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Campus Computing News

Introducing EIS – Linking Systems to People

By [Cathy Gonzalez](#), EIS Training/Computing Administration Manager

More than a year ago, several curious topics began to appear on administrative meeting agendas at UNT. These topics used words such as legacy programs, retiring the mainframe, and enterprise information systems. The big buzzword which quickly entered these discussions was PeopleSoft. Most everyone had little knowledge of what this meant other than something big was about to happen! The project driving this change is titled The EIS (Enterprise Information System) Project and the implementation of PeopleSoft® has resulted in new administrative systems known simply as EIS.* While the name is simple, the system itself is anything but simple.

Who is PeopleSoft?

Dave Duffield and Ken Morris founded PeopleSoft in 1987, when they engineered the company's first application, human resources. Built on client-server architecture, their solution offered flexibility and ease-of-use to a class of users previously barred from simplified access to the information and capabilities centralized in mainframes. By putting ease of functionality directly in the hands of users, PeopleSoft quickly assumed industry leadership status in human resources solutions.

In 1992, PeopleSoft expanded their offerings to include financial applications. In 1996, they introduced their Learning Solutions products for higher education.

In 2000, PeopleSoft introduced a concept known as PeopleSoft Pure Internet Architecture® (PIA). PIA is a cross-platform, server-based architecture that enables enterprise applications to be delivered to users through a standard web browser. The advantages of PIA are no special programs or files must reside on a user's workstation, the user only needs a web browser on their desktop and access to the PeopleSoft applications can be granted to whoever needs it. This enables everyone to participate in business processes in real time and helps turn the promise of enterprise business into a reality.

Today, PeopleSoft is the world's second largest enterprise application provider with more than 11,000 customers in 150 countries. In the higher education sector, it is the industry leader for administrative business processes. PeopleSoft's recent acquisition of J.D. Edwards was about expanding and enhancing their product offerings.

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What is EIS?

EIS is a suite of integrated applications that as a whole is termed an enterprise-wide system. It is based on the software (applications) known as PeopleSoft. Prior to EIS, the core business processes of UNT were handled primarily by locally developed applications with the notable exception of financial aid, which was a purchased product. These core processes include Finance, Human Resources, Student Administration, and Contributor Relations (alumni services). These legacy applications were built by UNTS developers from scratch or from a set of student applications purchased in the early 1980's. They are known as mainframe programs due to the technology which hosts them. EIS differs greatly from the legacy systems in that it is based on software purchased from outside rather than built by our own UNTS developers. Buying the software rather than building it leverages staff, time, money, and best practices in higher education. For 30 years the mainframe architecture and applications built on it have served UNTS faithfully; however, due to advances in information technology globally, it is time to retire the mainframe and upgrade to the latest information technology.

PeopleSoft is a large suite of applications? Which ones are we implementing?

The goal of the EIS Project is to replace all of the major administrative computing software being used to support the university's faculty, staff, and students. The modules being implemented fall under one of three categories: Learning Solutions, Financials and Supply Chain Management, and Enterprise Portal. These three categories are commonly referred to as environments. In the coming months we will look in more detail at the architecture of these environments.

The Learning Solutions (version 8.0) environment includes modules for:

- Student Administration
 - Admissions (Undergraduate, Graduate, and International)
 - Student Records (Registrar)
 - Student Finance
 - Financial Aid and Scholarship
- Human Resources / Payroll / Base Benefits
- Training Administration (Human Resources, Computing and Information Technology)
- Contributor Relations

The Financials (version 8.41) environment includes modules for:

- General Ledger
- Centralized Purchasing/Accounts Payable
- Department e-Procurement
- Expenses
- Asset Management
- Budget
- Grants/Contracts

When is EIS available?

This is a complex question, as there is not one single “go-live” date. During the first implementation stage, the first module go-live was July 2003 and the last will be spring 2005. The live modules to date are General Ledger, Purchasing/Accounts Payable, Admissions, Human Resources, Payroll, and Contributor Relations. Student services will begin rolling out the end of April 2004 with full implementation for the fall 2004 semester. An upgrade to the next major release of PeopleSoft for Learning Solutions, version 8.9, is scheduled for 2005.

How will I know when I am supposed to start using EIS? Who will tell me how to log on and teach me to use EIS?

The departments that have been part of the EIS implementation have ownership of the modules that are pertinent to their business processes. Module leads, training coordinators, and training coaches develop and conduct training and will contact you when it is appropriate for your job type to begin using EIS. Once you have completed your training, a module access control person will set up a role to be associated with your user ID which defines the appropriate screens and functions in EIS you need access to. Your EIS account will be activated in cooperation with the EIS security personnel and you will be ready to begin using EIS in your daily job requirements.

To learn more about EIS, visit the official EIS web site at <http://www.unt.edu/eis/>. Information relevant to EIS technical support and project information can be found at <http://www.unt.edu/eis/newsite/>.

More to Come....

This is an exciting and challenging time as all the parts of the UNT System come together and begin working in an enterprise way of doing business. Many more questions are probably swirling through your mind as you anticipate your role during this time. Though a couple of speed bumps may be encountered as we travel this new path together, none of them are show stoppers. The stage is set and the curtain has gone up. Act One is in progress and the reviews are good! As the drama continues to unfold, we will continue to learn more about EIS together.

* For a look at the history of the EIS project here at UNT, see these articles published in *Benchmarks Online*:

- [Campus Computing News: Enterprise Information System Selection Status Report](#)
- [Campus Computing News: Enterprise Information System Selection Status Report, Part Two](#)
- [Campus Computing News: Changing with the times](#)
- [Campus Computing News: EIS Project Status](#)
- [Campus Computing News: Changes are Coming to Computing Center Services](#)



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UNTeCampus is Here!

By [Paul Bednar](#), Senior Marketing Specialist, Center for Distributed Learning

October 31, 2003 marked the beginning of a new era for Distance Education at UNT as [UNTeCampus.com](#) was officially launched. Center for Distributed Learning developed this new Website to serve as the ultimate guide for Web-based and videoconference courses.

Before UNTeCampus.com, finding information about distance education courses was hit or miss at best. To obtain detailed information, most students had to wait until they received a course syllabus, which is usually not provided until the first day of class. If facts were available before the semester started, they were often scattered over dozens of Webpages. In many cases, the only data obtainable was found in the schedule of classes and the course catalog.

This lack of specific up-to-date course information created a great deal of confusion which often resulted in students either not being prepared for an electronically-delivered course or not registering for a course at all. UNTeCampus.com alleviates this confusion and helps better prepare students by providing a single source for detailed information about Web-based and videoconference courses.

UNTeCampus provides course information

UNTeCampus provides information in two major categories; general course parameters and section specific details. The General Course Information Page displays the course name, number, prerequisites and catalog description. It also shows each available section, the faculty member teaching it and the delivery method. The Section Specific Information Page displays the number and location of face-to-face meetings, as well as objectives, expectations, major assignments, tests, textbooks and technical requirements. Though the course listings are easy to browse with an intuitive menu system, a search tool empowers students to locate courses and sections containing specific keywords or matching user-defined criteria such as the number of site-based meetings or instructor name.

And that's not all!

Another exciting aspect of UNTeCampus.com is that it is also the destination of [distanceeducation.com](#). Anyone entering this URL will immediately be redirected to UNT's awarding-winning distance education programs and courses.

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Since its launch, UNTeCampus.com has received over 25,000 hits and is receiving rave reviews from students and faculty alike. The most common comment about the site is “why isn’t this available for all my courses?” While we hope the University will one day be able to offer this type of resource for all UNT courses through [EIS](#), this information is currently only available for those courses delivered electronically.

