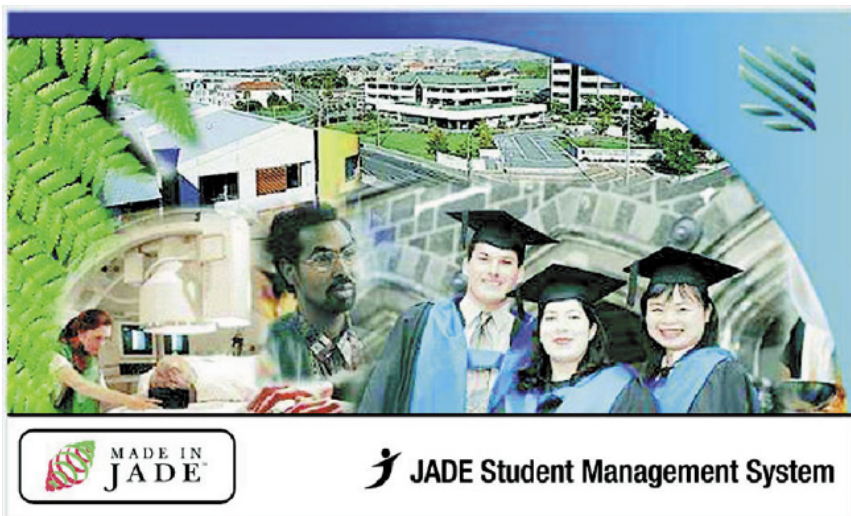




**BUSINESS
CASE STUDY**

Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology

JADE Student Management System



JADE Student Management System is helping higher education providers respond to Internet empowered students.

THE CHALLENGE

CPIT needed a student management system that was scalable, flexible and able to integrate with its existing management information systems to meet the needs of its staff and students.

THE SOLUTION

Using JADE Student Management System, CPIT has been able to meet the growing needs of both students and staff.

THE BENEFITS

JADE Student Management System improves the connections between staff and students at CPIT enabling the institute to deliver the right information to the right people.

THE INSTITUTE

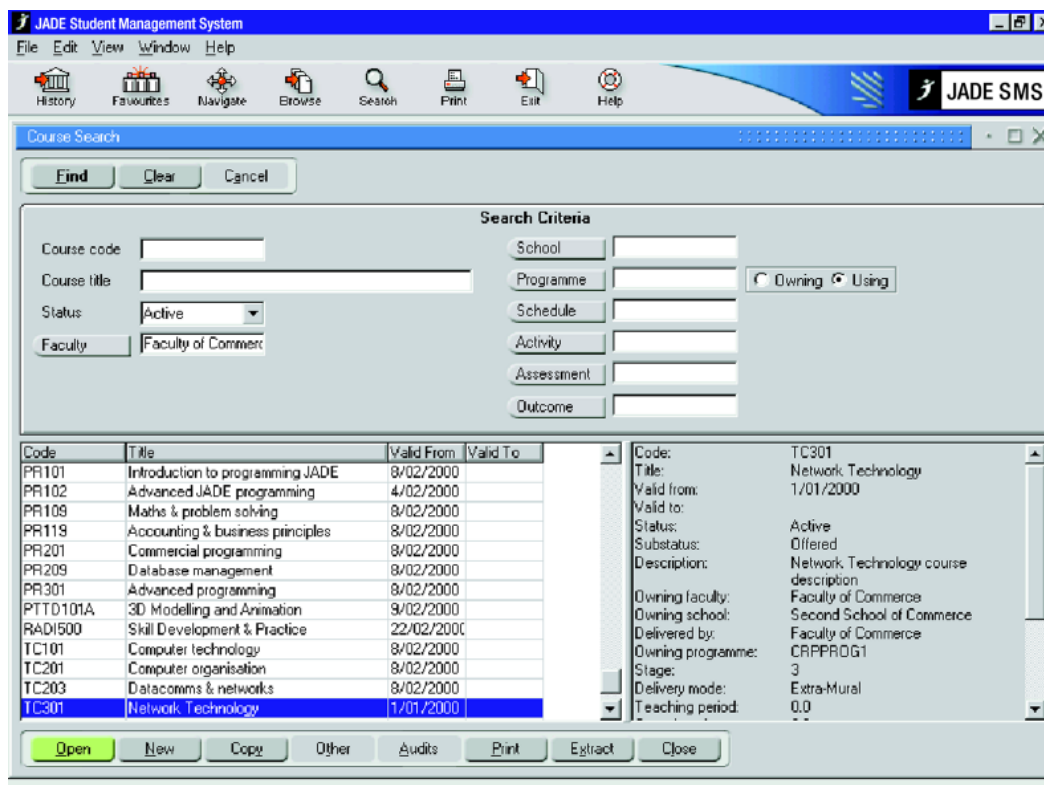
Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology (CPIT) is the largest technical institute in the South Island of New Zealand. It has been operating as a training institution for almost 100 years and offers courses in everything, including Information Communication Technology (ICT), nursing, music, engineering and hospitality. The institute received degree-granting status during the 1990s and now has more than 25,000 full and part-time students enrolling each year.





