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## Campus Computing News

### Follow the Yellow Brick - Implementing EIS

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

Similar to Dorothy's experiences on the yellow brick road in the Wizard of Oz, the implementation of EIS proves to be an adventure in new experiences. Though we have not arrived at the Emerald City yet, expectations are high as project members carefully navigate the path towards successful completion.

#### Portals and Pioneers

The new UNTS administrative services system known as EIS is divided into two major parts – Learning Solutions and Financials. The two parts are bridged by the EIS component known as the Portal. The Portal makes possible one of the EIS features that the campus community is most excited about, the requirement of a single login ID and password for each user. The Portal also facilitates the self-service features available for students and employees. Learning Solutions and Financials contain specific modules that can be accessed by users depending on the security level the user has been granted.

The first EIS module to go live was the central purchasing component in July 2003. The brave pioneers of this initial go live were the Purchasing/Payment Department staff both at UNT and the Health Science Center in Fort Worth. The UNT and HSC Admissions departments completed their first day of live production in EIS on September 29, 2003. Successful application processing was accomplished by Undergraduate, Graduate, and International Admission staff on the first day of production. The next big announcement for the EIS project came on November 19, 2003, as the Advancement Center went into production in the Contributor Relations module. January 2004 started with a bang for the EIS Project with the Human Resources and Payroll departments converting to production in EIS. This go-live was the first time staff outside of the administrative departments closely involved with the project completed actual production work in EIS. The target audience was departmental timekeepers who were required to use EIS to enter December 2003 timekeeping reports for the first of the year 2004 payroll.

#### The Next Step

In the Learning Solutions environment, Student Records, Student Financials, and Financial Aid and Scholarship will begin their rollouts in April 2004 with select groups of students. The Student Administration departments plan to be in live production mode for the fall 2004 semester. Summer and early fall registration

is being conducted in the legacy system. (A detailed explanation and matrix of the Student Administration migration from legacy to EIS is planned for the next issue of *Benchmarks Online*.)

Additional modules in the Financials Environment are in development and will be implemented no later than 2005. The remaining modules that will be put into service are e-Procurement, Expenses, Asset Management, Budget, and Grants/Contracts.

We expect to reach the Emerald City in September 2005 when the last module is scheduled for implementation. An upgrade to PeopleSoft Version 8.9 is expected also in calendar year 2005. With a great track record already established this far, UNTS can look forward to more successful go-lives through the remainder of the project.

### **More Information**

You can find more information regarding the EIS Project status at [http://www.unt.edu/eis/newsite/proj\\_info.html](http://www.unt.edu/eis/newsite/proj_info.html). Also, see "Introducing EIS – Linking Systems to People" in last month's "[Campus Computing News](#)" in *Benchmarks Online*.

*Food for thought: Since Dorothy was actually dreaming in the Wizard of Oz, does this mean that the wicked old lady actually got Toto after all?! Guess we will never know.*

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## Free Virus Protection Software

*Due to the incredible amount of virus/worm activity the last several weeks, we felt it was a good idea to remind everyone about this valuable service. This article was originally printed in the September 2003 [issue](#) of Benchmarks Online. - Ed.*

By [Mike Williams](#), Network Computing Services, Desktop Support, Antivirus Coordinator, Symantec Ghost Support

UNT is now offering free antivirus software for all its faculty, staff, and students to use on their home computers. Good deal? No, it's Great! By installing McAfee's VirusScan Enterprise 7 on your home PC, you can have the security of knowing that you have taken an important step to protect yourself from malicious viral attacks that plague the internet.

### Availability

You can download the software for free at <http://ncs.unt.edu/virus/dist.html>. Remember to have your EUID and password handy: If you're not sure about your EUID or password there are links on the download page to help you. The file is 20 MB in size, so it'll take a few hours to download over a 56k modem. If you have high speed Internet access the download will go quickly. Either way, it is well worth it. **Alternatively, you can purchase the McAfee Enterprise 7 CD at the UNT Student Union Bookstore (book and software section across the hall) for only \$3.00.**

### Operating Systems?

In order to install the free McAfee Enterprise 7 antivirus software, you must be running one of the following operating systems: Windows NT4 with service pack 6a, Windows 2000, Windows 2000 Server, Windows XP or Windows 2003 server. McAfee Enterprise 7 **will not run** on computers running Windows 95, Windows 98 or Windows ME.

If you have Windows 95/98/ME you can purchase the McAfee 7 Home version from any company that sells antivirus software or from McAfee's [Website](#).

### McAfee Enterprise 7 Features

- **VirusScan Console.** The Console is the control point that allows you to create, configure, and run VirusScan Enterprise tasks. A task can include anything from running a scan operation on a set of drives at a specific

time or interval, to running an update operation. You can also enable or disable the on-access scanner from the Console.

- **On-access scanner.** This feature gives you continuous anti-virus protection from viruses that arrive on floppy disks, from your network, or from various sources on the Internet. The on-access scanner starts when you start your computer, and stays in memory until you shut down. A flexible set of property pages lets you tell the scanner which parts of your system to examine, what to look for, which parts to leave alone, and how to respond to any infected files it finds. In addition, the scanner can alert you when it finds a virus, and can generate reports that summarize each of its actions.
- **E-mail scanner.** This feature allows you to scan your Microsoft Outlook messages, attachments, or public folders to which you have access, directly on the computer. If Outlook is running, E-mail is scanned on-delivery. You can also perform an on-demand E-mail scan at any time. This allows you to find potential infections before they make their way to your desktop.
- **AutoUpdate.** This feature allows you to update virus definition (DAT) files and the scanning engine automatically. You can also use this feature to download HotFixes and product upgrades.

Any way you look at it \$3.00 for a CD or a free download is a deal that can't be beat. So get your software today and protect your valuable data from viruses, worms and trojan programs.

## Questions?

If you have any questions contact the CITC Helpdesk at (940)565-2324 or E-mail the Helpdesk at [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu).

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## What's up with computer-based training at UNT?

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



So, it is almost the end of February and no one has any word on computer-based training at UNT! Does it still exist? Why, of course it does, but like all new things there have been a few....er....BUMPS on the road to completion.

