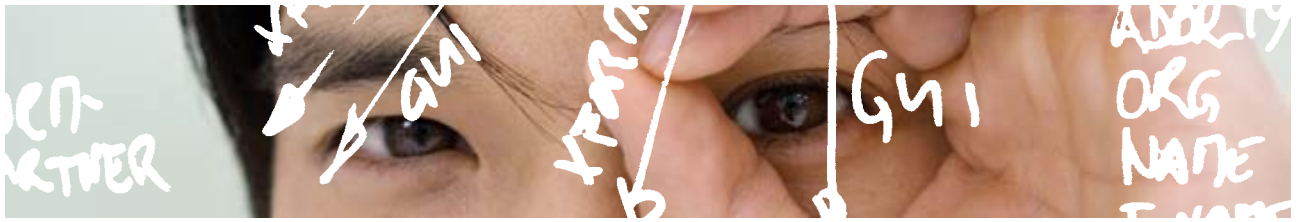


Working for universities

Specially-tailored services for the Swiss universities



SWITCH

Serving Swiss Universities

SWITCH is a Foundation which was created in 1987 by the Swiss Confederation and those Swiss cantons that have universities within their territories. It is engaged in the development of innovative network-based services for Swiss universities, which they would not be able to obtain on the marketplace. Ever since the very beginning of the internet in Switzerland, SWITCH has also been the registry for .ch and .li domain names. The Foundation is a non-profit organisation, which employed ninety people in 2009 and generated sales of 30 million Swiss francs.

More than two thirds of SWITCH's employees work exclusively for the universities. They are specialists who place the whole of their know-how and passion at the service of the Swiss universities. They work in extremely close cooperation with their customers to develop innovative solutions, which make digital life easier both on and off the campus. The most important services provided by SWITCH are outlined briefly below.

University network:

SWITCHlan overcomes geographic and intellectual boundaries

The SWITCHlan optical fibre network interconnects all the universities and research facilities throughout Switzerland. This education and research network makes child's play out of handling even the most bandwidth-intensive applications. It constitutes the basis on which all the other services are built.

Internet access:

Surfing, studying and working free-of-charge – all possible thanks to SWITCHconnect

With SWITCHconnect, all those belonging to Swiss universities have free internet access virtually everywhere and all times. No matter whether they are at an airport, visiting a university other than their own, in a café, at a conference or travelling for professional reasons – SWITCHconnect ensures that they can enjoy pleasurable surfing, completely free-of-charge.

Universal login:

SWITCH^{aa}i – the key that connects students and their place of study

At long last, we've cut down on the number of passwords required. Students used to need a handful of user names and passwords to log into the services of other universities. Today, one login will suffice for all of them. Thanks to SWITCH^{aa}i, Students have access throughout Switzerland to libraries, documents and all sorts of didactic material.

Security in the network:

SWITCH-CERT – the best countermeasure for warding off attacks targeted on the education and research network

The Swiss education and research network is priceless! Protecting it and being ready to react ultra quickly to potential incidents are two of the most important functions of the Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERT). For that reason, SWITCH-CERT is continuously expanding its security services for the universities.

Online lectures:

SWITCH^{cast} transforms the lecture theatre into a virtual experience

Listening to your iPod and learning at the same time? That won't work, you're probably thinking. Wrong! The two even complement each other nicely. Using the SWITCH^{cast} video management system, lecturers only have to perform a few, very simple setup steps to be ready to record their lectures. Subsequently, their students can conveniently download recorded lectures via the internet as a Podcast, Quick-time or Flash file. Gone are the days of complaining about missed lectures. For lecturers, SWITCH^{cast} represents a unique opportunity for venturing into new approaches to teaching.

Digital learning library:

SWITCH^{collection} puts new life into didactic materials

Any lecturer who has created didactic materials is faced with the question as to how best to archive these in a suitable place and to make them available to others with the same interests. In cooperation with the Swiss universities, SWITCH^{collection} offers the ideal solution, from which everyone connected to the universities can benefit, namely a digital learning library where didactic materials that have been produced can be made available for others to re-use.



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