

# Benchmarks

A green light to greatness.



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## Benchmarks - February, 2010

### Campus Computing News



#### Administrative Information Systems Adds a New Team

By [John Hooper](#), Executive Director, Administrative Information Systems

In order to better serve the changing needs of the University, a new team has been formed within Administrative Information Systems (AIS). As with all of our application areas, the demands on the human resources and payroll applications are becoming larger and more complex.

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### Fake Antivirus Alerts



By [Glenn Thorpe III](#), GSEC, Incident Response & Forensic Analyst

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### RAVE On: The Research and Visualization Environment is now open for business!



By [Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner](#), Assistant Director - Academic Computing and User Services and [Dr. Jesse Hamme](#), Manager, Research and Visualization Environment (RAVE)

Last October [we announced](#) in *Benchmarks Online*, the construction of the UNT **R**esearch **A**nd **V**isualization **E**nvironment (RAVE) to enhance research at the University.

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### Calling all Digital Humanists

## By the Numbers

### [Talon HPC](#) Statistics

- 1 director, 2 full time staff, 66 active researchers
- Cluster wide storage resources total 520TB = 520 x 1 TB drives Cluster wide RAM = 7.2 TB
- 224 Dell R410 compute nodes
- Cluster processing power = ~15 TF
- 42 resolved research support issues, 98 resolved hardware issues, 15,344 batch jobs submitted
- 241,144 production research hours computed



By [DaMiri Young](#), HPC Systems Administrator

Currently on campus there is much talk of engaging scientists, engineers, artists, philosophers and other scholars to collaborate their research. This concept is being echoed at many institutions and campuses in fact.

[Read more](#)



## [Kiosk Kraziness at UNT: Lots of Places Available for Between-Class "Digital Fix"](#)



By [Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner](#), Assistant Director - Academic Computing and User Services

Recently, an observation was made at a meeting I attended that there were "hardly any computer kiosks on campus; you know, like the great ones in Wooten Hall." "*Au contraire mon ami!*"

[Read more](#)



## TODAY'S CARTOON

Click on the link above for an information age laugh.



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## Campus Computing News

**Administrative Information Systems Adds a New Team**By [John Hooper](#), Executive Director, Administrative Information Systems

In order to better serve the changing needs of the University, a new team has been formed within Administrative Information Systems (AIS). As with all of our application areas, the demands on the human resources and payroll applications are becoming larger and more complex. In addition, there are new initiatives around self service and electronic forms to be addressed. Considering this, we no longer felt that the best model was to provide applications development and support services out of a single team. Similar to the approach we have taken for many years in the student teams, we have decided to divide the existing Payroll and Human Resources Systems Team (PHRST) into two teams:

- Steve Vrbka will lead a team that will concentrate on payroll, time and labor, budgets, and accounting interfaces. This will include expanded use of self service in these areas. In addition to Steve, this team will include Ryan Hamilton, Pahtsamong Tanaawibuonpoan, Hanish Sharma, and Rong Wang.
- Ginny Richards, who formerly lead our EIS Tools Support Team in the AIS Tools and User Services Area, will lead a second team that will support HR and benefits administration services with particular emphasis on the expanding the use of electronic forms and self service functions. In addition to Ginny, this team will consist of Jerry Chin, Robert Manning, Sandy Walsh, and a new employee who has just joined us, Anantha Gorthy.

These teams will continue to be governed by a single product family, the HR Payroll Product Family. The same kind of close collaboration will be required between these teams as we have had with the student teams for many years. Dividing the team will allow the two new teams to focus more on progress in their particular areas of responsibility.

In addition, I want to thank Steve Vrbka for his dedicated service as the leader of a growing team and service area including his leadership role during the EIS implementation and two upgrades. I know he will be focusing his full talents and energy on the critical payroll, time and labor, budgeting, and accounting integration processes. Further, I want to thank Ginny Richards for accepting this new challenge and her service and accomplishments with the tools team including stewardship of the portal since its early days. Her skills as a trailblazer will well position her as we tackle the new initiatives in the HR area. We realize that Ginny's former role is critical and will be seeking a well qualified replacement.

