

A level Computing: Stepping up to COMP4

Pre-Course Tasks

You should try to bring a fully charged PC laptop to the Workshop Day (extension power sockets will be available).

Also bring a copy of the AQA approved A2 Textbook along with you: 'AQA Computing A2' by Kevin Bond and Sylvia Langfield, published by Nelson Thornes ISBN 978-0-7487-8296-3

Go to the AQA website <http://store.aqa.org.uk/qual/gce/pdf/AQA-2510-W-SP.PDF> and download the latest copy of the specification onto your computer. Appropriate sections of this will be provided on the day in hard copy form.

Prior to attending the event, it would be very useful if you could visit the following websites and download the free software to your laptop. Some of these will be used or demonstrated during the day:

Go to the following URL http://www.modelsphere.org/download_open_modelsphere_m.html to access and download **OpenModelSphere 3.1 for windows** which is a data, process and UML modelling tool written in Java and released under the open source GPL License. It provides support for forward and reverse engineering between UML and relational schemas. We will be using this during the COMP4 workshop day to draw Data Flow Diagrams.

Note: Open ModelSphere 3.1 requires the Java Runtime Environment Version 6 Update 14 or higher!

Go to the URL <http://dev.mysql.com/downloads/workbench/> to access and download **MySQL Workbench 5.2 CE**. This provides DBAs and developers an integrated tools environment for: Database Design & Modeling, SQL Development and Database Administration. The use of this application will be demonstrated during the Workshop day.

Go to the URL: <http://www.toadworld.com/Freeware/ToadDataModelerFreeware/tabid/637/Default.aspx> and download Toad DataModeler Freeware. This is a multi-database platform data modelling and design that simplifies the creation of high-quality data models and the deployment of changes to data structures.

You might also want to download the MySQL Freeware (this is a development and administration tool that improves the productivity of database professionals working with MySQL on Windows) on the Left side of the screen. We probably won't be actually using either of these packages during the workshop day but they might subsequently be useful to some of your students.

Finally, go to the URL: <http://www.wampserver.com/en/download.php> and download **WAMP SERVER2** (Wamp is an acronym for **W**indows **A**pache **M**ySQL **P**HP). WampServer is a Windows web development environment. It allows you to create web applications with Apache, PHP and the MySQL database. It also comes with PHPMyAdmin to manage your databases easily. We will make some mention of this platform during the workshop day because of its possible use in Client-Server COMP4 projects.

If you have major problems in locating and downloading these applications **before** your COMP4 workshop day, please email me at brian.caswell@bcs.org.uk and I will try to assist you. We won't necessarily be using all of them on the workshop day.

You might also find it useful to bring a memory stick along to the workshop day in case there are some additional "last minute" resources available for you to download.