### Good News and Bad News

First, the 'not-so-good-yet' news: SkillSoft has been slow to implement our new online website. It has not yet been completed in their web shop. Once it is completed a login interface to the site will be created. Students, faculty, and staff will enter the site with their EUID and iServices password. The SkillSoft site will offer training in Linux, UNIX, Oracle, and Adobe and Macromedia products. It just.....doesn't....yet....

Our supplementary courses for Microsoft Office training from KnowledgeNet have arrived. I am currently building the server on which they will be housed. They will also be accessible via EUID and iServices password to the UNT community.

### Expected launch date for both SkillSoft and KnowledgeNet is March 1.

However, there is some GOOD news and some new online learning resources available for faculty and staff. Under our Microsoft Campus licensing agreement, UNT fulltime faculty and staff can use Windows and Office training direct from Microsoft. This elearning software is now available and can be requested from your network managers. The remainder of this article gives complete instructions to network managers on the installation of these products. It also gives a complete table of contents for these courses.

Updates regarding SkillSoft and KnowledgeNet elearning availability will be posted to all network managers and to the UNT community via GroupWise and EagleMail. Additional information will be in *Benchmarks*. A comprehensive website similar to the one used for the old SmartForce system will also be posted.

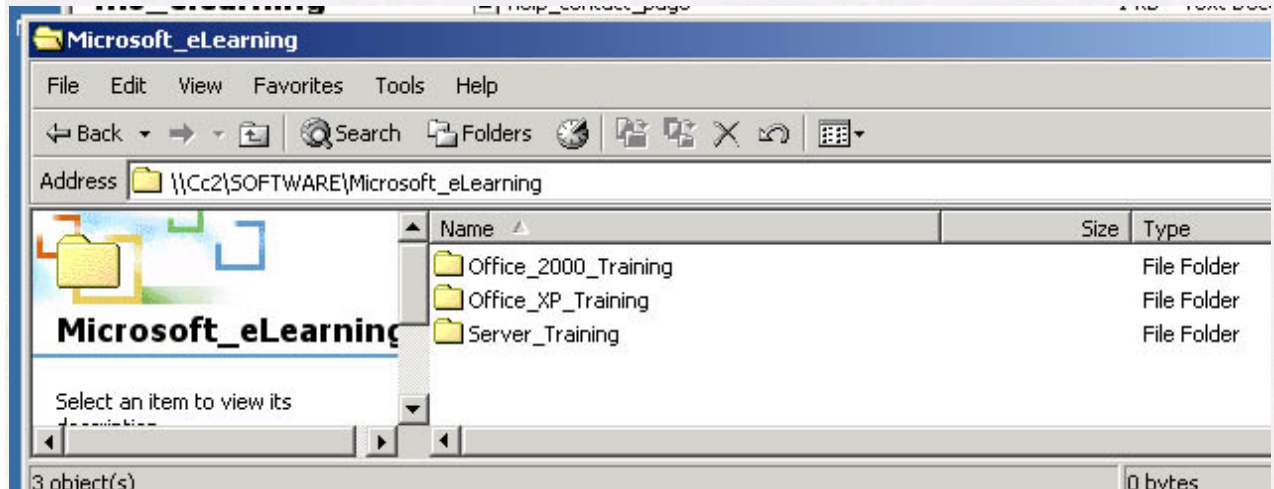
Thank you for your patience and in the meantime, read more about Microsoft elearning.....

### CD Contents and Installation Instructions for the Microsoft e-learning benefit for UNT Faculty and Staff

The Microsoft e-learning library of courses is available for UNT faculty and staff members under

our Microsoft Campus license agreement. These courses are best delivered via individual desktop installation, though if Network Managers are interested in setting up a server-based system for their areas (The advantage to this is that progress reports can be run; progress reports cannot be run from individual installations. The server version **MUST** be installed on a Microsoft Internet Information Server [IIS]) they can contact [ehinkle@unt.edu](mailto:ehinkle@unt.edu) for instructions. Please note that Microsoft itself recommends the individual workstation installations for ease-of-use.

Installation can be done from CD-Rom or from the location: \\CC2\Software\Microsoft\_eLearning\:



Interested faculty and staff are asked [to consult their network manager](#) about performing an installation.

Please note that these materials only work on Windows machines using Internet Explorer 5.5 and above. The applications do not run reliably on Netscape and even if Netscape is set as the default browser, the courses will seek and find Internet Explorer and run from that application.

There are three sets of instructions for the elearning content because each course group is installed slightly differently(!)

1. [Installation of Microsoft Server Training Materials Instruction Manual is found here.](#)

CD contents:

- 1572 - Implementing and Managing Microsoft® Exchange 2000
- 2072 - Administering a Microsoft® SQL Server® 2000 Database
- 2073 - Programming a Microsoft® SQL Server® 2000 Database
- 2151 - Microsoft Windows® 2000 Network and Operating System Essentials
- 2152 - Implementing Microsoft® Windows® 2000 Professional and Server
- 2153 - Implementing a Microsoft® Windows® 2000 Network Infrastructure
- 2154 - Implementing and Administering Microsoft® Windows® 2000 Directory Services
- 2159 - Deploying and Managing Microsoft Internet Security and Acceleration Server 2000
- 2270 - Updating Support Skills from Microsoft® Windows NT® 4.0 to the Windows Server™ 2003 Family

2. [Installation of Office 2000 Training Materials Instruction Manual is found here.](#)



CD contents:

- Core Training for Microsoft® Access 2000
- Core Training for Microsoft® Excel 2000
- Core Training for Microsoft® FrontPage® 2000
- Core Training for Microsoft® Outlook® 2000
- Core Training for Microsoft® PowerPoint® 2000
- Core Training for Microsoft® Word 2000

3. [Installation of Office XP Training Materials Instruction Manual is found here.](#)

CD contents:

- Advanced Training for Microsoft® Excel 2002
- Advanced Training for Microsoft® Outlook® 2002 Advanced Training for Microsoft® Word 2002
- Deploying Microsoft® Office XP
- Core Training for Microsoft® FrontPage® 2002
- Core Training for Microsoft® Project 2002
- Core Training for Microsoft® Visio® Standard 2002
- Core Training for Microsoft® Access 2002
- Core Training for Microsoft® Excel 2002
- Core Training for Microsoft® Outlook® 2002 Core Training for Microsoft® PowerPoint® 2002
- Core Training for Microsoft® Word 2002
- Core Training for Microsoft® Office XP

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## Helpdesk Access Changes

By [Sandy Burke](#), Manager, Support Services Help Desk

**W**e have changed walk-in traffic access to the Computing & IT Center Helpdesk for weekends and late evening hours. Only telephone and E-mail support is available during these hours:

Monday-Thursday - 9pm to midnight

Saturday - 9am-5pm

Sunday - 1pm-midnight

Thank you for your understanding of this new security measure.