We appreciate your patience as we work out some of the details of this reorganization. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

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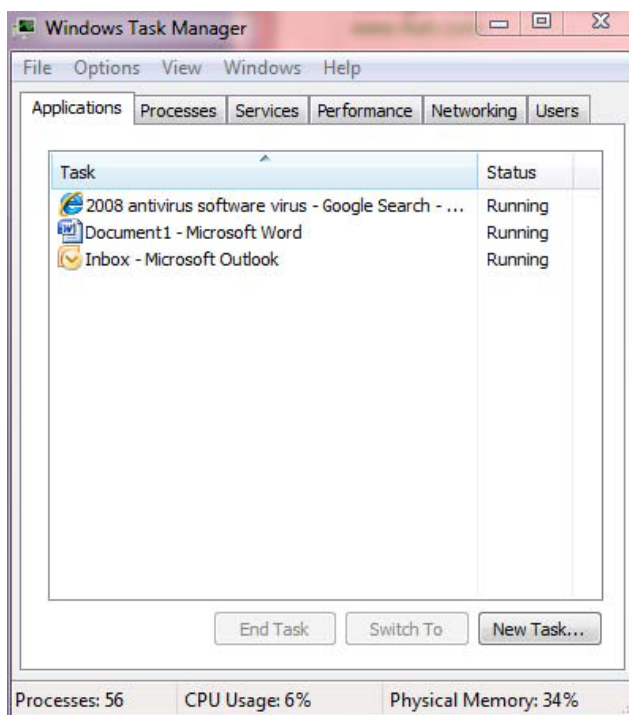
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# Fake Antivirus Alerts

By [Glenn Thorpe III](#), GSEC, Incident Response & Forensic Analyst

Occasionally, as you are browsing the web, you may come across a pop up prompting you to either update your current anti-virus software, to scan your system because some sort of malware has been detected, or to purchase a new antivirus program. It might look a lot like the standard pop up from your local antivirus software. However, the download will actually be a virus that is extremely difficult to remove and will most likely require you to re-image your system. Do not click on this box should you encounter this pop up message. This includes clicking on cancel, which can also download the virus. If possible, use task manager (found by pressing ctrl alt and del keys simultaneously) to close your browser window. Inside windows task manager, click the "processes" tab. Close all internet browser windows. If the program will not respond, click "end now" when prompted. You may have to click "end task" twice. Again, do not interact with the pop up or browser itself during this process if at all possible. Below is what the typical Windows Task manager will look like.



Some common names associated with the virus are "XP 2008 Antivirus", "Vista 2008 Antivirus", and "Malware Defense". There are several variants of the virus, but the behavior from all is essentially the same. You will often be redirected from your homepage to some e-commerce page prompting you to either update or purchase their software. Obviously, do not purchase anything when directed to these sites. You will sometimes see the program doing "malware scans" without your prompting. Also, while browsing, you will start receiving the same pop up message over and over alerting you to malware presence.

The best preventative actions you can take is to ensure you have a [reputable Anti-Virus application](#) (McAfee) installed and up to date, keep Windows up to date by running Windows Update, and don't forget to keep your applications (Adobe, QuickTime, etc) and browser plugins (Flash, Java, etc) up to date as well.

Below are some images that the virus manifests (this list is not all inclusive):







**Windows Antivirus 2008: WARNING**



**WARNING! Attack Detected.**

Possible harmful action has been detected from remote host.

Windows Antivirus 2008 has detected possible harmful actions from remote computer on the network. **Blaster/Sasser.variant** worm behavior detected. You have to register your copy to get full protection feature set and an ability to defeat upcoming threats. To begin online registration, please click "Activate now" button below.

**Activate Now!**

Block this attack!

Continue unprotected

Disabled protection

For more information on this and other security issues visit the Information Security website:

<https://security.unt.edu/> This article appeared as a "Security Bulletin" here:

<https://security.unt.edu/resources/fakeav>



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## RAVE On: The Research and Visualization Environment is now open for business!

By [Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner](#), Assistant Director - Academic Computing and User Services and [Dr. Jesse Hamner](#), Manager, Research and Visualization Environment (RAVE)

Last October [we announced](#) in *Benchmarks Online*, the construction of the UNT Research And Visualization Environment (RAVE) to enhance research at the University. The facility is now open for business and scholarly work has begun. The RAVE provides an important research function at UNT in answer to two primary issues:

- **The 21st century has brought the ability to generate overwhelming amounts of data; these data, while useful, must still be examined and understood.**
  - Images (photographic) can now be upwards of 200 Megapixels (five times larger than even the RAVE's 12-display array can show at full resolution)
  - Users are presented with an unpleasant choice: either view the image and lose the detail, or see the detail and lose the overall image
  - Supercomputer output can be similarly expansive -- again, would you like to see a display of one quarter of your output, or would you like to see everything and risk missing a small but potentially important variation?
  