The Center for Distributed Learning is excited about UNTeCampus.com and its service to students. As the site grows and more course information is uploaded, it will truly live up to its billing as the ultimate guide for Web-based and videoconference courses.

More information

For more information about UNTeCampus.com or to provide feedback, simply visit the Website at www.UNTeCampus.com or contact Paul Bednar, Senior Marketing Specialist for the CDL, at 940-565-2942 (pbednar@unt.edu). Information is also available at www.unt.edu/cdl.

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Microsoft Products Available to UNT Employees at Low Cost

By [Maurice Leatherbury](#), Executive Director of Information Technology and Academic Computing

For a number of years, UNT has had an agreement with Microsoft that allows us to distribute various Microsoft products to employees of the University. According to the agreement, you can "use the software for school-related purposes on a personally-owned computer or an institution-owned computer designated for your exclusive use" and you must remove the software from your home machine if you leave UNT. *This agreement does not cover students unless those students are also UNT employees, nor does it cover UNT Health Science Center employees.*

Available at the UNT Bookstore

The following products are available at the prices indicated in the general books section of the UNT Bookstore:

- Office Pro 2003 \$14.00
- Office XP Pro \$21.00
- Office 2000 Pro \$21.00
- Office v.X Mac \$7.00
- Office 2001 Mac \$7.00
- Windows XP Pro \$7.00
- Visual Studio.net Academic \$56.00
- FrontPage 2003 \$7.00
- FrontPage 2002 \$7.00
- Publisher 2003 \$7.00
- OneNote \$8.50



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Data Warehousing for the UNT System*

By [Dr. Dave Mukherjee](#), Programmer Analyst on EIS Project

Creating an infrastructure for managing data, information & knowledge resources

Overview

What is it all about?

Data warehousing is a process of creating an infrastructure and a system that transforms raw data into actionable information and eventually into intelligence and knowledge. Data warehousing provides for data gathering, cleansing, formatting, integration and reconstruction so as to provide information to its users in doing their day-to-day activities like planning, analysis, and decision-making. The ability of the UNT System to efficiently carry out its activities is directly dependent on its ability to access and use clean, consistent and correct data available in a timely fashion.

This document describes the nature of data, information, intelligence, knowledge and data warehousing. Further, it describes the road map to achieving the goals, objectives and strategies of the UNT System and the various options that are available towards accomplishing this goal. It also mentions the major guiding principles and major considerations that impact the delivery of the data warehouse.

Defining our definitions

However, before we describe how data warehousing will help us create an environment to exploit data and information we need to understand the basic meaning of data, information, knowledge and intelligence. Like a wise man once said before we argue let's define our definitions.

Data, information, intelligence and knowledge

Data

Data is everywhere. Data is locked up in different systems, in spreadsheets, desktop databases, flat files, tapes, documents, text files all stored in different formats. This is

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unprocessed data that needs to be cleaned, formatted and integrated so that we can extract meaning from these sources. Data is like raw ore that needs to be processed so that it may be used for whatever final product the user may desire.

Data is raw, unprocessed and a potential source of information

Information

Information is data with meaning. It is providing data a context and relevance to the users current activities. Data without context is like, using the ore analogy, being provided the wrong type of ore for making metal. For data to be transformed into information, data not only needs to be in context but also needs to be consistent, clean, timely, and in the right format. In short, it needs to be processed so that data is usable for day-to-day activities of the users.

Information is data with meaning and context

Intelligence

One description of Intelligence is the ability to solve problems. Intelligence is the next step in the evolution – data, information and intelligence. When relevant information is processed further into structures and artifacts that enable decision making a system can be said to provide its users intelligence, the ability to aid in solving day-to-day problems.

Intelligence is the ability to solve problems

Knowledge

Knowledge is gained by continuous learning based upon the day-to-day activities of the systems users. As users learn to use the information at their disposal and solve problems and make decisions and gather intelligence they also arrive at the best possible way to do things. This experience of users is a valuable resource that needs to be saved and shared with all within the UNT System.

In fact, this knowledge is the lifeblood of the UNT System that should be carefully gathered and distributed and very zealously protected. Knowledge is what provides the UNT System the edge to excel and propel itself to growth and expansion in the future.

Knowledge is the collective wisdom of experience

Data Warehousing

Data warehousing

Data warehousing is a process of creating an infrastructure and a system that supports the information requirements of an UNT System. It is a process of transforming data to create an integrated repository that provides information to users. Data warehousing involves the creation of a system and infrastructure that enables the access and use of required information in an UNT System's day-to-day activities.

Data warehousing is the process of creating an infrastructure and a system that leverages data and information to gain intelligence and knowledge

The road to data warehousing is varied. The next section describes the strategy, goals and objectives of the data warehouse implementation and a high-level view of how data warehousing is expected to evolve over time.

The Roadmap

Strategy, Goals, and Objectives

The overall objective

The overall objective of data warehousing is to make information available to all users in the UNT System who need it to accomplish their day-to-day activities. The objective is to provide information in a consistent format, be timely and easily accessible.

Implementation strategy

Implementation will be handled in a phased and incremental manner. The strategy is to evolve the system from phase to phase of the data warehouse implementation cycle. The first phase is to gather data from all known sources into one data staging repository for further processing. Next, the data will be reconstructed into separate business area models and structures that enable meaningful reporting and analysis. Finally, reporting, analysis and access tools and applications will need to be

developed or provided to enable the use and access of information.

Extraction, Transformation & Loading and Staging

For the first phase of the data warehouse various tools and utilities are being utilized to access data from the mainframe, tapes, flat files on disk and funneled into a data staging repository also called the Operational Data Store (ODS) which will be a database used for further processing, data conversion, cleansing, operational reporting etc.

The purpose of having a single data repository is to ensure a single version of the truth or a sole source of information so that there is not a “Tower of Babel” effect in the way information is available in the UNT System.

It is important to note that this ODS is a database separate from the operational databases like ADABAS and the PeopleSoft databases that store transactions created in day-to-day operations of the UNT System. An ODS is created to provide a single source of information for further processing and transformation into subject area (Finance, HR, Student etc.) models and structures.

An ODS can be used for operational reporting and analysis for all data that is stored therein and for other uses like conversion and downloads for ad-hoc analysis.

Creating Data marts and Data warehouses

In the next phase the data in the ODS which is the data repository or the data store created in the previous phase will be re-designed, transformed, remodeled, and restructured to make it meaningful and efficient for reporting and analysis.

There is going to be extra effort taken during this phase to create models that reflect the decision support and analytical needs of the business units. This is very important as the value of the data warehouse is directly related to the meaningfulness and value of the information in the business activities of the business unit.

Tools and Interfaces

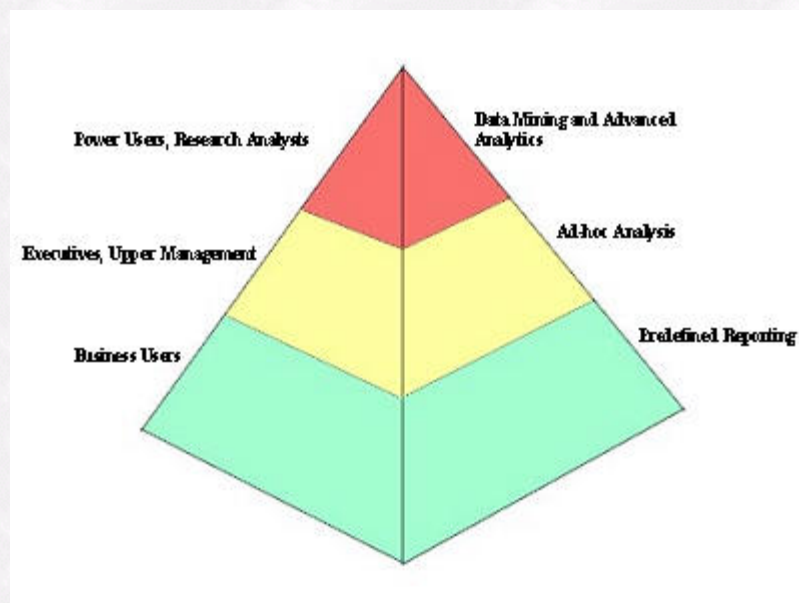
We will take an evolutionary process of acquiring tools and creating interfaces to information stored in the ODS and the data marts. The current approach is to use available tools like Crystal Reports, Access and Excel to report and analyze information. As needs evolve we will evaluate appropriate tools and interfaces that can be used for the decision support needs of the various business units.

