



## Technicians Newsletter- April 2020

Welcome to the latest edition of the TechNet newsletter aimed at providing relevant information to all Warwick University technicians. This newsletter will be produced monthly for the time being and if you have anything you would like to add, please email: [technicians@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:technicians@warwick.ac.uk). As we all adapt to working from home during this uncertain time, we have tried to provide as much relevant information as possible in this newsletter. Please stay safe and well.

### **Covid19 Guidance**

For all matters related to the Coronavirus virus, please visit the following web pages on the University website:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/insite/coronavirus/staff/#workfromhome>

There is a huge amount of information here but three key things to note are:

1. Make an effort to speak to one of your colleagues every day, by video chat if possible.
2. Set up a Notify on the Warwick Coronavirus web page, so that you get informed when it changes (<https://warwick.ac.uk/insite/coronavirus/updates>)
3. Try to keep to regular office hours for your own work/life balance. Add footer to e-mails, to the effect that you do not expect people to reply outside office hours.

### **Technician's online Feedback questionnaire**

Unfortunately, our scheduled Focus Groups had to be cancelled but it would still be really helpful to us if you could share with us any thoughts, comments or suggestions in response to the questions posed in the online questionnaire found here: <https://warwick.ac.uk/research/technicians/focusgroupquestionnaire/>

### **Warwick Technician on the One Show**

One of our talented technicians- Ian Hands-Portman from the School of Life Sciences recently went on the One Show to talk about the networking ability of slime mould, if you missed his wonderful item on this, you can catch it on the following link but only for the next 6 days: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000gxwv>

### **Social media**

Don't forget for all information related to technicians please visit the website: TechNet at Warwick:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/research/technicians>

Also please follow us on our twitter:  @TechNetWarwick

## TALENT Programme

You may have heard that the Midlands Innovations universities (Aston, Birmingham, Cranfield, Keele, Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham and Warwick) were recently awarded a £5M project to advance status and opportunity for technicians working across higher education. The new programme of work is called TALENT. It was announced by the Science Minister on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The TALENT programme consists of three key themes of work and will:

1. Build an understanding of the future requirements for skilled technicians in the UK HE sector.
2. Work collaboratively to advocate and deliver a change in culture that will raise the profile of technical careers, roles and contributions, enhancing career pathways and possibilities.
3. Deliver a programme of training and development opportunities for the Midlands Innovation technical community of over 2,100 FTE and share the learning with the sector.

TALENT will provide some fantastic new opportunities for technical colleagues working across our eight universities. The programme will formally launch with a new website and brochure on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2020 when you'll be able to learn more about how you can get involved.

## Coding and software development - online courses and virtual drop-in support available to start up or advance your skills

With more time working from home, you may be thinking about starting to learn some software development to further your research or to learn a new skill. However, getting started is often difficult and can be daunting. To help, we have compiled a list of excellent free online training courses that will help you to learn the basics of programming here.

But we realise that these online courses don't provide ideal support if something doesn't quite make sense or you can't quite see *why* something works. Or, it may be that once you have finished one of these courses it is confusing how to take what you have learned and take the next step, either moving on to learning more complex elements of your chosen programming language or applying what you have learned to real problems of interest. We know it is useful to have someone to quiz about how things work, how to overcome a dead-end or what's the next step to take. This is where the Research Software Engineering group is happy to help via new weekly drop-in sessions at 3pm every Wednesday. Please join us for the first seminar below:

### "Getting Data from the Web-scraping and API's – 3 pm on 29th April

The drop-in sessions will provide a 10-15 minute microseminar on a computer programming or software development topic and we welcome suggestions for these. We will then be happy to answer any questions that people have over a video conference link. The microseminars will also be available on Youtube for catch-up at a later date.

You can also contact us via [RSE@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:RSE@warwick.ac.uk) and if you are interested in data analysis you may find the Bioinformatic RTP a useful resource too.

The Research Software Engineer Team,

Chris and Heather.