- **Since data collection began, explaining data, analyses, and results has never been easy.**
  - No one cares about columns of numbers, and even accurate coefficients can be misleading to the end user
  - Grants, manuscripts, and conference presentations require visual and substantive impact on the reader

The goal of the RAVE is to provide excellent computer resources for graphically intensive research, simulations, statistics, and design. Specific software requests are accommodated as much as possible, within fiscal constraints, and custom scripting and programming is available on a limited basis and at the discretion of the staff. Primarily the facility serves researchers who wish to use and learn its resources on their own. RAVE staff mainly consult with these scholars on best practices for clear and graphical output of data analysis such as statistical results, informative display of research project results, page and poster layout, and refinement of photo images and graphics. The RAVE utilizes a 49-Megapixel display for examination and large-scale analysis and output of graphical data and provides superior graphical output capability to better display and explain research elements.





*The video wall of the RAVE allows for clear viewing of data*

Initial users of the RAVE have been from diverse areas including materials engineering, political science and information science. Other users have included graduate students who need access to specific software and powerful workstations housed in the facility and also university community members with specific research printing and design needs that cannot be solved with other resources on campus. The following lists provide an outline of current hardware and software equipment and services:

**Hardware:**

- Three 8-core workstations: ( Dell T5500 / Dual Quad Core Processor 2.93 ghz/24 gb RAM/320 GB SATA/Nvidia Quadro FX 4800 with 64-bit Windows 7)
- One quad-core Mac workstation: ((Mac Pro 2.93GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon 8GB (4x2GB) 640GB 7200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s NVIDIA GeForce GT 120 512MB )
- A 12-display video wall and cluster (Master Node: PowerEdge R710 2xQC 2.26Ghz,24GB RAM,2x146GB SAS R1, 3x1TB SATA R5, DVD+RW,Rdnt PS,RH 5.2/Precision R5400, 2xQC 2.66GHz, 16GB RAM, 250GB SATA, 2x512MB QUADRO FX1700, DVD+RW, RH WS 4.5/ Dell 3008WFP-HC
- A 64-inch color printer (Epson Stylus Pro 11880)
- A smaller color printer (Dell 2130cn)

**Applications:**

- TecPlot 360/2009 -- all platforms
- Abaqus -- Windows (64 bit)
- Geomagic Studio -- Windows (64 bit)
- Geomagic Qualify -- Windows (64 bit)
- Ansys 64 -- Windows (64)
- Pro/Engineer -- Windows (64)
- Matlab -- all platforms
- ArcGIS -- Windows (64)
- R -- all platforms
- Stata 11 -- Win/Mac

also:

- VMD

- GRASS GIS
- ATOMEYE
- WinSCP
- jEdit
- Notepad++
- TexLive: LyX, JabRef, TeXWorks etc.
- CYGWIN
- RasMol

Other software that has been requested includes Materials Studio, Gaussian, ELPoly, MolPro, Molden, GAMESS-US and GAMESS-UK. Much of this software is quite costly and must be considered on a case-by-case basis but suggestions are most welcome! The RAVE currently has the following business hours: 1 PM - 5 PM, Monday - Friday and these hours will expand in the future as needs dictate. Limited appointments can also be made for special service with advanced notice.

The following are policies and procedures that have been enacted with this initial launch:

**The facility is open to:**

- Faculty and graduate students with a specific need for software or hardware provided in the RAVE
- Undergraduates doing research for a faculty member who specifically requests access to the software and/or hardware in the RAVE that is not available elsewhere on campus

**Printer usage and charging policies:**

- Epson 11880: printing by appointment
- \$20 per foot or fraction thereof on any media we provide, \$15 per foot on media clients provide
- Image formats (TIFF, JPEG) and Photoshop format are strongly preferred, as other formats -- including PDF - often have problems (Microsoft Publisher format is explicitly not supported)
- RAVE staff will make no edits to documents save to orient the document for most efficient use of paper
- Payment by IDO only -- no cash, checks, etc.
- If color space is not specified, the RAVE prints using CMYK
- Print-ready images brought to the lab before 3:30 PM may be printed that day
- Some files will not be print ready and may require several consulting iterations with RAVE staff.
- Print-ready images received after that 3:30 PM will be printed the following business morning and ready by noon.



*The Epson 11880 provides impressive displays for research presentations*

Future plans and expansion of the facility include Windows 7 virtualization and WINE-based Windows application support on the display cluster, client base and temporal coverage expansion, interchanges / collaboration with other visualization labs on campus, and tight links to the Talon supercomputer. Queries about the RAVE should be sent to Dr. Jesse Hamner at [jesse.hamner@unt.edu](mailto:jesse.hamner@unt.edu).



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## Calling all Digital Humanists

By [DaMiri Young](#), HPC Systems Administrator

Currently on campus there is much talk of engaging scientists, engineers, artists, philosophers and other scholars to collaborate their research. This concept is being echoed at many institutions and campuses in fact.