The next section describes how the need for information varies within the UNT System. The decision to use different tools is dependent on how the data is used and by whom in the UNT System.

The decision support pyramid

Decision support information may be used differently by different people in the UNT System based upon their need to either do static reporting, ad-hoc reporting and what-if analyses or for advanced analysis like data mining. This is an important concept to understand as most decision support requirements are usually met by static reporting and with a little ad-hoc reporting and data mining, required by a few power users. Using this 80/20 rule 80% of the users decision support needs can be met with static reporting and only 20% of the users need advanced ad-hoc reporting, data mining capabilities.

This will be a guiding principle for our strategy in addressing general reporting and data access needs and thereafter evolve the product acquisition to ad-hoc reporting and data mining tools.



Planning Options

Prioritizing the various initiatives

It is fairly easy to visualize the different phases of delivery described in the road map of creating an ODS, creating data marts and providing access tools and interfaces. However, there are a myriad of tools, products, and methods to achieve the creation of a data warehouse. Over the next year and beyond we need to consider the various product options available to us to evolve from phase to phase and from data and information to intelligence and knowledge.

Legacy data extraction

The current initiative is in legacy data extraction and consolidation in the ODS. This initiative is well under way and involves the use of Extraction tools like Informatica that enable the extraction of data from various sources like the mainframe, transformation into the right format like EBCDIC to ASCII and loading the data to an Oracle database.

No major changes are expected in the next year in terms of the tools and utilities needed to accomplish extractions and to load the ODS.

Central report repository

The next major initiative that impacts data warehousing is the need for report access and distribution once the data is loaded in the ODS. Users will use reporting tools like Crystal Reports to develop reports and publish such reports for distribution. There needs to be a report access and distribution system in place to first house the reports in a report repository and next enable distribution to those who are authorized to view it.

The time line for this initiative needs to synchronize with the go-live dates for PeopleSoft modules for each team (Finance, HR, Student). Effort is underway to get the product in place by early next year.

Reporting Database Service (RDS)

The creation of subject area data marts is an involved process of understanding the decision support needs of the business units and the specific models for reporting and analysis based on the data objects in the databases. This can be a time consuming process and is the next phase activity for data warehousing after the ODS is created.

One option is to deploy the Reporting Database Service (RDS) provided by PeopleSoft to quickly bring up another database based on the PeopleSoft transactional tables but restructured for decision support performance.

The time line for implementing this option if chosen is early to mid-2004 as some of the business units would have already transitioned to the PeopleSoft system by then.

Enterprise Performance Management

(EPM)

EPM is an analytical interface to PeopleSoft data and involves the creation of business warehouses and the support infrastructure to access this information using a web server and reporting application server and end user tools and interfaces. Some modules for EPM have been acquired under the PeopleSoft contract and implementation for HR and Finance.

Deployment of these EPM modules will need to be started by early next year to avail of the benefits of these tools for score carding, budgeting and analysis and workforce analytics.

Customer Relationship Management (CRM)

Related to the EPM modules in PeopleSoft CRM and EPM for CRM is another initiative that needs to be implemented late 2004 and after.

This initiative utilizes history data regarding alumni, students and other prospects to better guide, craft and position our message and offering to customers. This module too has EPM modules that provide analysis and reporting that is crucial to understanding our customers and their behavior vis-à-vis UNT.

PeopleSoft Enterprise Warehouse (EW)

Another option is to take a total PeopleSoft approach to data warehousing and deploy all their products and build a data warehouse. Obviously, there are implications to doing this as there is dependence on one vendor's solution and this may not be practical or economically viable.

This initiative as others will have to be implemented in phases and in an iterative manner and time lines are expected to be mid-2004 and later.

Informatica PeopleSoft Warehouse

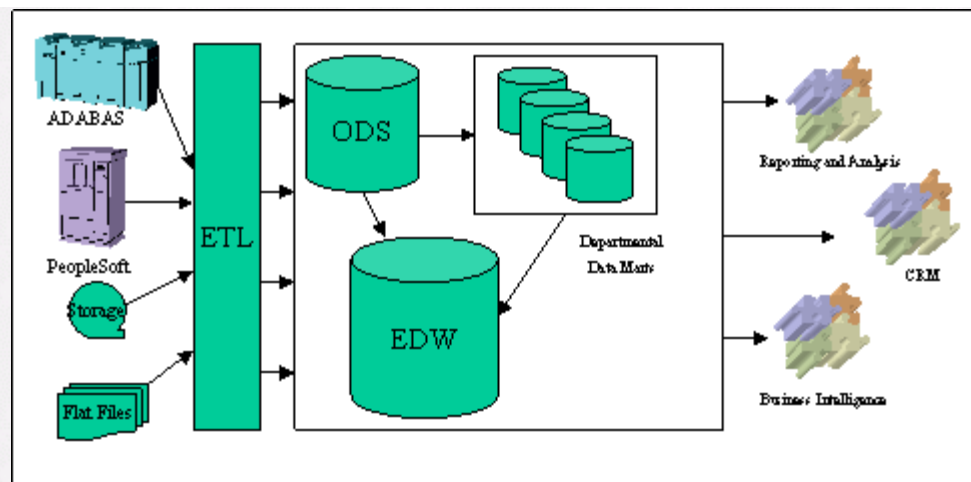
Other vendors like Informatica have developed interfaces to the PeopleSoft data model and can provide reporting and analytics using their reporting interfaces like Informatica's Power Analyzer product. This may be a competitively priced option and could be an option worth evaluating.

The time line to evaluate this option would be towards the mid-2004 time period and could be compared to RDS and PeopleSoft Enterprise Warehouse.

As you can see there are quite a few initiatives that need to be considered. The next step is to plan the next set of initiatives based on business need and other practical considerations like cost, support and maintenance, etc.

The Data Warehouse Framework

The data warehouse framework presents the various aspects of the data warehouse solution and provides a view of how the various components relate to each other and the flow of data from the various sources to the users.



Evolution of the Data Warehouse

Phased delivery and Incremental growth

The most important guiding principle for the planning process for the evolution of the data warehouse is phased delivery. Data warehousing has been known to evolve successfully in a phased manner and attempts to take a “big bang” approach and do everything in one pass has been unsuccessful.

Taking an incremental growth approach in each phase like staging and doing each business unit incrementally, for instance, and gradually evolving through each phase is the preferred approach to be employed.

Build vs. Buy

It is important to consider the implications of doing everything by hand like loading tables, creating data marts, reporting and data access methods. Sometimes it is efficient and less time consuming to use pre-built tools and utilities for use in each phase of the data warehouse. In fact, it is advisable to create processes and procedures around the use of tools and minimize custom coding to enable ease of use and maintenance of the system over time.

Management and User Involvement

Another prerequisite for the successful evolution of the data warehouse is the commitment and involvement of the management of each business unit, EIS management and the technical team managers and leads in each phase of the data warehouse implementation.

This needs to be implemented by creating data warehouse advisory and coordination groups consisting of business and technical team members who actively participate in providing input to the various planning, management and implementation aspects

of the data warehouse.

