

ac3 gains data security accreditation

ac3 has gained certification against the Australian Standard for information security management AS/NZS 7799.2:2003 through SAI Global.

Certification to the 7799 Standard is designed to help an organisation ensure adequate security controls are in place to protect information assets and to provide confidence to customers and other interested parties.



John Hunt of SAI-Global presents Philip McCrea, ceo of ac3, with the 7799 accreditation certificate.

“When you are in the business of looking after computers for other organisations, it is vital to maintain your information security certification”, said the ceo of **ac3**, Dr Philip McCrea.

“As we currently host equipment for more than 60 organisations in our data centre, including sensitive databases, we believe this is an important achievement for our organisation.”

“SAI Global has a long history of providing conformity assessment services to organisations,” according to the NSW General Manager for Assurance Services at SAI Global, Mr John Hunt.

“I am delighted with **ac3**'s success in achieving this certification which helps it to demonstrate to its stakeholders that their information assets are being securely managed.

For more details contact Philip McCrea on (02) 9209 4601, or John Hunt at SAI-Global on (02) 8206-6866.

... AND LAUNCHES NEW EMAIL SPAM FILTERING SERVICE

ac3 has launched an email spam and virus filtering service — *MailFlow*.

“*MailFlow* is different to other offerings”, according to Peter Nankivell of **ac3**. “No capital investment is required. All an organisation needs to do is redirect their mail to the *MailFlow* engine located in the secure **ac3** data centre, and cleansed email is delivered to them.”

MailFlow is based on a highly intelligent engine that compares the originating IP address with known global spammers. If the IP address is listed in the global database, *MailFlow* rejects the mail before it reaches the email gateway. This has the effect of reducing the cost of Internet traffic.

MailFlow also checks email, including attachments, for viruses. If a virus is detected, *MailFlow* attempts to neutralise the virus, and if this cannot be done, the mail is discarded, and the receiver informed accordingly.

***MailFlow* provides huge savings:** there is no need to employ staff specifically to manage emails, there are no licence costs, and in-boxes remain relatively un-cluttered.

There is no contract period: it is purely a month-by-month service.



***MailFlow* eliminates spam email and virus affected email.**

For more information, including a free trial, contact Peter Nankivell at **ac3** on (02) 9209 4606.

Storms brewing over land clearing in Sydney

ac3 manages several supercomputers on behalf of 5 NSW-based Universities. These machines are amongst the most powerful in the country, and are used by key researchers to gain a better understanding of the physical world. This article features a fascinating discovery by Professor Andy Pitman from Macquarie University.

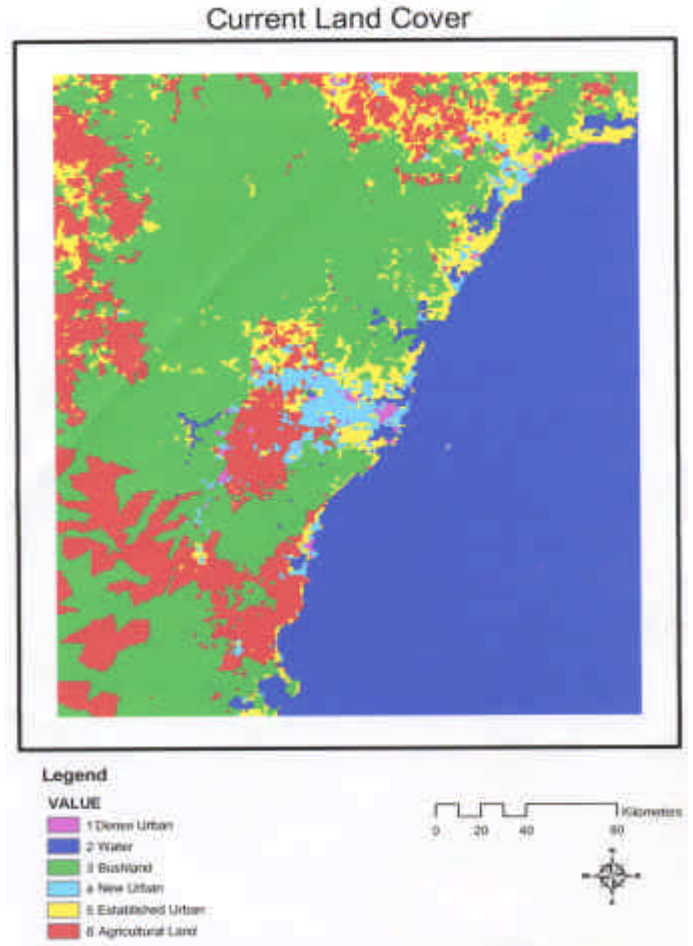
Professor Pitman runs a climate research group. He and his colleague, Anna Gero, modelled weather patterns over two different Sydney basins — today's metropolis, and the Sydney basin of 1788 — to assess the impact of land clearing and urban sprawl.

"Without the trees to act as a buffer, storms can build up more quickly across the basin," Professor Pitman said.



The pair used the Dell cluster supercomputer at **ac3** to simulate how the atmosphere would respond to different weather patterns on summer days.

They discovered that thunderstorms over the CBD in the 2006 model did not occur in the 1788 model. The researchers initially thought these storms were due to turbulence caused by CBD buildings, but they discovered to their surprise the storms were instead caused by the cleared land areas in southern and western Sydney.



"New urban developments in Sydney's west need to retain more trees and vegetation, or Sydney can expect increasingly violent storms," Professor Pitman warned.

Professor Pitman said having access to the **ac3** computer to the simulations was the key to the success of the project.

For more information contact Professor Pitman on (02) 9850-8425, or email apitman@els.mq.edu.au.

ABOUT AC3

ac3 provides professional management services for computing and networking equipment to best practice standards. All equipment is housed in secure, fail-safe data centres at the Australian Technology Park and at Global Switch. **ac3** is a private company owned by the NSW Government and the Universities of NSW.