

# UKMIRROR

## service

### Information Sheet

#### what is the uk mirror service?

The UK Mirror Service is a vast online collection of the latest available versions of freely available electronic material of interest to the UK academic community.

The service is funded by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) and jointly hosted by Lancaster University and the University of Kent at Canterbury. Support is kindly given by Sun Microsystems.

#### what's the purpose of it?

- Free educational resources are available from one easy access, up to date, source location. (All mirrors are updated at least once every 24 hours).
- Because the service is local to the UK, downloading is speedier and more reliable with reduced bandwidth congestion.
- Since 1998 UK HE institutions have been charged 2p per megabyte for the transatlantic bandwidth they use. So accessing a local resource such as the UK Mirror Service in preference to an overseas site saves money for your college or university.

#### does it cost anything?

The service is totally free of charge. You don't even have to register to use the service and gain access to free resources 24 hours a day.

The service's collections consist of two types of freely available material: Public Domain and Shareware. Public Domain software, sometimes called freeware, is distributed freely over the Internet by its authors, usually as a way of publicising other productions. Shareware is also freely distributed but requires a token licence or registration fee for continued use. Shareware packages use a 'try before you buy' principle, so, some packages may be restricted in some way, but in most cases will satisfy the needs of the average user.

#### what's available?

The UK Mirror Service endeavours to cater for the free software needs of the wide variety of disciplines within the academic community. With over 1,000,000 items the service provides specialist software for the artist, geographer, mathematician, chemist... not forgetting the technical expert.

The UK Mirror Service holds software for a range of platforms including:

Apple Macintosh                      Palm-tops  
Linux                                      UNIX  
MSDOS                                  and of course... Windows

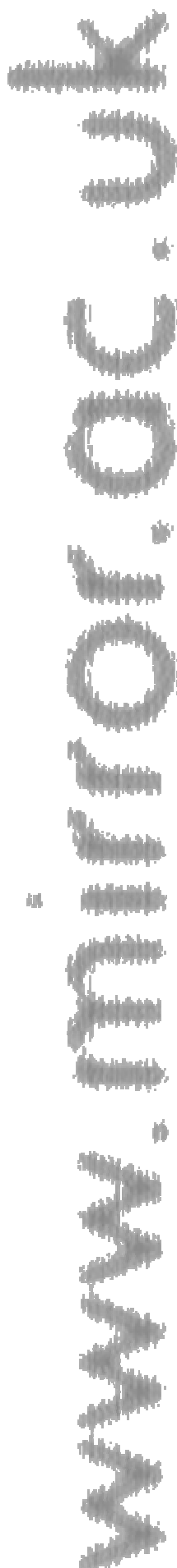
A wide array of electronic information types are held. These include applications, audio, datasets, graphics, utilities, video, web-based information...

And if by any chance what you require is unavailable, you can request a new mirror at <http://www.mirror.ac.uk/feedback/iwantamirror.html>. The UK Mirror Service will strive to provide any requested mirrors which provide a benefit to the academic community.

#### is it difficult to use?

If you have the basic IT skills necessary to use the WWW and your file manager (if you use Windows) then you should have no trouble in using the UK Mirror Service. Whilst many of our users are very technically competent we appreciate that a confusing or complicated system would put off less experienced users and the service labours to be understandable to the widest possible audience. The intuitive site is supported with comprehensive online support helping you to find, download, and unpack material and troubleshoot any problems. And if things really do go wrong, our responsive support staff are more than willing to help via e-mail or the telephone.





## access by world wide web

The web interface is the most user-friendly method of accessing the UK Mirror Service.  
<http://www.mirror.ac.uk>

The archive can be searched or browsed by mirror, subject and platform with a comprehensive online support facility. The following pages are accessible by menu bar links from almost every page online:

**Search** - The UK Mirror Service search engine enables the user to search by keyword/title and platform for the software that they require. This advanced search facility will locate your desired file in moments and enable you to view only those results relevant to the operating system of your choice.

The 'Browse By' facility allows you to view the contents of the UK Mirror Service archives with the material organised in a choice of ways to suit you. **Browse by:**

**Platform** ...View the resources by operating system so you can clearly see which collections are available for your computer.

**Subject** ...Specialised material of relevance to your subject area.

**Mirror** ...Browse the complete contents of any of the sites we mirror.

**Support** – The support area provides information on getting both online and personal help, contacting the service and supportive documentation to enable you to get the most from the service.

## access by ftp

Internet File Transfer, usually referred to as "ftp", is a mechanism that allows you to transfer files from a remote computer onto the disk of your own machine. It's a very quick and convenient way to obtain files, and if you can, you should use it in preference to other access methods for transferring the large files that make up archived packages.

It's not possible to give you exact instructions on how to proceed, because the software you will use may well have its own specific user interface. This will certainly be the case if you are using a graphical windowing system, where you commonly use a mouse to select facilities from lists. Using this to download software is often as simple as dragging and dropping onto your hard disc. For more information on using FTP and getting an FTP client (the software you will need to FTP files) please see the online support section at: <http://www.mirror.ac.uk/help/>.

The information that you will need to login to the UK Mirror Service is:

Machine name: mirror.ac.uk

**Username:** anonymous

**Password:** your own email address

## contacting the uk mirror service

**Email:** [mirror@mirror.ac.uk](mailto:mirror@mirror.ac.uk)  
(user support and general queries)

**www:** <http://www.mirror.ac.uk>

**user support hotline:** +44 (0)1524 594869  
(9am – 5pm Mon – Fri. Voicemail outside these hours)

**address:** UK Mirror Service  
Information Systems Services  
Lancaster University  
Lancaster LA1 4YW  
United Kingdom

Join the UK Mirror Service mailing list at <http://www.mailbase.ac.uk/lists/mirror-users/join.html> to be kept informed on the latest developments and new mirrors.

A freely distributable electronic copy of this document is available at:

<http://www.mirror.ac.uk/help/infosheet.pdf>

(You will need a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader – download freely and quickly at:

<http://tu cows.mirror.ac.uk/adnload/nt/dlacrobatnt.html>)