But how do the so called "soft sciences" i.e., Humanities, Art, and Social Sciences fit into the research space normally dominated by the "hard sciences" like Engineering, Physics, and Mathematics? Furthermore, how might these diverse groups collaborate on scholarly research using advanced techniques like Parallel image processing, Natural Language Processing, and High-Performance computing?

As the UNT Office of Research has identified, there are many ways to integrate these diverse disciplines. Along with several other research "cluster" initiatives, the office has fostered creation of the Initiative for Advance Research in Technology and the Arts (iARTA). This project aims to team artists, engineers, and scientists to explore advanced media applications. The office has also requested a percentage of high-performance compute infrastructure on campus be set aside specifically for this purpose, more information [here](#).

The following timeline highlights some of the milestones that have paved the way for Digital Humanities.

### 1963

Three scholarly and educational organizations--the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), the Council of Graduate Schools in America, and the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa--co-sponsor the establishment of a National Commission on the Humanities and instruct the Commission to conduct a study of "the state of the humanities in America." Barnaby Keeney, President of Brown University, is chair.

### 1964

In April, the commission releases a report recommending "the establishment by the President and the Congress of the United States of a National Humanities Foundation."

In August, Congressman William Moorhead of Pennsylvania proposes legislation to implement the Commission's recommendations.

In a speech at Brown University on the importance of federal support for higher education, President Johnson lends his support.

### 1965

In March, Senator Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island introduces the Johnson Administration's legislation to establish a National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities.

On September 29, President Johnson signs the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, establishing the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) as separate, independent agencies. He selects Barnaby Keeney, who headed the original commission, to become the first NEH chairman. While Keeney completes the academic year at Brown, Henry Allen Moe, President of the American Philosophical Society, is interim chairman. The agency's first home is 1800 G Street, NW, in a building largely occupied by the National Science Foundation.

### 1973

NEH begins a collaboration with the National Science Foundation, the Science, Technology, and Human Values program.

### 1974

NEH supports the establishment of the Yale-New Haven Teacher Institute with an initial grant of \$2.8 million. The Institute becomes a national model for partnerships between a university and nearby public schools.

The Endowment begins support for American centers of advanced study in the United States and abroad.

## 1981

Francis Steegmuller's NEH-supported translation of *The Letters of Gustave Flaubert, 1830-1857*, wins the American Book Award for Translation.

President Reagan establishes a Presidential Task Force on the Arts and the Humanities and charges it with "developing ideas to stimulate increased private giving for cultural activities." The Task Force recommends continuing the existing NEH and NEA structures.

## 1984

Funding begins for the Dartmouth Dante Project, a computerized database of commentary written about *The Divine Comedy* in the six centuries following Dante's death.

"German Expressionist Sculpture," organized by the Los Angeles Museum of Art, attracts 1.9 million visitors to the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C.

## 1986

President Reagan proclaims the week of February 9-15 as National Humanities Week in honor of the Endowment's twentieth anniversary.

## 1993

*The Great Depression*, Henry Hampton's seven-part, NEH-supported documentary series airs on PBS and wins an Emmy.

NEH awards sixty-one small grants for research in the archives of the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and elsewhere.

The Endowment makes available \$1 million in emergency funds for museums, libraries, schools, and other cultural institutions in the Midwest to recover from damage caused by record flooding.

President Clinton declares October 1993 "National Arts and Humanities Month."

## 1998

In November, President Clinton presents National Humanities Medals to the second group of awardees: Stephen Ambrose, E. L. Doctorow, Diana Eck, Nancye Brown Gaj, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Vartan Gregorian, Ramon Eduardo Ruiz, Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., and Garry Wills.

As part of the three-year Schools for a New Millennium initiative, twenty grants are awarded to develop innovative projects to integrate technology into classroom instruction.

NEH funding begins for the Digital Library Initiative, and interagency effort led by the National Science Foundation that supports research on ways to digitize collections in the sciences, the humanities, and medicine.

Intra-agency working groups are established to examine the Endowment's achievements and opportunities in five programmatic areas: regional America; teaching and lifelong learning; humanities, science, and technology; humanities in an international context; and extending the reach of NEH programs.

## 1999

*Gotham: A History of New York City to 1898* by Edwin G. Burrows and Mike Wallace wins a Pulitzer Prize. Wallace's research was supported with an NEH fellowship.

President Clinton presents National Humanities Medals to the third group of awardees: Patricia M. Battin, Taylor Branch, Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, Garrison Keillor, Jim Lehrer, John Rawls, Steven Spielberg, and August Wilson.

NEH launches an initiative to develop ten regional humanities centers throughout the United States.

NEH launches the *My History is America's History* website and guidebook. Developed in partnership with the White House Millennium Council, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, and private funders, the nation-wide initiative invites Americans to discover the connections between family stories and U.S. history.