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## Good Passwording

By [Howard Draper](#), Information Security Intern

**H**ow important are good passwords? More important than most people think.

Passwords are the simplest (and should be the first) security measure addressed by all computer users. So why should we care how good or bad our passwords are? We should care because it takes a community-wide effort to really make it safer for everyone. Very often, an intruder can crack a password for one machine and from there, jump to others and attempt to do more damage or mask the trail of intrusion.

Password security is very often overlooked as a major vulnerability, which is tragic, considering how much money is spent on hardware and software security measures, despite the relative ease and thriftiness of educating users to analyze and enhance their personal password security.

### Total system security is only as good as the weakest link.

A strong password could take years to crack, while a weak one could be figured out within minutes. Any password could eventually be cracked by brute force (trying every character combination possible). If creating an eight-character password based on the available 62 uppercase/lowercase letters and numbers, there are 218,340,105,584,896 possibilities. This could take a very very long time to crack, most likely hundreds of years if several thousand passwords were tried per second. However, if that password is based on a dictionary word (in any language), a relative's name, a pet's name, a combination of two actual words, or a word plus a number, it may be possible to crack the password in a matter of seconds. Some basic guidelines for password creation are:

- Make passwords as long as possible (never shorter than 6 characters).
- Include mixed-case letters, if possible.
- Include digits and punctuation marks, if possible.
- Do not base them on any personal information (SSN, phone number, DOB, etc).
- Do not base them on any dictionary word, in any language (including names, places, and slang)

### What are some examples of good and bad passwords?

**doggy38** – bad, dictionary word

**hello** – bad, dictionary word

**schwäche** – bad, dictionary word, even though it's not English

**senha9943** – bad, dictionary word, even though it's not English and has some numbers added

**h3114** – bad, still a dictionary word, digit substitution is a very common practice and password crackers will take it into account.

**9he6ll5o** - decent, because digits have been added into the word, but it's still a password based on a dictionary word.

**Y'g2hYla** – very good, difficult to guess, no noticeable algorithm used, has upper and lowercase letters, contains a digit, contains punctuation, and is at least 8 characters long.

## Password Q&A

- How did I come up with the last one, and more importantly, how can I remember it without writing it down?

In this instance, I used a phrase I could remember, the Beatles song "You've got to hide your love away". I used the first character of each word, an apostrophe from the first word, capitalization of the first word, substitution of '2' for the word 'to', and capitalization of the second 'Y'. In many cases, you can use letters from a catch phrase that you remember, or lyrics, or poetry, or a saying, especially if they're not referred to as an acronym. If changing your password often, try adding a digit or letter which you can change every month and remember easily, like going up one digit, down one letter, skip one, etc.

- How often should you change your password?

As often as possible, preferably every 30-90 days, but it's really up to your System Administrators to specify.

- Should you use different passwords for different systems?

Yes. If you only have one password, you are making all your systems vulnerable in the event that your one password is cracked. They may not have to be completely different, so it's up to you how much each password may vary. Of course, the more variance, the more security. You could arrange passwords in a hierarchy of sorts, making sure the most crucial systems have drastically different passwords.

- Should you tell anyone your password under any circumstances?

No. Even a System Administrator should never ask for your password, so don't tell anyone else, and also don't write it down anywhere (even if it's in your wallet).

## Can you take the password challenge?

If you are up to the challenge of creating a strong password, you can test its strength using this online password meter:

<http://www.securitystats.com/tools/password.php>

The meter is not as strong as I would like, since it doesn't check for digit substitution, and it only checks the English dictionary, but it's still a fair indicator of general password strength.

## **More Information on Passwords**

For an excellent CNET article explaining the dangers of weak passwords, browse to: <http://news.com.com/2009-1001-916719.html>

## **Remember**

A password is like underwear—keep it hidden.

A password is like underwear—change it often.

A password is like underwear—don't share it with friends.

**UNT CITC Information Security**

<http://www.unt.edu/security/>

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## EDUCAUSE Southwest Regional Conference

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



It's almost time for the EDUCAUSE Southwest Regional Conference, but you can still register [here](#). As the conference [Website](#) says:

Join us in Dallas for the EDUCAUSE Southwest Regional Conference (formerly EduTex), February 25–27, 2004. This year's theme is "Being Resourceful in Challenging Times." Whether your focus is administrative services, information resources, teaching and learning, technology infrastructure, or management within higher education, you will find opportunities to learn, share, and connect with others in your field and from your part of the country.

### Featured General Sessions

#### The Condition of the Community: IT Leadership in Higher Education

In Wednesday's general session, "[The Condition of the Community: IT Leadership in Higher Education](#)," Richard Katz, EDUCAUSE vice president, will present the results of a study of nearly 2,000 members of our community focusing on leadership style, the innovation environment, labor mobility, mentoring, leadership continuity, and other issues.

#### Finding Consensus on File Sharing: Legal, Producer, and Consumer Perspectives on the P2P Phenomenon

In Friday's general session, "[Finding Consensus on File Sharing: Legal, Producer, and Consumer Perspectives on the P2P Phenomenon](#)," a panel with Ann Waters Beytagh, Associate University Counsel, Office of Legal Affairs and Grant Clayton, Student, Southern Methodist University; Marilu Goodyear, Vice Provost for Information Services, University of Kansas; Lynn Seaton, Professor of Music, University of North Texas; and moderator Diane J. Graves, University Librarian, Trinity University, will discuss P2P file-sharing issues as they affect and play out in higher education today.

