

INFORMASIE/TEGNOLOGIE

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

INETKEY: THE END IS NEAR



The Council of Stellenbosch University approved the budget for 2020, which introduces funding for internet capacity for the entire university. In the past, Inetkey served as a mechanism for internet usage for staff and students, to facilitate collection of the necessary funds to support the university community.

It is not yet.

The university will no longer collect usage data for billing purposes. In effect, there won't be any charge

for personal purposes, apart from funding the internet service. User identification is a basic requirement for billing, but there are also some security and auditing requirements for personal information about internet traffic. So, for the time being, Inetkey will still be used for billing purposes without any individual charges.

Some historical facts:

Internet cost charge-out used to be common practice at most SA institutions since the 90's. Bandwidth was a scarce resource, and universities needed to manage usage carefully to avoid service collapse and other negative experiences.

From 2000 onwards, internet bandwidth gradually became more affordable, as can be seen from rate changes since 2001. The university introduced three rates per day, A, B and C, to allow discounts during off-peak times. Eventually, the rates stabilised, and as the costs dropped, the university decided to increase available capacity regularly.

In 2001 you paid R1-50 per MB (megabytes) of internet data. Over the past 18 years this decreased to the current 2c. At the same time our internet capacity increased. In 2008 total capacity was a mere 0.4 Gbps (gigabits per second) — at the moment we're running at 1.7 Gbps and this could increase next year.

When will Inetkey really disappear? The remaining technical functionality of Inetkey will be migrated to other mechanisms, such as a new firewall planned to be procured in the first half of 2020. We expect the final burial of Inetkey later in 2020.

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