavishly.

Fixing Especially related to H-Block. During six months, several things needed fixing, greasing or smoothing: new wall clocks, three door handles, possums inside the wall, computing gear, a truckload of door locks, non-defrosted fridges. Done vividly when necessary.

Fourth Floor Located in E-Block. Sprinkles emails, newsletters, stationery, keys, projectors, and money. Nice and helpful people who know how to work bureaucracy.

Gen Short for ‘Genevieve’.

Genevieve New, true friend. Provides emotional support and language-twisting, as well as food. Takes care of WalTher. Purely Australian. Comes with gentoo flavour and sprinkles it liberally.

H-Block also ‘Old Metallurgy’. Doesn’t exist on future maps anymore, probably doomed to be demolished. Features magnificent views over courtyards from deacing back stairs. Needs more fixing. Houses brilliant research people. Perfectly shielded from money-distribution-frenzy of MU.

Interception, supervisory Sth. to be prepared for. Happens at any time of day.

Jen Wrong understanding of Gen.

Lab Short for ‘laboratory’. 95% of the work get done there.

LAME Australianised colloquialisation of the Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering [MAME], especially in terms of networking and computing resources

Meeting 90% waste of time. 10% content-prone. Too many will kill an academic[’s] day.

Melbourne Metropolitan area that MU is situated in. Same number of letters as ‘Magdeburg’.

MPS Meat Pie Seminar. Doesn’t feature meat pies anymore, yet the name was engraved into people’s minds. Held at the Design Lab[oratory] at D-Block. Features Sushi XOR Pizza and, along the way, two presentations of wannabe PhD candidates. Evaluation sheets are provided [for the candidates, not for food].

Nationalities Mixed, every nation is somehow accounted for. Same with religions.

Office Tiny compartment to share with culturally different, therefore enrichening mates. Inherently dirty and worn-out. Needed fixing.

Outsourcing Especially related to computing resources. Shifting responsibility for basic networking from the department to the MU Information Division. Concocted and enacted by administrators.

Plagiarism Not allowed until after a master’s degree. Necessary in research, prevents from reinventing the wheel everytime. Therefore saves time.

Plaintext, email Not known to neither the Fourth Floor nor to Administrators. The only way to write emails. Makes for perfect ASCII-Arts.

Research Done in academia and in H-Block. Features extensive plagiarism of basic technologies already invented; yields PhDs and citations.

Saman Also: ‘Someone’. Academic supervisor, leader of research group. Incredibly intelligent. Can be bribed with citations and/or publications.

Stationery Only accessible through the path of bureaucracy. Filling out ordering sheets to get just one pencil is mandatory. Obtained from mysterious, institutionalised Fourth Floor.

Sungear Lame “machine” or “server”. Features a breathtaking 50MB of storage which are non-centrally-backupped. Was renewed during the last six months. Still features home-directories with 777-access-rights.

Superficiality Occasionally and necessarily exhibited by supervisors.

T Also: Tea. Old British habit, amended and adapted by Australians to incorporate hot beverages of different flavours. Accompanied by biscuits, muffins and lengthy, content-prone talks. Preferably drunk on back stairs of H-Block. Inherently Genevieve-prone.

Union House Heart of MU for students, provides different types of food, advertising boards, MU merchandise and basic shopping facilities. Located mid-campus.

Verbosity Innate to Australians.

WalTher Bright sheep. Inspiring and comforting. Ubiquitous. Can stare you into doing something he wants.

Well-funded Synonym for MU. Money comes in via road trains, especially from international students’ tuition fees.