## **Preconference Seminars and Track Sessions**

At the center of the conference are practical "how to" sessions that will emphasize ways to save time, effort, and money while maintaining important services and without burning out talented staff. Join us for preconference seminars on the morning of February 25 and the full conference program February 25–27. The sessions follow four key tracks:

- Leadership and Development (Budget and Funding Emphasis)
- Teaching, Learning, and Support
- Technology and Solutions
- Corporate Presentations

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## Today's Cartoon



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## Network Connection

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

### Doom and More Doom

The recent outbreak of the [MyDoom](#) virus/worm and its variants has reminded me of just how fragile is the state of E-mail technology. One of the ways that the virus spreads is to send E-mail to whatever "to" addresses it can find or make up while using a random "from" address found stored on the infected computer. While leaving a backdoor for future misdeeds is bad enough, this misappropriation of E-mail addresses even more egregious in my book.

Much to my displeasure, over the last two weeks, I have received a flood of mail delivery errors for messages that I never sent. Those probably originated from infected Windows machines, probably belonging to spammers, on which my address was stored. The original recipient addresses in most cases were no longer active, which caused the mail to be returned to the "from" address (although, in some cases, the delivery agent detected the virus and rejected the mail for that reason).

#### Who's to blame?

My first thought is that I wish spammers would at least keep their virus protection up to date so that I wouldn't have to deal with messages that are even more annoying than the spam they send. As an avowed non-Windows user, I feel that I am justified in my righteousness, since I could click on attachments all day without fear that they would be able to use Windows weaknesses to spread, but also that I know better than to click on attachments sent from people I've never heard of before (whether they love me or not).

My next thought is to blame Microsoft for the whole mess (righteousness index rising), but while their software doesn't do much to prevent worms like MyDoom from spreading, Windows is a target of opportunity and not the genesis of the problem (you can't blame the stump for its rot). No, it's us sloppy humans and not those precise computers that are to blame.

Sloppy humans make mistakes and create bugs or weaknesses in computer programs. Sloppy humans don't use virus software or don't keep them up to date. Sloppy humans create, use, or configure Internet software which does not comply to the standards upon which the Internet is based. It's the latter case which aggravates the mess with spam and viruses like MyDoom.

Long ago (1982), a specification was written for formatting Internet text E-mail. [RFC822](#) is one of those terms which trips off the tongue of us longstanding Internet habitu . It's the bible of Internet E-mail headers. The E-mail header tells machines and humans where an E-mail came from and where it is supposed to go. RFC822 defines different header elements

that provide various information about an E-mail.

Some of these are real familiar, such as From, To, and Subject. But there are other fields which report on the routing of E-mail. "Received" is supposed to be written by any mail router through which a piece of mail passes. The Received header items show the path that the E-mail took from its entry into the network to its final destination.

In addition to From and ReplyTo there is an additional field, "Sender" which is supposed to show the "authenticated identity of the . . . person, system or process . . . that sends the message". If all E-mail showed the real sender, then spam messages would be much easier to track back to their source. But unfortunately, people and programs don't always respect the spirit or the letter of RFC822.

## Security versus freedom?

One idea to better identify E-mail is to demand authentication whenever you want to send an E-mail message. When RFC822 was written, there were very few single-user computers attached to wide area networks (compared to today, in 1982 there were very few single user computers). Instead, you logged on to a multi-user computer with a username and password which to some extent provided legitimacy and authentication of any E-mail you sent. Today the picture is quite different. Most people who use the Internet use it from a single user machine.

The down side to authenticated SMTP (SMTP is the E-mail relay protocol used by servers that route mail), is that it requires a username and password for each mail message injected into the network. Your E-mail client is probably programmed to accept your name and password once and then provide it each time a mail message is sent, but requiring this authentication takes away from the flexibility of E-mail. Its power is in its simplicity. Its simplicity allows E-mail to be sent from a wide variety of people and devices from a wide variety of networks and locations. Adding a password barrier to E-mail will make it a much less efficient and adaptable technology.

Another idea would be to agree to better enforce the sender field, but without strict authentication. Servers that accept mail for injection into the Internet could make their best attempts to identify an E-mail's source and provide a user name and network address for the person or machine which generates the E-mail. But unfortunately, this probably leaves a loophole for those dishonest folks who will forge such information whether is impolite or downright illegal (as the recent CAN-SPAM act has enacted).

So, maybe authenticated SMTP is the answer. But it's not all of the answer. The other part is a system of trust among mail transfer servers to be able to tell whether or not the connecting system can be identified later. Requiring reverse DNS registration is one way to accomplish this. AOL has instituted this on all their mail exchange servers. UNT has as well, although such attempts in the past have generated [complaints](#) that some mail can't get to UNT.

So, it comes down to security from spam and virus mail versus the freedom to correspond without the blessing of some central or governmental authority. Security versus freedom. Never mind. I can keep throwing away those spam, virus, and bogus bounce messages. I'll side with the U.S. Constitution and pick freedom, thank you.

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## Link of the Month

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

### **Anti-Virus Web Site**

UNT's Anti-Virus Website is a place on the UNT Web that should be visited on a regular basis. Virus information and links are constantly being added and updated. For example, here was the big news on February 17, 2004:

#### New Virus Alerts

W32/Bagle.b@MM virus - Medium Alert

W32/MiMail.s@MM virus - Medium Alert

W32/Mydoom@MM virus - High-Outbreak Alert

W32/Dumaru.y@MM worm - Medium Alert

W32/Bagle@MM - Medium Alert

W32/Sober.c@MM - Medium Alert

W32/Swen@MM - Medium Alert

For updates on the above virus threats and more, visit the UNT Anti-Virus Website at: <http://ncs.unt.edu/virus/index.html>

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## IRC News



Minutes provided by Sue Ellen Richey,  
Recording Secretary

### January 20, 2004

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

The minutes of the December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as submitted. The Chair reported that there has not been a President's Staff meeting since the last IRC meeting.

#### Distributed Computing Support Management Team

Maurice Leatherbury reported for the Distributed Computing Support Management Team that they have met and have decided to renew the McAfee Virus protection software license. The group also discussed problems with LDAP, which have now been resolved.

#### Communications Planning Group

Lou Ann Bradley reported that the Communications Planning Group has met and discussed bandwidth issues and the tools UNT currently has to monitor that. Their group also heard an update on the statewide network. Bradley also noted that the Research Park has been fully wired with Cat6 wiring which will prepare that facility for future communications needs.