Better communication and involvement leads better understanding and helps reduce user resistance to data warehousing as well.

Goals & Objectives

It is critical to clearly establish goals and objectives for each phase and deliverables for each business unit and set expectation about what will be delivered. Nothing is as unattainable as a nebulous set of goals.

Best Practices

All data warehouse implementation will be guided by industry accepted best practices, standards and implementation methodologies.

Finally, the value of data warehousing depends on user perception and acceptance. No system is useful if the users do not use it. To make that possible there needs to constant continuous communication, feedback, training and management support for enhancements and growth which need to be incorporated into the process of evolving the data warehouse.

Major Considerations

Issues for consideration

Some issues to consider that will impact the delivery of the data warehouse are cost, storage, human resources, software and the required time schedule. These are important issues that need to be considered as we proceed down the path of planning and designing for the data warehouse.

Cost vs. Value

One of the most obvious considerations is cost of the solution. There are so many options available to us and the cost of the solution needs to match the requirements and the value that the solution brings to the UNT System.

Storage

Another issue to consider is that of data storage. The legacy data dates back to the early 1990s and sometimes into the 80s. It is important to retain as much data as is needed for the needs of the business units and care needs to taken to estimate the storage space requirements so that storage can be arranged for and costs related to hardware and maintenance can be budgeted.

Human Resources

Data warehouses have human resource and manpower needs as well. Planning, designing, implementing and maintaining data warehouses require dedicated teams for development and implementation; they require support and interaction with network and database support teams, security and user administration teams, application development teams, functional analysts and managers to mention a few. This is something that needs to be planned and provided for to have an efficient and fully functioning data warehouse.

Software & Hardware

A data warehouse involves many software and hardware platforms. Data warehouses require dedicated hardware like servers for ETL, Report servers, Business Intelligence servers, and other web and application servers. It also requires dedicated databases for different data repositories. The software that impacts data warehousing ranges from ETL, data cleansing, data profiling, data auditing software to business intelligence tools, reporting and analytical tools, pre-built data warehouses, packaged implementations, data modeling tools, and data mining software.

Each of these hardware and software products and platforms need to be carefully planned for as the success of certain parts of the business depends on the timely availability of these products and platforms.

Schedule

The time line for data being available in the data warehouse is dependent on the needs of each business area. One of the goals of data warehousing is to provide timely data for reporting and analysis. The goal is to synchronize legacy data delivery to the PeopleSoft go live dates so that the data warehouse is populated with legacy data and is ready to be integrated with current data to provide cross period analysis. This is a major consideration as this synchronized delivery is only possible if business units recognize the value and plan for time and human resources to support the data warehouse team to get data validation and verification completed in time. The data warehouse delivery schedule is important as an early delivery reduces the cost to maintain parallel systems and reduces support and maintenance costs for legacy systems and allows administrative computing to focus on current and future platforms while retaining the data from legacy for future use.

* This article is also available at this location (best viewed with Microsoft Explorer):
<https://projectweb.cc.unt.edu/IMD/White%20Papers/Forms/AllItems.htm>.

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SPSS 12 Patches, Licenses, and Updates Now Available

By [Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner](#), Student Computing Services Manager

Last [month](#) we notified you of the availability of SPSS 12. The new license codes for SPSS 12 are now available. Originally, SPSS 12 was shipped with an incorrect license but this error has been corrected by the company. All University community members running SPSS (any version) should now update their license. Please contact your [network manager](#) as appropriate in order to have this done.

Instructions for updating the license code for SPSS:

1. The new license code for SPSS can be found on
`\\GAUSS\Statapps\all_SPSS\SPSS_12\serial_license_info.txt`
2. From the SPSS directory, run a file called **licrenew.exe**.
3. A DOS window will open asking for the new license code. Type it in.
4. After you update the code, the program will ask for another code. Press to close the program.

Additionally, a patch has been release for SPSS 12 and is now available.

After reviewing the fixes involved in SPSS 12 for Windows under the SPSS 12.0.01 patch, Research and Statistical Support suggests patching your current SPSS 12 installations with this update.

This patch can be found on `\\GAUSS\Statapps\all_SPSS\SPSS_12\patch_1201\`

This patch should also be applied to SPSS Grad Pack 12.0 for Windows and SPSS Career Starter 12.0 for Windows as appropriate. The patch will upgrade your existing SPSS 12.0 for Windows to version 12.0.1. SPSS 12.0.1 is an incremental release in which the following changes were made and the patch (**spss12.0.1.exe**) addresses the following bugs and issues:

Overall Performance was improved

Working with Excel:

- A problem exporting date/time variables to Excel was repaired.
- A problem in which data from Excel were converted from long numerals to scientific format was repaired.
- A problem exporting Tables data to Excel was fixed.
- A problem in which dates exported to Excel were off by one day in

certain situations was fixed.

An issue in which exporting data files to Excel with no variable names and no data results in an assertion failure was resolved.

An issue whereby saving an empty SPSS data file as an Excel 97+ file caused C++ Assertion Failure was resolved.

Working with data files and databases:

A problem with the SAVE and SAVE AS commands led to lost cases in the system file was fixed.

A problem with setting the data file to read only in which the permission command did not work was repaired.

A bug in which long tables names led SPSS to read field names via ODBC out of order was repaired.

An issue in which the native Oracle ODBC driver did not work in SPSS 12.0 was resolved.

Working with pivot tables:

A bug in which SPSS vanishes when pivot table column was widened was fixed.

Working with new graphics:

A bug in graphics in which text was not rotated correctly for Windows Metafiles was fixed.

A copy object/paste into Word problem was fixed.

A bug in which copying a graph and pasting it Word led to a chart with no data elements on Windows 98 and Windows ME systems was fixed.

A problem publishing charts to SmartViewer Web Server was fixed.

A problem in which exporting an output file with charts led to a sharing violation was fixed.

In graphics, a problem in which point binning caused marker fill to become black was repaired.

For clustered bar charts the default width was fixed.

An issue in which the Number format tab in the chart editor did not accept decimal places in the scale factor edit field was resolved.

Working with SPSS procedures:

A problem in which the processor terminated while using TwoStep Cluster was fixed.

A problem in which SPSS Complex Samples was not running due to invalid plan file was fixed.

A bug whereby the Output Management System selected an incorrect set of objects was fixed.

For SPSS Server the following changes were made:

For SPSS Batch Facility, an issue in which warnings were suppressed from output by default was resolved.

For SPSS Batch Facility, an issue in titles were generated by default

was resolved.

A problem in which an error message was caused by SPSS Server with the default server set to an SSL server was fixed.

This patch affects the SPSS Base system and the following SPSS options: Regression Models, Advanced Models, Tables, Trends, Missing Value Analysis, Conjoint and Categories.

Instructions for the 12.0.1 upgrade patch:

Download the patch.

Double click on **spss12.0.1.exe**.

Select the folder into which the patch will be installed. This should be the folder in which SPSS for Windows is installed.

Click on OK to install the patch.

In a network environment, the administrator will need to upgrade the installation on the network before a client can upgrade his/her workstation.

The patch will need to be applied separately for SPSS for Windows and SPSS Server for Windows.

The patch application will fail if you have replaced any of the executables that ship with the product. You will be presented with a list of offending binaries and your system will be restored to original state as it was prior to patch application.

Special instructions to apply the patch to a network installation :

You can use any Windows based machine (Windows 98, Windows ME, Windows NT, Windows 2000 or Windows XP) to apply the patch as long as it has the SPSS network client installed. If you are applying the patch from a remote workstation using a UNC path, e.g. <\\Server\Share\SPSS>, you will need to type that path directly in the destination directory box when prompted. Local and mapped drives can be selected from the drop down list.