NEH joins NEA and the Institute of Museum and Library Services to recommend recipients of Save America's Treasures grants. The program to protect threatened cultural resources is a public-private partnership of the White House Millennium Council, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the National Park Service.

## 2005

NEH and the Library of Congress announce the first grants in the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), a new, long-term effort to develop an Internet-based, searchable database of U.S. newspapers now in the public domain. Two-year projects in California, Florida, Kentucky, New York, Utah, and Virginia receive support to digitize thousands of pages of each state's most historically significant newspapers published between 1900 and 1910.

NEH and the National Science Foundation announce fellowships and institutional grants in a new inter-agency partnership, "Documenting Endangered Languages", a multi-year effort to preserve records of key languages before they become extinct

## 2006

The National Endowment for the Humanities and the Institute of Museum and Library Services announce "Advancing Knowledge: The IMLS/NEH Digital Partnership" to help teachers, scholars, museums and libraries take advantage of developing technology.

## 2007

The Endowment awards the first Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants for projects designed to explore and develop innovative uses of technology in humanities education, scholarship, and public programming.

Harvey Mansfield, one of America's leading political scientists and a widely published author, delivers the 36th Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities, "How to Understand Politics: What the Humanities Can Say to Science."

## 2009

DOE's National Energy Research Scientific Computing Center (NERSC) at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory will dedicate a total of one million compute hours on its supercomputers and technical training to humanities experts.

UNT's Office of Research and Economic Development launches several collaborative research initiatives including investing millions of dollars into high-performance computing infrastructure. Of this, a percentage set aside for work in digital arts and humanities.

## Are you a Digital Humanities scholar in need?

So in closing, a proposal. To our fellow Humanists, Artists, and Social Scientists on campus: present your verifiable and reasonable need for High-Performance Computing at the site below, and you'll be connected with the right department. The following projects at the National Energy Research Scientific Computing Center (NERSC) are examples of what would be considered verifiable and reasonable need:

- The Perseus Digital Library Project, led by Gregory Crane of Tufts University in Medford, Mass., will use NERSC systems to measure how the meanings of words in Latin and Greek have changed over their lifetimes, and compare classic Greek and Latin texts with literary works written in the past 2,000 years. Team members say the work will be similar to methods currently used to detect plagiarism. The technology will analyze the linguistic structure of classical texts and reveal modern pieces of literature, written or translated into English, which may have been influenced by the classics.
- In addition to tracking changes in ancient literature, NERSC computers will also be reconstructing ancient artifacts and architecture with the High Performance Computing for Processing and Analysis of Digitized 3-D Models of Cultural Heritage project, led by David Koller, Assistant Director of the University of Virginia's Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities (IATH) in Charlottesville, Va.
- In contrast to the other Humanities High Performance Computing projects that will be done at NERSC, the Visualizing Patterns in Databases of Cultural Images and Video project, led by Lev Manovich, Director of the Software Studies Initiative at the University of California, San Diego, is not focused on working with a single data set. Instead, this project hopes to investigate the full potential of cultural analytics using different types of data including: millions of images, paintings, professional photography, graphic design, user-generated photos; as well as tens of thousands of videos, feature films, animation, anime music videos and user-generated videos.

Nearly 20% of HPC resources which roughly equates to over 100,000 compute hours has been set aside for projects verified as genuine supercomputing in the Arts and Humanities. So if you are a Digital Humanities scholar in need, head over to the CITC's [HPC site](#) for more information.

Your move.

## External Links

<http://citic.unt.edu/hpc>

<http://energy.gov/>

<http://iarta.unt.edu>

<http://nea.gov>

<http://www.neh.gov/>

<http://www.neh.gov/howeare/timeline.html>



<http://research.unt.edu>

<http://www.supercomputingonline.com/latest/humanities-hpc-connect-at-nersc>



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## Network Connection

By [Dr. Philip Baczewski](#), Director of Academic Computing and User Services

### The Problem with the Internet

It seems that the progress of the Internet and information technology is making us all dumber. At least that seems to be the prevailing theme of some recent media treatments of the subject. Students are distracted by instant message traffic, Twitter, and Facebook, and our memory and cognitive functions will forever be impaired by the fact we can just look things up on Google.

[Frontline](#), a PBS documentary program that usually has detailed and thoughtful reporting on a variety of contemporary subjects, recently aired a program entitled "[Digital Nation](#)", billed as "an in-depth exploration of what it means to be human in a 21st-century digital world." I tuned in, eager to see what thoughtful insights would be exposed, but instead felt that I'd sat through a very shallow and rambling view of the digital world which failed to draw much of an overall conclusion regarding how digital technology is changing our society. Instead, I learned that MIT students are distracted, the Internet is rotting our brains, online gaming is an addiction, the Internet is rotting our brains, IBM no longer has real offices, and the U.S. Air Force can blow people away halfway around the world without leaving the comfort of Nevada.