There was some discussion of wireless access on campus during which it was noted that it is possible to log into the Novell network using the wireless access now available on campus. It was noted that at last count there had been around 300 users of the wireless access points.

#### EIS Planning Group

Coy Hoggard reported for the EIS Planning Group and noted that account balance information in summary form is still available on the Purchasing & Payment Services server and they plan to have detailed information available soon. Salary information will be included in summary form on the Financial system reports, and detailed salary information will be available through the Human Resources system. Hoggard announced that training for the e-procurement pilot group is scheduled to begin next week, and that the Human

Resources/Payroll Time Reporting system is working successfully. In addition, Admissions and Contributor Relations continue to be up and running well. The Student Finance and Financial Aid systems are scheduled to go live on April 1 with actual student records being moved to April 30<sup>th</sup>. Continuing students will register in the legacy system. This will require that their enrollment information be transferred to the PeopleSoft system later. On April 30<sup>th</sup> 250 – 300 “Early Eagle” students will be registered on the new system. Summer registration will be done on the legacy system and Fall registration (other than the group of continuing students mentioned above) will be done in the new system.

An upgrade to PeopleSoft 8.9 will be planned for the end of the 2004 calendar year.

### **Student Computing Planning Group**

Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner reported for the Student Computing Planning Group that today was the last official day students could respond to the Student Computing Survey, and at this time they have received 900 responses. She stated that the Planning Group has not yet met and said that she is having trouble getting undergraduate students to participate in the Planning Group.

### **Distributed Learning Team**

Patrick Pluscht reported that the Distributed Learning Team has not met since the last IRC meeting, but he reported that the eCampus website is being highly used, having had 28,000 hits on it to date. He announced that on February 10<sup>th</sup> there will be a virtual ribbon cutting with the Chancellor and the President participating. Patrick invited IRC members to join the celebration, the exact time and place for which will be announced soon. Jenny Jopling added that Vista and WebCT are working well.

### **Statewide Optical Network**

Maurice Leatherbury reported that the review committee is close to selecting the vendor to begin work on the initial link of the statewide optical network from Dallas to Austin. Funds for the project have not yet been released by the State. Maurice announced that he has been elected Secretary of the governing organization of this project, and that Dan Updegrove of UT Austin is President. There has been a run-off election for the position of Vice President, and there has not yet been a Treasurer elected.

### **Information Technology Council for Higher Education (ITCHE)**

Richard Harris announced that he attended a meeting of the Information Technology Council for Higher Education (ITCHE) on January 13<sup>th</sup>. This group is working with D.I.R. to review D.I.R. rules. Richard stated that he believes that this group will be doing some valuable work and that his participation in it will be beneficial to UNT.

---

\* For a list of IRC Regular and Ex-officio Members click [here](#).

## **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: [SPSS 12.0. -- Ed.](#)

## Resolving A Case of An Expired SAS 8.2 Installation

By [Patrick McLeod](#), Research and Statistical Support Services Consultant

UNT's SAS 8.2 license passed another expiration date on Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. Functionally, this means that if you were running SAS 8.2 on your computer as an individual installation and had been ignoring the pestering SAS system messages asking you to update your SETINIT file, SAS 8.2 will not open and will not function on your computer. Never fear! There is a simple procedure by which you can update your SAS 8.2 SETINIT file and be up and running in no time.

### Before Expiration: PROC SETINIT

Before the grace period expires in SAS 8.2, you can update your SAS installation's SETINIT file using the SAS procedure PROC SETINIT. To run PROC SETINIT, you obtain a copy of the most recent SAS SETINIT file (a file that updates the internal license object for SAS) from your Network Manager. If you are a Network Manager, you can obtain this file by contacting ACS Research and Statistical Support at x2140 or x4066. We will provide you with a username and password to access a page on the RSS website where you will find the current version of the SAS SETINIT file. You may then access this file at your convenience.

A step-by-step guide follows regarding how to update your SAS license using PROC SETINIT:

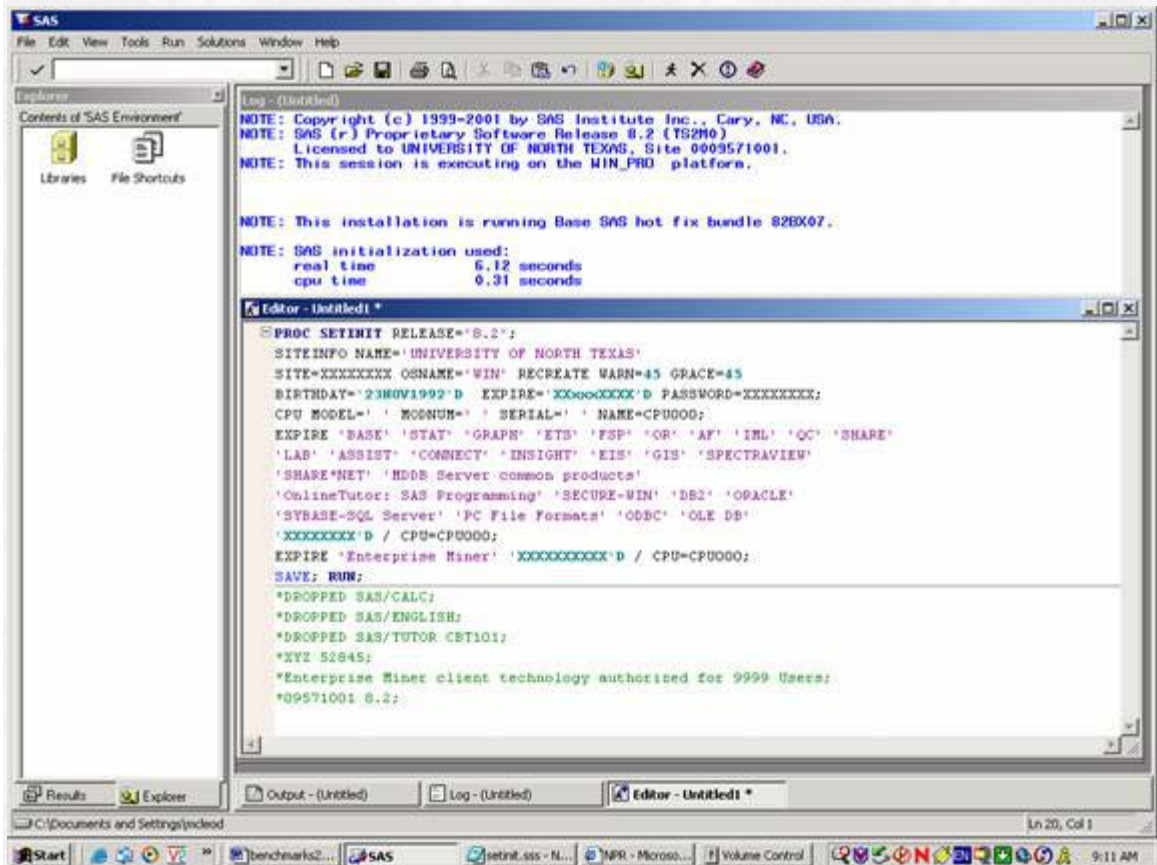
1. Open the SETINIT file in a text editor such as Notepad. You should see something similar to the following:

```
PROC SETINIT RELEASE='8.2';
SITEINFO NAME='UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS'
SITE=XXXXXXXX OSNAME='WIN' RECREATE WARN=45 GRACE=45
BIRTHDAY=XXXXXXXX'D EXPIRE='XXXXXXXX'D PASSWORD=XXXXXXXX;
CPU MODEL=' ' MODNUM=' ' SERIAL=' ' NAME=CPU000;
EXPIRE 'BASE' 'STAT' 'GRAPH' 'ETS' 'FSP' 'OR' 'AF' 'IML' 'QC' 'SHARE'
'LAB' 'ASSIST' 'CONNECT' 'INSIGHT' 'EIS' 'GIS' 'SPECTRAVIEW'
```

```
'SHARE*NET' 'MDDB Server common products'
'OnlineTutor: SAS Programming' 'SECURE-WIN' 'DB2' 'ORACLE'
'SYBASE-SQL Server' 'PC File Formats' 'ODBC' 'OLE DB'
'XXXXXXXX'D / CPU=CPU000;
EXPIRE 'Enterprise Miner' 'XXXXXXXXXX'D / CPU=CPU000;
SAVE; RUN;
*DROPPED SAS/CALC;
*DROPPED SAS/ENGLISH;
*DROPPED SAS/TUTOR CBT101;
*XYZ 52845;
*Enterprise Miner client technology authorized for 9999 Users;
*09571001 8.2;
```