Once the patch is applied, you can install additional clients by running the client setup program from the file server, e.g. \SPSS\Setup\Setup.exe. It is not necessary to reinstall the client setup program on existing SPSS client workstations.

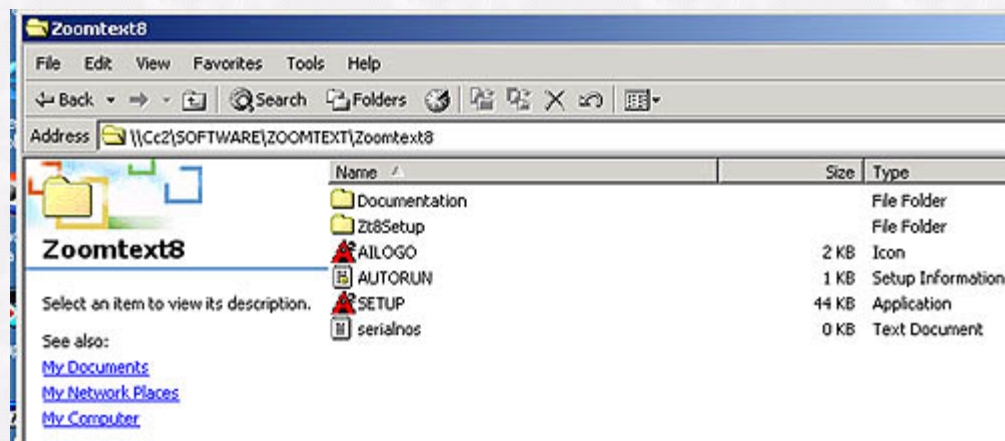
All information above was taken directly from the Patch Release information sent by SPSS customer services. Patrick McLeod (ACS/RSS) was responsible for all instruction clarification and product testing. If you have any questions please contact ehinkle@unt.edu or mcleod@cc.admin.unt.edu.

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ZoomText 8.0 is Now Available

By [Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner](#), Student Computing Services Manager

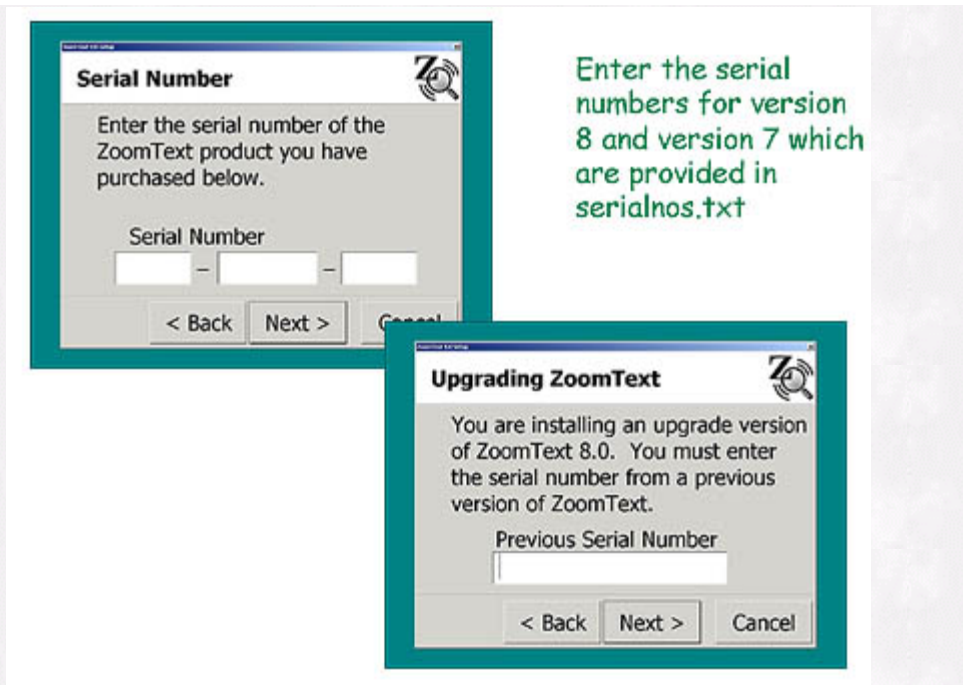
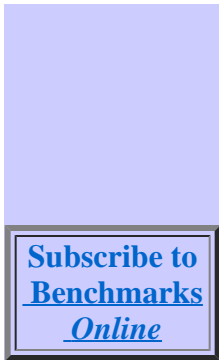
ZoomText 8.0 is now available for installation on UNT campus computers. The software is located at `\\CC2\SOFTWARE\ZoomText\Zoomtext8\` and is accessible to campus network managers. In order to install ZoomText 8 simply double-click **setup.exe**.



There is also a folder called "Documentation" which includes a handy quick reference guide to ZoomText as well as the large manual for the application in both Microsoft Word (easily readable by ZoomText, JAWS, or other screen readers) and Adobe PDF. Additionally, Student Computing Services (ISB 129) in the Computing Center has a limited number of hard copies of these manuals for distribution.

Attention Network Managers

Setup for the application is fairly straightforward. Though this version is termed an "upgrade", it is actually installed as a standalone application; it is NOT an upgrade in the sense that one just installs it to enhance an already installed earlier version. Network managers will need both the new ZoomText 8 serial number and the old ZoomText 7 serial number during installation and these numbers are included in the folder in the file called **serialnos.txt**.



What can you expect of ZoomText 8?

ZoomText 8 has a slightly different 'look' to it than earlier versions of ZoomText but all essential commands and navigation tools remain the same. The online tutorial for ZoomText will be updated by the end of January to reflect these cosmetic changes. In the meantime, if you are completely unfamiliar with ZoomText, go to the current tutorial: www.unt.edu/ACSGAL/zoomtext.html for a complete guide to the basics. We still have ZoomText Level 2 support so the new version includes both the magnifier and the reader software.

Initial reports from testing are quite positive. Earlier issues of application corruption and interference with ZoomText 7 and JAWS have now disappeared with the installation of both JAWS 5 and ZoomText 8. The ZoomText 8 installation is simple and straightforward and the product continues to be easy-to-use and effective.

For any further questions regarding ZoomText 8, please contact [Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner](#).

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The Macintosh Turns 20

By [Dr. Philip Baczewski](#), Associate Director of Academic Computing

When this year's Superbowl comes around, blow out 20 candles on the cake for the Apple Macintosh. It was the 1984 [Superbowl commercial](#) featuring the hammer-throw shattering of "Big Brother" which introduced us to this "Computer for the Rest of Us." In the intervening 20 years, the Macintosh has had its ups, its downs, and its ups and still maintains its place within the computing marketplace.

As we reflect on this [history](#) however, it is interesting to note that this was one of the few recent MacWorld [meetings](#) during which there wasn't the introduction of a new consumer Macintosh computer model from Apple. Instead, they focused on some new programs or program versions to support the media computing niche that Apple has made its own as well as a new music player (iPod mini) and a G5 server.

So far, however, Apple seems to be able to remain ahead of the consumer computer market (or at least are keeping up with it). In recent years they have scored with the iMac, an Internet appliance for the rest of us and the iPod, a digital music player for the rest of us. They currently lead the market in MP3 players and have recently announced a deal with Hewlett Packard to license an OEM version. OS X has brought the original Macintosh look and feel into the 21st century (using 1960s UNIX technology).

Although Apple's grip on the Education market has loosened quite a bit over the years, their relationship with higher education remains strong, with a flagship project at [Virginia Tech](#) producing an Apple-based [supercomputer](#). Closer to home, UNT still maintains an educational purchase agreement with Apple enabling students, faculty and staff to [purchase](#) Apple products as a discounted price.