### Warped by technology?

In case you think I'm over- (or under-) reacting, Heather Havrilesky, reviewing the Frontline program for Salon.com, [summarizes](#) this new view of the Internet as follows: "the digital revolution led us all to this: a gigantic, commercial, high school reunion/mall filthy with insipid tabloid trivia, populated by perpetually distracted, texting, tweeting demi-humans. Yes, the information age truly is every bit as glorious and special as everyone predicted it would be!" Of course, the Internet is just a reflection of our society, so it's not surprising that shopping malls, tabloids, and pop culture appear to be warping us all and especially our youth. In my youth, all we had was [Mad Magazine](#) to do the warping.

It's not our inability to remember that occupies Siva Vaidhyanathan's attention, but rather our inability to forget. In an essay entitled, [Our Digitally Undying Memories](#) in the January 31, 2010 issue of the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) (subscription may be required), he comments on Viktor Mayer-Schönberger's book [Delete: The Virtue of Forgetting in the Digital Age](#) and other publications which, rather than extolling the virtues of the digital age, warn of its perils. The argument in this case is that the Internet is becoming a menacing permanent record, which seems strangely [reminiscent](#) to me. Nevertheless, the idea of technology preserving what should be forgotten is not new. For Arthur Conan Doyle, it was the depiction of a photographic record that threatened the future of the "[King of Bohemia](#)", undoubtedly a technology that should have been better regulated.

So, is the Internet and communications technology isolating us from the "real" world? I would say that we are as isolated as we make ourselves. If you sit at the dinner table and text your friends, then you are just as rude as if you sat there talking on a phone, reading a newspaper, or engrossed in a book. We don't have to blame technology for bad behavior, even if it seems to be the enabler. The Internet does not remove our ability to regulate our behavior or teach our children how to regulate theirs.

### Distracted? Overloaded?

Is the Internet the ultimate distraction? The truth is that distraction abounds, but can be a useful response to an unstimulating situation. A friend and I shared the same class schedule during our junior year of High School and had a game of chess going throughout each day, by passing a pencil and paper board back and forth during class. Goodness knows that any college student has had to sit through their share of boring and uninspired lectures. At least with the information technology available today, one can be creatively or productively distracted, rather than

the past alternative of looking out a window or keeping a running tally of the speaker's idiosyncrasies.

Is the Internet rotting our brains? It turns out that "information overload" has long been a concern of alarmists. A recent [article](#) on [Slate.com](#) illustrates that scholars as early as the 16th century were warning of the deleterious effects of an overabundance of information in a manner simliar to Frontline Digital Nation's alarmist tone.

## Enchanted!

I have to admit that when I was a kid, I liked to randomly read the encyclopedia and wished that such random and extensive knowledge didn't require such heavy books. In my college years navigating through numerous volumes of abstracts and indexes, I thought that there had to be a better way to access the tremendous volumes of scholarship produced by the academic world. I revel in the fact that I now have my wish in both cases and it's via an elegant little electronic package that rides in my pocket. My rotten brain never worked better.



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The UNT Libraries have virtual/online help services. They're available from your computer 24/7. Like they say on their website:

<http://www.library.unt.edu/ris/ask-us>

Text Us!

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## Helpdesk FYI

By [Jonathan "Mac" Edwards](#), Assistant Manager of the CITC Helpdesk and [Robert Ritz](#), CITC Helpdesk Consultant

# Connecting to UNT Email Services with the Motorola Cliq

The Motorola Cliq is another Android Phone that is currently available. As of now, though, there is no TLS option under SMTP settings for the MOTO BLUR client, meaning that it is not possible to connect to mailhost.unt.edu for your outgoing messages using IMAP. While there are alternative mail clients in the app store that will allow for this option, you can also use the Cliq's Corporate Sync app to set up an Exchange account.

### EagleConnect:

*Go to Apps Menu -> Accounts -> Add Accounts -> Corporate Sync*  
*Domain\username: use EagleConnect address only, do not include any domain or "\"*  
*Password: password associated with EUID*  
*Use secure connection: check this box*  
*Server: pod51000.outlook.com*

### UNT Exchange Mailbox

*Go to Apps Menu -> Accounts -> Add Accounts -> Corporate Sync*  
*Domain\username: use UNT as your domain: "unt\EUID"*  
*Password: password associated with EUID*  
*Use secure connection: check this box*  
*Server: webmail.unt.edu*



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## IRC News

### Minutes provided by Susan Richroath Recording Secretary\*

The IRC -- unofficially now known as the INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL (ITC) -- is currently undergoing a reorganization, see the May 20, 2008 [minutes](#) for more information.\*\*

*No IRC/ITC minutes were available for publication this month.*

\*For a list of IRC Regular and Ex-officio Members click [here](#) (last updated 12/12/08). Warren Burggren is now the Chair.