Where you see strings of Xs in the above SETINIT program you will see a specific site number, expiration date, and password in a functioning SETINIT file. I have removed the specifics in the file about for purposes of publishing this example in this article.

2. Open SAS 8.2. Highlight and copy the text of the SETINIT file in your word processor or text editor. Paste this text into the SAS editor window as seen below:



```
Log - (Untitled)
NOTE: Copyright (c) 1999-2001 by SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, USA.
NOTE: SAS (r) Proprietary Software Release 8.2 (TS2M0)
      Licensed to UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS, Site 009571001.
NOTE: This session is executing on the WIN_PRO platform.

NOTE: This installation is running Base SAS hot fix bundle 82BX07.

NOTE: SAS initialization used:
      real time      6.12 seconds
      cpu time       0.31 seconds

Editor - Untitled1 *
PROC SETINIT RELEASE='8.2':
SITEINFO NAME='UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS'
SITE=XXXXXXXX OSNAME='WIN' RECREATE WARN=45 GRACE=45
BIRTHDAY='23NOV1999'D EXPIRE='XXXXXXXX'D PASSWORD=XXXXXXXX;
CPU MODEL=' ' MOGNUM=' ' SERIAL=' ' NAME=CPU000;
EXPIRE 'BASE' 'STAT' 'GRAPH' 'ETS' 'FSP' 'OR' 'AF' 'INL' 'OC' 'SHARE'
'LAB' 'ASSIST' 'CONNECT' 'INSIGHT' 'EIS' 'GIS' 'SPECTRAVIEW'
'SHARE*NET' 'MDDB Server common products'
'OnlineTutor: SAS Programming' 'SECURE-WIN' 'DB2' 'ORACLE'
'SYBASE-SQL Server' 'PC File Formats' 'ODBC' 'OLE DB'
'XXXXXXXX'D / CPU=CPU000;
EXPIRE 'Enterprise Miner' 'XXXXXXXX'D / CPU=CPU000;
SAVE; RUN;
*DROPPED SAS/CALC;
*DROPPED SAS/ENGLISH;
*DROPPED SAS/TUTOR CBT101;
*XYZ 52845;
*Enterprise Miner client technology authorized for 9999 Users;
*09571001 8.2;
```

3. Highlight all the SETINIT information in the SAS Editor and click on the “Run” button on the top toolbar. The “Run” button is the button with the “running man” found fourth in from the right hand side of the toolbar at the top of the SAS client. SAS should run PROC SETINIT and your license information should be updated through the expiration date of this SETINIT file. This date can be found in the EXPIRE=“XXXXX” string on the fourth line from the top in the SETINIT file.

## After Expiration: Command Line SETINIT Renewal



After the grace period expires in SAS 8.2, SAS will no longer open when you attempt to access it either through shortcuts or from the Start menu. If your SAS installation has passed this date, you will no longer be able to update your SAS license using the PROC SETINIT procedure detailed above. The only option for the SAS user faced with this predicament is to update the SAS SETINIT from the command prompt.

Though it involves some non-SAS steps, this renewal need not be complicated. All that is needed is a command prompt in your Windows operating system and copy of the SAS SETINIT file, preferably on floppy disk. The procedure detailed below assumes that all necessary files are on a floppy disk and that your computer's floppy disk drive is A:\.