So, January 24 (the official release date) marks 20 years of Macintosh. Having positioned itself as the BMW of computing, Apple seems to have found, at least for the mean time, a secure position for itself and a software and hardware platform combination which has fostered true innovation. Who knows what the next 20 years will bring (It seems like just yesterday that we were celebrating the [10th anniversary](#)).



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EDUCAUSE in Dallas

By [Claudia Lynch](#), *Benchmarks Online* Editor



It's almost time for the EDUCAUSE Southwest Regional Conference. Below is the most recent announcement about this conference:

Don't miss the opportunity to meet with other IT users, managers, and leaders from higher education institutions in your area at the 2004 Southwestern Regional Conference, "Being Resourceful in Challenging Times," February 25–27 in Dallas, Texas.

The conference is designed to minimally impact your schedule and budget while offering a variety of ways to learn, share ideas, and network with others in your field and from your part of the country:

- long enough to step back and refresh your perspectives, short enough to fit into your schedule
- set in a location that is easy and affordable to reach

Conserve your professional development dollars by registering before **January 28. [Register today.](#)**

Explore the Program

The [program](#) offers a variety of practical "how to" sessions that emphasize ways to save time, effort, and money while maintaining important services and without burning out talented staff.

Complementing the conference program are preconference seminars—intensive, focused, interactive sessions at which you can explore issues in great detail. NOTE: Separate registration is required.

- [Management Strategies for Higher Education](#)
- [Security After Blaster](#)

Keynote Sessions

- Richard N. Katz, Vice President, EDUCAUSE
- Panel Discussion: "Finding Consensus on File Sharing: Legal, Producer, and Consumer Perspectives on the P2P Phenomenon," with Ann Waters Beytagh, Marilu Goodyear, Lynn Seaton, and Diane J. Graves (moderator)

View a complete list of [conference speakers](#) and their sessions.

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Network Connection

By [Dr. Philip Baczewski](#), Associate Director of Academic Computing

Welcome to the Inter(galactic)net

Wireless networking has become almost ubiquitous. Whether it is on [campus](#) or down at your neighborhood [Starbucks](#), your laptop or PDA can be just a few clicks away from communication without the need for the tether of a network cable. As long as you are within 50 to 100 feet of a wireless base station, you'll be communicating with speed and ease.

Deep Space Network

But what do you do if your base station is 105 million miles away? NASA has had to solve that technology problem to communicate with its manned and unmanned spacecraft and in particular to control and communicate with the Mars Exploration [Rovers](#), the first of which (Spirit) recently landed [successfully](#) on Mars. Supporting this communication effort on earth is NASA's Deep Space Network which consists of disk antennas in California, Spain, and Australia. These are each one third distance around the earth from each other consecutively and assure that at least one antenna will be pointing in the right direction to send or receive to and from a remote craft.

The Deep Space Network has been in operation for 40 years as of December 24, 2003. The same antennas receiving the latest images from the surface of Mars also showed us men walking on the moon and a close-up view of the rings of Saturn. It is, in effect, one giant base station for communication with various craft in space.

On the other side of this connection is the Spirit rover which has three antennas and two ways of talking to its home base. It can send information directly to earth at a data rate of 11,000 bits per second or send information to one of the craft already orbiting Mars, such as the [Mars Odyssey](#), at a rate of 128,000 bits per second. Information transmitted via the latter method can then be relayed from the orbiting craft to earth.

11,000 bits per second is about one thousand times slower than your average Starbucks session but it does still get the job done for NASA, especially to send brief commands to the remote rover or to receive status information from the rover in a [compact format](#). Don't look for the Mars rover to be downloading the latest Star Wars trailer any time soon, however. 11,000 bps was barely fast enough to do e-mail on earth (at least 9600 bps modems were a huge jump up from 2400 bps).

128,000 bits per second is about twice the speed of a current-technology dial-up modem. About the same speed as dual-channel ISDN, such a network connection would give you reasonable Internet service on earth. At this speed the Spirit rover can send information at a much faster rate to one of the Mars orbiters and NASA anticipates that as much as half of

the data sent back to earth from the Mars rovers will be transmitted via this relay method. There is even the possibility of testing a European orbiter as a possible relay point.

A Network of Satellites

One of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory's (JPL) projects envisions an eventual network of satellites around Mars to support data transmission from robotic (or maybe human) explorers. This [Mars Network](#) would ring the planet with "Microsats" and be able to relay information from any point on the Martian globe. One can only imagine the cost of unlimited daytime minutes on that network.

A communications network with relay stations on other planets, near-earth planetary, orbit and perhaps on the earth's moon starts to sound like a fairly extensive network. While it may be a while before we can browse the Internet from our PDA on the moon, pushing the human communications infrastructure farther from our planet can only yield technology improvements here on earth. While the power and capability of our communications devices increases their size decreases, but the amount of data we are used to exchanging seems to continually grow.

All that on a cell phone?!

I can now read E-mail on my cell phone, but I won't expect to be watching downloaded movies via that wireless network any time soon. But advances in information management, compression, or transmission could greatly increase a cell phone's capability without requiring tremendous advances in hardware technology. In the mean time, I'll just have to be content to browse images from Mars on my PDA while sipping a nice hot cup of coffee.

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Each month we highlight an Internet, USENET Special Interest Group (SIG), or similar mailing list(s) or Website(s).



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UNTeCampus.com is the home of Web-based and videoconference course information at the University of North Texas. Whether searching for a degree program or an individual course, undergraduate or graduate, you will find a wide range of choices, all designed to fit around your busy lifestyle, according to the Website: www.UNTeCampus.com

An in-depth article on UNTeCampus appears in this month's Benchmarks Online here: "[UNTeCampus is Here!](#)"



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IRC News



Minutes provided by Sue Ellen Richey,
Recording Secretary

IRC Regular and Ex-officio Voting Members: Judith Adkison, College of Education; Donna Asher, Administrative Affairs; Lou Ann Bradley, Communications Planning Group; John Castledine, Graduate Student Council; Cengiz Capan, College of Business and GALC; Bobby Carter, UNT Health Science Center; Christy Crutsinger, Faculty Senate; Jim Curry, Academic Administration; Chuck Fuller, Finance and Business Affairs; Don Grose, Libraries and University Planning Council; Joneel Harris, EIS Planning Group; Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Student Computing Planning Group; Bruce Hunter, College of Arts and Sciences; Max Kazemzadeh, School of Visual Arts; Abraham John, Student Development; Jenny Jopling, Instruction Planning Group; Armin Mikler, Research Planning Group; Kenn Moffitt, Standards and Cooperation Program Group; Ramu Muthiah, School of Community Services; Jon Nelson, College of Music; Robert Nimocks, Director, Information Technology, UNTHSC; John Price, UNT System Center; Kathy Swigger, College of Engineering and Computer Sciences; Philip Turner, School of Library and Information Science and University Planning Council (Chair, IRC); VACANT, Student Government Association; VACANT, Staff Council; VACANT, University Planning Council; VACANT, Chancellor, for Planning; **IRC Ex-officio Nonvoting Members:** Joe Adamo, Computing and Information Technology Center /Telecommunications; Jim Curry, Microcomputer Maintenance and Classroom Support Services; Richard Harris, Computing and Information Technology Center and University Planning Council; Coy Hoggard, Computing and Information Technology Center /Administrative; Scott Krejci, GALMAC; Maurice Leatherbury, Computing and Information Technology Center /Academic; Doug Mains, UNT Health Science Center; Patrick Pluscht, Center for Distributed Learning; Sue Ellen Richey, Computing and Information Technology Center (Recording Secretary).

