Who am I? ~ Undergraduate Computer Science Student

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Background
The Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) is one of Ireland’s largest third-level institutions. Kevin Street college the home of the DIT’s School of Computing (SC) was started in 1887 to provide technical education and training in specialist fields. This continues to be the goal of the SC with an emphasis on research and industry links. The DIT college of Science and Health has been offering courses in computing since 1971.

Introduction
The survey assessed who were the registered students of the school in 2010. Where they male/female? What was the average age of undergraduate students both full time and part time? were they at is their nationality, their county of residence, were they commuting, and what was their native Counties?

Results
UG are predominantly males (92%) from Dublin.
74% of UG students are Irish, 7% Polish and 5% Chinese other 14% are constituted by 14 countries majority of which are European

Materials and methods
The survey was delivered to the students through their college email account and was administered through the use of surveymonkey.com. The survey was voluntary. To increase response rates it was introduced by the head of school who noted the significance of the survey. The survey was open for three weeks.

Who am I?
~ undergraduate students in the School of Computing, DIT~
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Response Rates
Response rates were high for all groups but the FT fourth years this was due to the timing of the survey alongside the final two weeks of the Final Year Projects.

Table 1. Undergraduate response rates

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<th>Sample</th>
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Figure 1. Kevin Street College

As part of a school review process a survey of the students was designed to gain insight into who the students of the school were. The survey was a voluntary anonymous online survey. Students were able to skip questions and select more than one option in some questions. This was to reduce frustration with participation in the survey and ensure that the survey was completed.

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Acknowledgments
I would like to thank the student and staff of the School of Computing DIT for their participation in the survey and in aiding the design of the questions.

For further information
Please contact jane.ferris@dit.ie More information on this and related projects can be obtained at www.arrow.dit.ie.

Figure 2. Method was voluntary anonymous online survey.

Figure 3. SC Final Year Project Fair

Figure 4. Undergraduate Nationality

Figure 5. Undergraduate native Counties

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Figure 6. Undergraduate daily distance travelled to SC.

Figure 7. Undergraduate financial support

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Figure 8. Undergraduate current employment

It was expected that the PT cohort would be employed. The survey found that 33% were employed in a related field, 37% were employed in an area other than computing and 10% were unemployed (fig. 7). Those that worked in a computing related field had been working for 1-3 years.

Conclusions
• Online survey by college email was ideal
• Response rates were very good with the exception of final year FT UG (13%)
• UG are predominantly males from Dublin.
• 74% of UG students are Irish, 7% Polish and 5% Chinese other 14% are constituted by 14 countries majority of which are European
• Irish students are predominantly from Leinster.
• 13% of undergraduate students are commuting >20Kms to study Computer Science in the DIT.

Literature cited

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