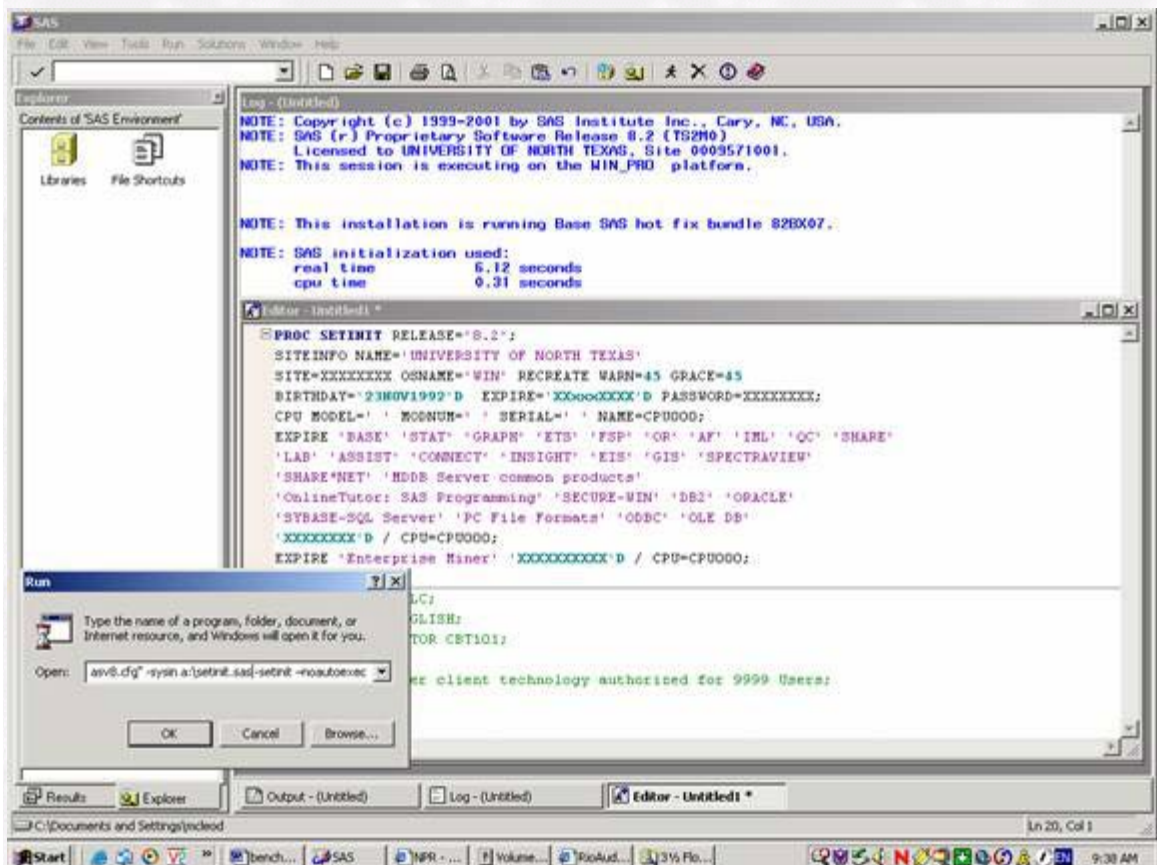
1. Copy the following folder and files to a floppy disk:

SETINIT.SAS (this is the SETINIT.SSS file with a different file extension)  
 SETINIT.EXE  
 Commandline.txt  
 SAS\_files folder

2. Open the commandline.txt file in a word processor or text editor such as Notepad you should find the following:

```
"c:\program files\sas institute\sas\v8\sas.exe" -config "c:\program files\sas institute\sas\v8\sasv8.cfg" -sysin a:\setinit.sas -setinit -noautoexec
```

3. Copy the commandline.txt file text to a Run window. To acquire a Run window, click on the Start button and then select the Run option from the Start menu. Paste the command line text into the Run window and click the OK button.



This should successfully update your SAS installation if your grace period has expired.

## **Contact Us!**

If there are any problems with this procedure, please contact Research and Statistical Support at x2140 or x4066.

Please contact Research and Statistical Support for the Website address, username, and password in order to access the most current version of the SETINIT file and the files necessary to run the command line update once the SAS grace period has expired.  
Happy computing!

## **For More Information**

Applying the SAS System SETINIT in the Microsoft Windows Environment (in PDF format):

<http://support.sas.com/documentation/installcenter/admindoc/setinit/WIN612.1.pdf>

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# WWW@UNT.EDU

## Using Perl to Generate a SessionID

By [Shane Jester](#), Campus Web Administrator

**D**o you have a home-grown Web application that you want to limit access to, but also want access to be secure? Using server authentication is fine and all, but what if you want to have different users with different functions inside the application. You could set a cookie, based on the username provided at login, but it sure would be easy for someone to create a false cookie to gain access to secure parts of the application. Here is a way to avoid that problem by using mod\_perl and MD5

The concept is to take the username from the login form and process it through a perl script. You can then add a value that is only know by the web application, a secret-code if you will, and append it to the username. Then encrypt the new variable and set it as cookie in the web browser. Since it is encrypted, it can't be re-created without knowing the secret-code, and only you can recreate the MD5 hash to verify that the cookie is authentic. Even if someone got past the initial authentication mechanism (i.e. Apache authentication), they can't create a cookie to spoof your system without the secret hash phrase.

### Basic perl code

This section is in the perl script that you pass your initial login information from your login form. Hopefully you are doing this over https or it defeats the whole point of security. Note, that I have not included any code for authentication of the user, since there can be so many different mechanisms (i.e. LDAP, Apache auth, etc). This is just the code that prevents people from spoofing your application as a different username than the one they use to login.

```
use Digest::MD5 qw(md5_base64);
my $uid = $query->param("uid");      ###Capture username from form
my $secret = "secret_text";        ####Secret Text used to generate cookie hash
my $data = $uid . $secret;          ###Combine the username with the secret text
my $digest=md5_base64($data);      ###Encrypt the data with MD5
```

```
#store values as array
my $cookie = $query->cookie(-name =>'myapplication',
-value =>"$uid:$digest",
-domain => 'yourdomain',
-path => $path,
);
```

```

print $query->header(-cookie=>$cookie); ##### Create the cookie

print $query->start_html("Login Results");
print "<meta http-equiv='REFRESH' content='1';
url=http://yourserver/entry.pl'>\n"; #####Redirect to the application
print "<a href=\"\$url\">$text</a><br>";

print $query->end_html();

```

This next section should go at the top of each perl script in your application:

```

use Digest::MD5 qw(md5_base64);

print header(), start_html(-title=>"Application Title");
my $userhash = cookie("myapplication"); #####grab the cookie
my @user = split(/:/,$userhash); #####isolate the MD5 hash
my $uid = $user[0]; ##### grab the username from the cookie
my $secret = "secret_text"; ##### This must be the same as in the original
section
my $data = $uid . $secret; #####Combine the 2 variables
my $digest=md5_base64($data); #####Regenerate the hash
if ($manager[1] ne $digest) { #####compare the checksum of the original
hash with then newly generated hash.
    print "<b>You must login to perform this action.</b><br>";
    print "<a href='http://yourserver/login.html'>Press here to login</a>";
    print end_html();
} else {
    Do some stuff....your are in.....
}

```

Once they are in, you can use the username value to allow certain users to perform different functions inside your code. This is a very minimal security mechanism, but you can do many things to make it more secure, such as generating a unique session ID that you store in a local database or limit the user to a certain IP address. You can also generate a timeframe in the cookie, so that the authentication only lasts a certain amount of time. In the case above it lasts until the user closes their browser.

