Questionnaire: IT in the contemporary church

Thank you for taking 10-15 minutes to complete this questionnaire. Your answers will be invaluable for my research at the University of Warwick into the use of information technology (IT) in the contemporary church. You will be welcome to have a copy of my final report in return for your help. If you would like one, please attach either a postal or email address for it to be sent to.

Please complete and return this questionnaire before 17th February 2008. Late replies will still be helpful but may not influence my report. Responses will be treated confidentially.

If you have any problems in completing this questionnaire, please contact me or my project supervisor. It is not necessary to answer every question, any response will be appreciated. If you would like to add further comments, please feel free to attach them.

Please note that the word 'church' is used throughout this questionnaire to refer to the wider Christian context including activities run by the church **beyond typical Sunday church services**, including other Christian organisations, festivals and events.

Part One: The use of IT in the church to which you belong to

On the whole, would you agree with the following descriptions of the <u>current use of IT</u> in your church? *Please tick one of the appropriate boxes for each description.*

	Agree	Disagree	Unsure			Agree	Disagree	Unsure
Helpful:	☐	☐	☐		Unnecessary:	☐	☐	☐
Useful:	☐	☐	☐		Refreshing:	☐	☐	☐
Distracting:	☐	☐	☐		Over-used:	☐	☐	☐
Complicated:	☐	☐	☐		Professional:	☐	☐	☐
Radical:	☐	☐	☐		Advanced:	☐	☐	☐
Up to date:	☐	☐	☐		Attractive:	☐	☐	☐
Good value:	☐	☐	☐		Inclusive:	☐	☐	☐

What reasons <u>for</u> using IT in church have you encountered? *Please tick all that apply.*

☐ Will make tasks easier/simpler ☐ Allows others to be included

☐ Attractive to church members ☐ Attractive to outsiders

☐ To keep up to date ☐ Better suited to tasks than previous methods

☐ Frees up resources/people ☐ Advice from others

☐ Fits well with aims of the church ☐ Fits well with image of the church

☐ Pressure from congregation ☐ No favourable reasons encountered

☐ Other - please specify below:

What reasons <u>against</u> using IT in church have you encountered? *Please tick all that apply.*

☐ Too radical   ☐ Too expensive

☐ Too much of a technical challenge   ☐ Too much of a challenge to setup/install

☐ Too much of a challenge to maintain/run ☐ Not good enough for purpose

☐ Unnecessary   ☐ Better alternatives

☐ Impersonal   ☐ Previous bad experiences with IT

☐ Does not fit with aims of the church   ☐ Does not fit with image of the church

☐ Pressure from congregation   ☐ No opposition encountered

☐ Other - please specify below:

In which of the following areas is IT used in your church?

For each area, please give a rating to the quality of the use of IT, where 5 = very good, 4 = good, 3 = okay, 2 = poor, 1 = very poor, 0 = unsure. Leave blank if IT is not used in that area.

Rating	Area
	Administration (including financial)
	Children's work
	Youth work
	Sermons/talks
	News or notices (e.g. newsletters; news presentations within services)
	Displaying song words, liturgy, or other text for the whole congregation
	Worship (either for music or other types)
	Evangelism (including alpha or similar courses)
	Local community involvement
	Other – *please list below*:

Please tick one box to answer each of the following questions.

Please rate what you believe to be the <u>general attitude of your church</u> towards the use of IT.

☐ Very positive   ☐ Positive   ☐ Ambivalent   ☐ Negative   ☐ Very negative

How many people are in your church with good IT skills?

☐ Many   ☐ Some   ☐ Enough   ☐ Few   ☐ Very few/none

What <u>benefits</u> do you see from the way that IT is used in your church, especially in areas that you are involved with?

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What <u>problems</u> do you see from the way that IT is used in your church, especially in areas that you are directly involved with?

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Part Two: Your own use of IT in church

Please list any ministry areas (including any leadership or serving roles) that you are directly involved in, and in what ways you use IT in them if at all:

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Why do you use IT in these areas? Please comment on the advantages and disadvantages of using IT in these areas.

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Please tick one response for each question.

How would you rate <u>your ability</u> with IT?

☐ Very good ☐ Good ☐ Okay ☐ Poor ☐ Very poor

How would you rate <u>your attitude</u> towards the use of IT generally, whether in or out of church?

☐ Very positive ☐ Positive ☐ Ambivalent ☐ Negative ☐ Very negative

Are there problems in the church that you believe could be solved or improved upon in the near future by using IT?

Part Three: Software to aid leading music

If you are involved in leading worship/music in a church context, please complete this section. Otherwise, please skip to part four.

What experience do you have of IT solutions to help in leading music in the church context?

How important would the following features of such a software aid be to you?

For each feature, please give a rating of how important it would be to you, where 5 = very important, 4 = fairly important, 3 = Unsure/ambivalent, 2 = fairly unimportant, 1 = not at all important.

Rating	Area
	Ability to search for songs (including searching on lyrics and themes)
	Ability to transpose (including transposing for guitar capos)
	Appearance of the user interface
	Automatic song theme detection (from lyrics)
	Detecting the key of recorded or live music/singing
	Displaying chords
	Displaying lyrics
	Displaying sheet music
	Help with creating set-lists or choosing songs
	Integration with other software - please specify which:
	Operating speed
	Simplicity
	Song organisation system
	Other – *please list below*:

What conditions would you place on the use of a software aid for a lead musician in church?

I am currently building a software tool to aid leading music in church. For more information please contact me or go to http://blogs.warwick.ac.uk/church-it.

Part Four: Final questions

Please tick <u>all that apply</u> throughout the rest of this section. If you would prefer not to answer any of these questions, just leave the boxes blank.

What is your gender?   ☐ Male   ☐ Female

Which age group are you in?

☐ Under 18　　☐ 18-25　　☐ 26-35　　☐ 36-45　　☐ 46-55
☐ 56-65　　☐ 66-75　　☐ 76-85　　☐ Over 85

Which of the following descriptions match your church?

☐ Catholic　　　　　☐ Evangelical　　　　　　　　　　　　☐ Modern

☐ Anglican　　　　　☐ Charismatic　　　　　　　　　　　　☐ Traditional

☐ Presbyterian　　　☐ Younger congregation　　　　　　　☐ Radical

☐ Baptist　　　　　　☐ Variety of ages across congregation　☐ Conservative

☐ Methodist　　　　☐ Older congregation

☐ Other denomination/stream – please specify:

Please give an approximate size of your congregation: _____

What is the name of your church?

_____

What town or region is your church from?

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How did you find out about this survey?

_____

Please add any further comments you would like to. Attach and return them with this questionnaire to either the postal or email address below. Thank you.

Thank you very much for completing this survey.

Your response is greatly appreciated. If you would like to contact me or my supervisor, here are our contact details:

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