“Educational institutions that have to adapt to meet the business requirements of a package, end up in problems, the evidence we have even in NZ now of the number of institutions that have bought off the shelf packages and are still struggling to implement them because of the resistance of the institution to a system that is foreign to them. They’re in a constant battle between the system and the institution. We don’t have that because we developed the system in co-operation with Jade that meets our needs.”

*John Scott,
CEO, CPIT*



THE INSTITUTE’S REQUIREMENTS

Like many higher education providers around New Zealand, CPIT has to compete vigorously to attract students in today’s education market. Although information technology is a key competitive advantage, CPIT, like most education institutes, has tight budgets, increasingly scarce resources and can not afford to spend years implementing its IT solutions.

In order to help it meet the changing needs of the education market, CPIT was looking for a student management system that was scalable, flexible and able to integrate with its existing management information systems. The institute also needed a system that would be easy to use and make information more readily accessible for a range of different users, which is why CPIT chose to form a partnership with Jade.

THE SOLUTION

JADE Student Management System is the Jade-built student management system for higher education providers that gives institutes a centralized management system for contacting, admitting, enrolling, assessing and managing students within faculties or departments. Administration, management and academic staff, who have both a need and a right to know, can access the information they require about their students quickly, easily and securely. Prospective and existing students will soon be able to use JADE Student Management System via the Internet to prototype their course of study, enrol in courses, pay their fees, make inquiries and access their results.



THE TIMEFRAME

JADE Student Management System is a student-centric system. JADE Student Management System gives the teachers, managers and administrators at CPIT a complete view of the information they have about their students. This helps to improve the connections that students have with CPIT, either in the classroom, at the administration desk or soon on the Web.

JADE Student Management System runs on Windows and can be deployed over a LAN or WAN, maximizing JADE Smart Client Technology™ to provide staff with flexible deployment options. The system will soon be available via a JADE HTML Thin Client, which will give students browser-based access to information. XML support will also be available in the near future. This will give users access to JADE Student Management System via other devices, such as, WAP Phones and Palm Pilots, enabling CPIT to give greater levels of personalized service.

JADE Student Management System provides CPIT staff with a comprehensive range of standard reports, searches and queries that have been tailored to meet their needs. Although the reports are limited to JADE Smart Thin Client users, students with browser-based access will be able to print such things as timetables. JADE Student Management System also captures the results of a wide range of assessments and any subsequent requirements for producing certificates, program transcripts, progress reports, graduation status and results notifications.

The system also co-ordinates the sharing of information about CPIT students to a number of external agencies, including the Ministry of Education, Work and Income New Zealand and the New Zealand Qualifications Authority. It also interfaces to other systems within CPIT, such as the library, human resources, time-tabling and student ID card system.



BENEFITS FOR CPIT STAFF AND STUDENTS

JADE Student Management System was specifically designed to meet the needs of the staff and students at CPIT. A key factor in the development of JADE Student Management System was its integration into the institute's working environment. In order to make the system accessible to as many CPIT staff and students as possible, Jade designed a user-friendly, Windows-based GUI. In addition to this, some of the navigation concepts similar to the popular Windows and Internet browser features have been configured in the system, such as, 'History', and 'Favourites' buttons, and 'Search' and 'Browse' features.

Another important feature of JADE Student Management System at CPIT is the way it handles the various levels of security required by the institute. The complex inter-relationships and sheer volume of data, combined with the number of different user groups and the need for privacy to be respected, created some significant security issues for CPIT. However, JADE's object-oriented nature made it easier for the developers to resolve these issues and enabled them to establish security within each module of JADE Student Management System according to the faculty, function and data. Now at CPIT, users are given access to the system through one or more security group depending on their data access needs.

JADE Student Management System is also easily customized to meet the needs of any department or faculty at CPIT. For example, assessment levels, which vary between and within faculties, can be customized to meet individual departmental requirements. JADE Student Management System can assign exams, lectures, essays and projects to a course as well as accommodate activities like field trips, compulsory seminars and any other forms of assessment that a faculty might need included. Students accessing the system can see exactly what work they are required to do and can therefore make more informed decisions about their course of study.



“We teach JADE, we use JADE, we’ve got a very good working relationship with the JADE Student Management System team and also with Jade Software Corporation. I think that our long term commitment to this and to being part of the technological development of Canterbury and of Christchurch and to being a development partner in other projects may go well past our JADE Student Management System development.”

*John Scott,
CEO, CPIT*



Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology campus, Christchurch, New Zealand.

THE FUTURE FOR CPIT AND JADE STUDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The partnership between CPIT and Jade Software Corporation will continue on with both organizations keen to develop the system in order to enhance the experiences of staff and students. The ongoing improvements with JADE Student Management System will benefit not only CPIT but also a number of other institutes who plan to start and are already using JADE Student Management System.

JADE Student Management System’s foundation framework was developed to enable quick and easy customization to facilitate the re-implementation of the system at other higher education institutions. The application’s design allows many aspects of the functionality to be defined by the system’s administrators. These customisable aspects of the system are interpreted at run time. For example, faculties and course administrators can define their own enrolment criteria, such as pre-requisites and co-requisites, at run time without developer intervention.



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