## Conclusion

As is always the case, the quality of the security is often related not only to your knowledge, but also the time you invest into the application. I hope this gives you a starting point and better understanding of how to begin making your applications more secure.

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## Short Courses

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

The spring Short Courses started early and are winding down. Surf over to the [Short Courses](#) page to see the offerings. New courses this semester that are still available are:

- Integrating Fireworks MX and DreamWeaver MX
- Migration: How to port Perl modules from mod\_perl 1 to mod\_perl 2
- Introduction to Zope

"Introduction to TeX" had to be re-scheduled, so there is still a chance to take it. It is being offered on Thursday, February 19 from 2-5 p.m. in ISB 203.

### 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](mailto: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.

- Basic GroupWise 6, Class 1, is being offered on February 24th and again on February 26th, 2004.
- Basic GroupWise 6, Class 2, is being offered on March 23rd and again on March 24th, 2004.
- Intermediate GroupWise 6, Class 3, is being offered on April 20th and again on April 22nd, 2004.

See the GroupWise course [site](#) for more information on these classes.

If you would like to have a Basic GroupWise seminar for your area, please contact Jason Gutierrez, Network Computing Services, [jason.g@unt.edu](mailto:jason.g@unt.edu).

## Center for Distributed Learning

The Center for Distributed Learning offers courses especially for Faculty Members. A list of topics and further information can be found at [http://www.unt.edu/cdl/training\\_events/index.htm](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. Additionally, the Microsoft e-learning library of courses is available for UNT faculty and staff members under our Microsoft Campus license agreement.*

For further information on the future of CBT at UNT as well as the Microsoft e-learning library, see "[What's up with computer-based training at UNT?](#)" in this issue of *Benchmarks Online*.



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## Staff Activities

### Transitions

#### Changes:

- [Howard Draper](#), Helpdesk Consultant, is now working as a part-time Information Security Intern, CITC Administration, Information Security.

#### New CITC Employees:

- **Lloyd Spaine** - Helpdesk Consultant (part-time).
- **Jamie Young** - CPU Operator (part-time).
- **Craig Morris** - Helpdesk Consultant (part-time).
- **Rachael Moffitt** - Report Distribution Assistant (part-time).
- **Billy Huber** - Programmer/Analyst, Administrative Information Systems, EIS Project.
- **Michael Teer** - Datacomm Technician (part-time).
- **Glenn Thorpe** - Information Security Intern (part-time).
- **Jason Emanuel** - Computer Systems Manager, UNIX Systems Team.
- **Brandon Walters** - Tape Librarian, Computer Operations.
- **Yaw Bonsu** - Data Entry Operator (part-time).
- **Luis Sanchez** - Computer Equipment operator (part-time).

#### No longer working in the Computing and Information Technology Center:

- **Christina Hearn** - Tape Librarian, Computer Operations.
- **Watsunya Ferreira** - CPU Operator.

### Awards, Recognition, Publications

- **Dr. Maurice Leatherbury**, Executive Director of Information



Technology and Academic Computing, was named Chair of the Information Technology Infrastructure team on a project that the Texas International Education Consortium ([www.tiec.org](http://www.tiec.org)) has undertaken to develop plans for a new private university in Saudi Arabia. He went with a fact-finding delegation to Saudi Arabia in January to meet the principals in the new university and to gather information preparatory to developing the plans for the IT infrastructure. More information about this project can be found here: <http://www.tiec.org/gaz0312.pdf>

Dr. Leatherbury has also been elected Secretary of LEARN (Lonestar Education And Research Network,) a [consortium](#) of 30 Texas institutions of higher education that are designing and implementing a fiber optics backbone connecting the major metropolitan areas of the state.

- Congratulations to **Sharon McSherry**, Programmer on the UNT Fiscal Data Systems Team, on the birth of her son January 20, 2004.
- **Cathy Gonzalez**, EIS Training/Computing Administration Manager, had an article published in the January 2004 newsletter by the Office of New Student and Mentoring Programs. The article, "More Than Just an Advisor," can be viewed [here](#).

The *Human Resources Newsletter* (February, 2004) recognized these Computing and Information Technology Center employees as Soaring Eagles: They will receive awards at the President's Staff Sack lunch on February 24.

- **Danja Anthony**, Data Entry Operator, Data Entry, always maintains an upbeat attitude.
- **Don Butler**, Team Leader, Student Records Data Systems and **Jay Maxwell**, Programmer, Student Records Data Systems, were recognized for their assistance in implementing the Texas Common Application interface for the new EIS system.
- **Selva Ganesan**, former ACS General Access Lab monitor, was recognized for helping a staff member who had problems scanning pictures in the ACS Lab.
- **Gini Kennedy**, Programmer/Analyst with the Student Records Data Systems Team, was recognized for her outstanding work in implementing the undergraduate prospect system interface to the new EIS system.
- **Jesse White**, Programmer/Analyst, Student Records Data Systems, "saved the day when he informed a fellow staff member that his car lights were on."

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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 Patrick McLeod and is titled "Resolving A Case of An Expired SAS 8.2 Installation".**
- [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 talks about "Doom and More Doom".**

- [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 UNT's Anti-Virus Website.**
- [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, Shane Jester instructs you in "Using Perl to Generate a SessionID".**
- [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 Short Course offerings that are still available. "Introduction to TeX" had to be re-scheduled, so there is still a chance to take it if you hurry.**
- [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 January 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.