\*\*DCSMT Minutes can be found [here](#).



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## RSS Matters

## Research and Statistical Support

### University of North Texas

# Moving on up ... again: Introduction to new features of PASW Statistics 18 (i.e. SPSS 18)

Link to the last RSS article here: [A Retrospective of Recent RSS News - Ed.](#)

By [Dr. Jon Starkweather](#), Research and Statistical Support Consultant

As many of you likely know, it was not that long ago (August 2009 to [be exact](#)) the RSS community stopped supporting SPSS 15 and moved support to SPSS 16 and PASW Statistics 17. This move was necessitated by the PASW/SPSS practice of supporting the current version of the software and the most recent previous version. So, here we are again taking another half step up the ladder by introducing PASW Statistics 18, discontinuing our support for SPSS 16, and instead supporting PASW Statistics 17 and 18.

The purpose of this month's article was to introduce new features which distinguish PASW Statistics 18 from PASW Statistics 17. However, as often is the case with SPSS software; not much has changed with regard to the base package. Most of the changes in PASW Statistics 18 are related to add-on modules which are not supported by the University of North Texas. There are a few new capabilities in the base package, which will be discussed below. First, there are some aesthetic differences you will notice as soon as you open the new version. When first opening PASW Statistics 18, you will notice the "What would you like to do?" box is now larger, although it displays the same information and options as were available previously and it can be prevented from opening in the future (which has always been the case). Second, you will notice the larger toolbar (and quick access buttons) across the top and bottom of the data, syntax, and output windows. It is assumed this was done to make selection of the desired function easier and help users avoid mistakenly clicking on an undesired function. Now for the more substantive changes.

**New nonparametric tests.** According to the PASW Statistics 18 Core User Guide (from here on referred to as User Guide 18), "the new nonparametric tests provide a new user interface and Model Viewer output..." which essentially means there is a new way to specify the details of a nonparametric analysis, including the ability to compare multiple test statistics during one analysis procedure. When in the Data Editor window, click on Analyze à Nonparametric Tests and you will see there are three new choices available; as well as all the familiar tests which were previously included (now under the 'Legacy Dialogs' sub-menu choice). Each of the three new choices corresponds to a type of nonparametric test (One Sample, Independent Samples, & Related Samples). The new functionality comes when one of those is chosen. You will be prompted to fill in your 'Objectives' (what are you attempting to achieve), 'Fields' (which variables), and 'Settings' (i.e. options, which allows more control over what is done). The new Model Viewer output mentioned above simply refers to new types of output associated with each of the three new analysis choices.

**Programmability enhancements.** The R Integration Plug-in was available in previous versions of the platform; however, it was cumbersome to use and necessitated a visit to the SPSS/PASW website to download the plug-in. PASW Statistics 18 does not require such a visit. The plug-in is available with the base package installation DVD / ISO, however it is still a separate install (i.e. not included when installing PASW Statistics 18). The R Integration Plug-in has been improved over what was available in PASW Statistics 17 and now supports R debugging features, the creation of pivot tables from R with multiple row and column dimensions and you can nest multiple pivot tables under a common outline heading. Furthermore, User Guide 18 states that:

*"R extension commands can be implemented directly from R source code files, bypassing the need to distribute them as R packages. Also, you can bundle together all components of a custom R or Python procedure, allowing end users to easily install the procedure without manually copying files."*

However, using the R Integration Plug-in is still cumbersome and requires the generation of vast amounts of syntax to perform relatively simple functions. As an example, the R boxplot is available in PASW Statistics 18 (once the R-Integration Plug-in has been installed) in the 'Graphs' toolbar function--however, the syntax generated by using this function has four or five times as many lines of text compared to simply using R with or without using R-commander (Rcmdr) to generate the same boxplot once the same data has been loaded into R. Furthermore, the R Boxplot function is the only R function available in the menu system of PASW Statistics 18—which of course, necessitates often epic exploration of syntax/code commands that will work in the syntax window to perform R functions. Perhaps most welcome for users seeking to incorporate the functionality of R into PASW Statistics 18, the PASW Statistics 18 help system now includes R topics.

**Custom Tables enhancements.** According to User Guide 18, "the Custom Tables add-on option now offers computed categories and significance results integrated into the same table as the values being tested." Under Analyze à Tables à Custom Tables... the dialog box that pops up contains the same four tabs to specify the particulars of your table. But now, under the 'Test Statistics' tab you can 'Identify Significant Differences' either 'In a separate table' or 'In the main table using APA-style subscripts'.