December 16, 2003

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: PHILLIP TURNER, Chair, CLAUDIA LYNCH (for ELIZABETH HINKLE-TURNER), COY HOGGARD (for JONEEL HARRIS), DON GROSE, MIKE SANDERS (for JOHN PRICE), JENNY JOPLING, JUDITH ADKISON, JIM CURRY, RAMU MUTHIAH, KATHY SWIGGER, BRUCE HUNTER, JON NELSON, MAX KAZEMZADEH **NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** JOE ADAMO, MAURICE LEATHERBURY, PATRICK PLUSCHT, SUE ELLEN RICHEY (Recording Secretary) **MEMBERS ABSENT:** RICHARD HARRIS, CHRISTY CRUTSINGER, CENGIZ CAPAN, LOU ANN BRADLEY, SCOTT KREJCI, CHUCK FULLER, ABRAHAM JOHN, KENN MOFFITT, DONNA ASHER, ROBERT NIMOCKS, DOUG MAINS, ARMIN MIKLER, BOBBY CARTER **GUESTS:** JENNIFER LAFLEUR

A motion was made by Judith Adkison to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2003, meeting; seconded by Don Grose and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Policies and Guidelines

The Chair reported that the President's Staff met and accepted the Network Connections policy with Richard Rafes' comment that he would have a chance to review it again in the normal policy update process. Maurice Leatherbury will begin the process of officially submitting the policy for approval by the Board of Regents.

The proposed GW Group E-mail guidelines update received quite a bit of discussion (as usual) and was tabled until the next President's Staff meeting. VPs were asked to submit

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email comments and Richard Harris was asked if a copy of the guidelines could pop up prior to sending a group message, etc. This is not technically feasible, but the message could be checked for a key phrase indicating compliance with the guidelines. Maurice Leatherbury added that the group message could include a statement saying that it conforms to the guidelines.

Communications Planning Group

Maurice Leatherbury reported that the Communications Planning Group met and discussed connectivity issues associated with the Library Annex.

EIS Planning Group

Coy Hoggard reported for the EIS Planning Group that the Human Resources module is live and in production as of Monday, Dec. 15th. The January paychecks will be produced using the new system. He stated that detail accounting transaction reports are being worked on and they will be available after the holidays. Pilot groups will begin using the Purchasing system towards the end of January or early in February and everything is going reasonably well with those plans.

Student Computing Planning Group

Claudia Lynch reported for the Student Computing Planning Group that the time for students to complete the student computing survey has been extended through January 18th to give students another chance after the holidays to participate in the survey. So far they have received 1000 responses, which is short of their goal of 3000.

Distributed Learning Team

Patrick Pluscht reported for the Distributed Learning Team that they have met regularly, but they have nothing to bring before the council at this time. He reported that the Center for Distributed Learning is planning a virtual ribbon cutting to roll out the new e-campus website. The Chair added that 76% of the distance education course sections for Spring 2004 are now included on the website.

State-wide Optical Network Group

Maurice Leatherbury reported that the state-wide optical network group met early in December. The Univ. of Texas system has released an RFP for fiber, responses to which are now being evaluated. Nominations have been made for offices in the organization; elections will be held in late January and Maurice has been nominated for Secretary. UNT will connect to this system on the same gigapop that is currently used for Internet2.

IRC Meeting Schedule

The [IRC](#) generally meets on the third Tuesday of each month, from 2-4 p.m., in the Administration Building Board Room. From time to time there are planned exceptions to this schedule. All meetings of the IRC, its program groups, and other committees, are open to all faculty, staff, and students.

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Research and Statistical Support University of North Texas

RSS Matters

Link to the last RSS article here: [Basics of Cluster Analysis](#). -- Ed.

SPSS 12.0*

By [Mike Clark](#), Research and Statistical Support Services Consultant

As was reported [last month](#), for better or worse, SPSS 12 has arrived. This new version however doesn't do much that wasn't already done before in some shape or form. The most noticeable change for the regular user will come in graphics that, while improved quite a bit, still can't touch the capabilities of R with a 10-mile pole. The visual banner mentioned below can be read as "Recode option 2". Oh, and the longer variable names makes it a little more handy as well. Anyway here is some of the press release regarding SPSS 12:

New Presentation Graphics

SPSS 12.0 includes enhanced reporting capabilities based on a new graphics system that enables users to produce presentation-quality graphs. The new system features enhanced production graphics, expanded control over chart appearance at the time of creation and editing, and customizable chart templates.

Improved Data and Output Management

SPSS 12.0 boasts several new features that enable greater custom control for data and output management:

Visual Bander is a data manipulation tool that allows users to intelligently create bands for numeric data (e.g., breaking ages into demographic groups).

Longer variable names enables users to import and describe data files that have extended names.

Identify Duplicate Cases helps users to cleanse data by identifying and filtering duplicate records.

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The Output Management System (OMS) enables end-users and application developers to create SPSS output from either SPSS data files, XML, HTML, or text files, enabling users to develop customer programs and applications.

Additionally, SPSS 12.0 includes a read-only option, which provides users with the choice to make datasets "read-only," preserving original data and preventing future alterations. It also includes a data file comments function, which enables users to add notations within individual data files.

Some of the other new 'features' for 12.0 are stuff you would have to pay more for. More unfortunate however is the fact that SPSS 12 was immediately patched to fix problems such as SPSS vanishing into thin air and using such basic and necessary functions like 'Save' and 'Save as'. The fixes:

Overall:

Overall Performance was improved.

Working with Excel:

A problem exporting date/time variables to Excel was repaired.

A problem in which data from Excel were converted from long numerals to scientific format was repaired.

A problem exporting Tables data to Excel was fixed.

A problem in which dates exported to Excel were off by one day in certain situations was fixed.

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For SPSS Batch Facility, an issue in titles were generated by default was resolved.

A problem in which an error message was caused by SPSS Server with the default server set to an SSL server was fixed.

In any case, despite its own best efforts SPSS is still pretty good at doing most things that a lot of folks in the social sciences want to do. Whether it will continue to be one of the leaders in this area remains to be seen. If you are a faculty or full-time staff member and you feel like you want to harness the awesome power of 12.0, you can pick up a copy from our office (call 565-4066 or 565-2140 to arrange an appointment).

* See also "[SPSS 12 Patches, Licenses, and Updates Now Available](#)" in this

issue.

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What's The Big Deal About a Portal?

By [Misty Wells](#), UNT Central Web Support

I am back to announce that I am no longer a foreigner by status quo of the working world. I have acquired my UNT citizenship.

Becoming a permanent citizen at UNT has proved to be a wonderful learning experience. Since the last time we [spoke](#), I have taken on and conquered many challenges. One that stands out is learning how a Portal works and getting it to function in relation to how the community here at UNT currently uses the Web and electronic media.

You may be sitting there wondering what is a portal, why is it such a big deal that we have a portal and how will that benefit me? Well, hopefully I can share a couple of the things that I have learned and maybe some other key questions about the Portal.

What is a Portal?

According to www.WhatIs.com, the term portal is synonymous for gateway a World Wide Web site that is or proposes to be a major starting site for users when they get connected to the Web or that users tend to visit as an anchor site. This closely describes how UNT will be using *MyUNT* Portal. *MyUNT* will consist of class information, links to E-mail, calendaring, events, the latest news as well as many other beneficial features. Additional services will be added as time goes on.

How is the Portal beneficial to the University?

A simple way to think of the benefits for having the portal is to think about the things that you would like to see improved. The University stands to gain enhanced services, a more efficient as well as secure online communication medium, which can be useful for official University notices.

Is the portal replacing the current UNT Website?

The portal is completely independent of the University Web site. The portal is not intended to recreate the content of the Web pages. There will be links to UNT Web pages from within the portal and a link to the portal from the UNT home page. The University pages will continue to have the bulk of the general informational content about the University.

Is it a requirement to use the Portal to handle official UNT business?

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No. The use of the portal will be voluntary.

Will the Portal be accessible from any computer?

Yes. Any person within the UNT community that has a valid Enterprise User ID (EUID) and password can access the portal from any computer.

Will it be necessary to take a class on how to use the portal?

No. There will be Help pages for users not familiar with using Portals. Also, before the portal actually rolls out for extensive use, a public announcement with instructions will be delivered to the UNT community.

Will the user be able to customize their individual portal pages?

That is one of the many great things about the portal; it allows individuals to customize certain portions of the page layout to their discretion. In addition, the user has a choice on most of the pagelets they choose to see and access in their portal. Furthermore, content will be customized based on that particular target audience, which will provide more effective communication.

Conclusion

I hope this little Q & A gives you a little more insight about Portals and how we plan to use it here at UNT. There will be more details to come, as we get closer to rolling out the MyUNT portal. However, if you have any questions or concerns before then, please feel free to send me an email at mwells@unt.edu.

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Short Courses

By [Claudia Lynch](#), *Benchmarks Online* Editor

The spring Short Courses are here! Surf over to the [Short Courses](#) page to see the new offerings. New courses being offered this semester are:

- Introduction to EViews
- Getting Started with Dreamweaver MX
- Beginning Fireworks MX
- Integrating Fireworks MX and Dreamweaver MX
- Migration: How to port Perl modules from mod_perl 1 to mod_perl 2
- Introduction to Zope

Customized Short Courses

Faculty members can request customized short courses from ACS, geared to their class needs. Other groups can request special courses also. Contact ACS for more information (ISB 119, 565-4068, lynch@unt.edu).

Especially for Faculty and Staff Members

In addition to the [ACS Short Courses](#), which are available to students, faculty and staff, staff and faculty members can take courses offered through the [Human Resources](#) Department, the [Center for Distributed Learning](#), and the UNT Libraries' [Multimedia Development Lab](#). Additionally, the Center for Continuing Education and Conference Management offers a variety of [courses](#) to both UNT and the general community, usually for a small fee.

GroupWise Training

Information about GroupWise training can be found at the GroupWise course [site](#).

If you would like to have a Basic GroupWise seminar for your area, please contact Jason Gutierrez, Network Computing Services, jasong@unt.edu.

Center for Distributed Learning

The Center for Distributed Learning offers courses especially for Faculty

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Members. A list of topics and further information can be found at http://www.unt.edu/cdl/training_events/index.htm

The center also offers a "Brown Bag" series which meets for lunch the first Thursday of each month at Noon in Chilton 245. The purpose of this group is to bring faculty members together to share their experiences with distributed learning. One demonstration will be made at each meeting by a faculty member with experience in distributed learning. More information on these activities can be found at the [Center for Distributed Learning](#) Website.

Technical Training

Technical Training for campus network managers is available, from time to time, through the Network Computing Services (NCS) division of the Computing and Information Technology Center. Check the NCS [site](#) to see if and when they are offering any training.

UNT Mini-Courses

There are a variety of courses offered, for a fee, to UNT faculty, staff and students as well as the general public. For additional information surf over to <http://www.pware.com/index.cfm?clientid=2694a>

Alternate Forms of Training

Many of the [General Access Labs](#) around campus have tutorials installed on their computers. For example, the College of Education has Macromedia Tutorials for Dreamweaver 4.0, Flash 5.0 and Fireworks 4.0.

The [Training](#) Web site has all sorts of information about alternate forms of training. Computer Based Training (CBT) is one of the alternatives offered. Of particular interest are courses available via SkillSoft/SmartForce.

PLEASE NOTE: The SkillSoft/SmartForce server has been taken offline because the Campus application was not compatible with the necessary patches needed for a robust and secure Windows2000 server. *Most courses listed at [the old SmartForce Website](#) are still available on CD-ROM for your use by contacting [Claudia Lynch](#) in Academic Computing Services.*

For further information on the future of CBT at UNT, see "[Computer-Based Training at UNT: Aargh, I'm so confused!](#)" in the November issue of *Benchmarks Online*.

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Staff Activities

Transitions

New CITC Employees:

- **Vasu Sunkari** - Lab Consultant, ACS General Access Lab, ACS (part-time).
- **Jun Gu** - Lab Monitor, ACS General Access Lab, ACS (part-time).
- **Azeem Rehman** - Lab Monitor, ACS General Access Lab, ACS (part-time).
- **Huaxia (Vanessa) Zhang** - Lab Monitor, ACS General Access Lab, ACS (part-time).
- **Zeeba Hashmi** - Lab Monitor, ACS General Access Lab, ACS (part-time).
- **Ryan McFarland** - Lab Tech Support, ACS General Access Lab, ACS (part-time).

No longer working in the Computing and Information Technology Center:

- **Praveen Kaluva** - Lab Monitor, ACS General Access Lab, ACS (part-time).
- **Selva Ganesan** - Lab Monitor, ACS General Access Lab, ACS (part-time).

Awards, Recognition, Publications

- **Richard Harris**, Associate Vice President for Computing & Chief Technology Officer, was recognized in the January 9 issue of *Inhouse@unt* in an [article](#) "Three honored for 40 years of service to university." Click [here](#) for the text of "Comments Upon the Presentation of Richard Harris' Award for 40 Years of Service to UNT at the Service Recognition Awards Program, December 9, 2003."
- Student Computing Services Manager, **Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner**, was interviewed by the Dallas Morning News about her reasons for exercising. The article, "Exercise for mind, body and spirit," appears on their Website here: <http://www.dallasnews.com/texasliving/stories/122603dnlivbodysoul.111d3.html>



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Don't Forget Our Monthly Columns!

By [Claudia Lynch](#), *Benchmarks Online* Editor

In addition to our feature articles, *Benchmarks Online* publishes monthly columns that are focused on specific aspects of computing here at UNT (and beyond, in some cases). Check out what is waiting for you this month:

- [RSS Matters](#) - "RSS Matters" is the monthly column written by the Research and Statistical Support [Group](#) in Academic Computing Services. Their articles focus on topics of a statistical and/or research methods nature. **This month's article is by Mike Clark and is titled "SPSS 12.0".**
- [The Network Connection](#) - "The Network Connection" may well be the longest running column in computer publishing history. Certainly in University of North Texas computer [publishing history](#).

This month, Dr. Baczewski makes the interesting proclamation "Welcome to the Inter(galactic)net".

- [Link of the Month](#) - As it says on the top of the "Link of the Month" page, "each month we highlight an Internet, USENET Special Interest Group (SIG), or similar mailing list(s) or Website(s)." Lately we have been confining ourselves to featuring UNT specific sites. **This month we focus on UNTeCampus.**
- [WWW@UNT.EDU](#) - "WWW@UNT.EDU" is a monthly column written by the Central Web Support [Group](#) in Academic Computing Services. The topics usually focus, in some way, on World-Wide-Web-related issues. **This month's article, by Misty Wells, asks and answers the question "What's The Big Deal About a Portal?".**
- [Short Courses](#) - Every semester, Academic Computing Services (ACS) offers short courses on computer-related topics, many of them having to do with statistical research. This column keeps you up-to-date on what is being offered and when as well as other training opportunities. **This month, read all about the new Spring Short Course offerings.**
- [IRC News](#) - As their Webpage [says](#), "the IRC is an advisory and oversight body created to foster communication and cooperation between and among UNT information resources providers and users." We publish the minutes of the IRC meetings each month, when they are available. This month you can read the December IRC minutes.
- [Staff Activities](#) - This column focuses on new employees, people who are



no longer employed at the Computing and Information Technology Center, awards and recognitions and other items of interest featured here.