**Improved SAS data file support.** You can now write data files in SAS 9 format (i.e. save as SAS v9+).

**Improved Custom Dialog Builder.** According to User Guide 18, "the Custom Dialog Builder now has a list box control that supports single or multiple selections." Once the Custom Dialog Builder pop-up box has been opened, you will notice a new 'tool' on the left side for specifying a 'List Box'. Also among the 'tools' the list items function under 'Combo Box' and 'List Box' can now be used to list values associated with the variables specified.

**Improved display of large pivot tables.** According to User Guide 18, "new display options are now available that make it easier to view and navigate large pivot tables (tables with hundreds or thousands of rows)." When viewing a table in output, default settings specify that large tables will be displayed in 100 row sections. However, now you can specify the number of rows to be displayed per section (with a minimum of 10 rows) by right-clicking on the table and from the context menu choose 'Set Rows to Display'.

**Improved Twostep Cluster output.** According to User Guide 18, "the Twostep Cluster procedure now provides interactive model viewer output." When Twostep Cluster analysis is performed, the output is now displayed in a graphical form (rather than traditional tables). Furthermore, by double clicking on the graphical 'Model Summary' output, one can access a 'Model Viewer' interface for editing, printing, or copying the graphical output to other applications. It is also odd, but noteworthy that the 'Model Viewer' contains more of the output than is displayed by default in the output window.

**Additional rule-checking on quality control charts.** Rule-checking is now performed on several additional control charts. When rule-checking is requested for an 'X-bar' chart, it will also be performed on the accompanying R (range) or s (standard deviation) chart. Similarly, when rule-checking is requested for an 'Individuals' (Runs) chart, it will also be performed on the accompanying Moving Range chart. Control charts are available in Analyze à Quality Control à Control Charts...then specification of 'X-bar, R, s' chart or 'Individuals, Moving Range' chart is required; then rule specifications can be selected from the 'Control Rules' button. Once rules have been selected and the analysis has been run, tables and graphs will display rule violations for range or standard deviation; or runs charts as called for.

For further clarification of the topics discussed here, or for clarification of all functions of PASW Statistics 18, please consult the PASW Statistics 18 Core System User's Guide.pdf available at:

<http://support.spss.com/ProductsExt/Statistics/Documentation/18/clientindex.html>

Until next time; I am the walrus ...



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The UNT logo features the letters "UNT" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a circular emblem. The emblem has a green background with a grid of white lines and dots, resembling a globe or a technical diagram.

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## Short Courses

The Spring Short Course schedule is *finally* available. We welcome Dr. Jon Starkweather, back to the Research and Statistical Support Services group, this time in a full-time position. Classes begin March 1. Surf over to the [Short Courses](#) page to see the the schedule. We have two new courses this semester, *Applications in R: Latent Variable Modeling with Survey Data -- Part I* and *Applications in R: Latent Variable Modeling with Survey Data -- Part II*.

**Special classes** can always be arranged with the RSS staff. See "Customized Short Courses" below for further information. Also, you can **always** contact the RSS staff for one-on-one [consultation](#). **Please read the [FAQ](#) before requesting an appointment though.**

## 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](#) (they have a new comprehensive training curriculum), and the [Center for Learning Enhancement, Assessment, and Redesign](#). Additionally, the [Center for Achievement and Lifelong Learning](#) offers a variety of courses, usually for a small fee.

EIS training is [available](#). Questions or comments relating to EIS training should be sent to [EISTCA@unt.edu](mailto:EISTCA@unt.edu).

## Microsoft E-Learning

Microsoft E-Learning courses are now available for **faculty and staff** via our UNT-Microsoft Campus Agreement. Please contact Claudia Lynch at [lynch@unt.edu](mailto:lynch@unt.edu) for instructions on accessing this training.

## Microsoft Outlook Training and more

The Messaging Systems Group has all sorts of useful information on their website, including [training information](#).

## Central Web Support

Consult Central Web Support for assistance in acquiring "Internet services and support." As described on their [website](#):

CWS provides Internet services and support to UNT faculty, staff and students. Services include allocating and assisting departments, campus organizations and faculty with web space and associated applications. Additionally, CWS assists web developers with databases and associated web applications, troubleshooting problems, support and service.

## CLEAR (was Center for Distributed Learning)

[CLEAR](#) offers courses especially for Faculty Members. A list of topics and further information can be found [here](#).

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 [CLEAR Website](#).

## 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.unt.edu/minicourses/>

## Information Security Awareness

The UNT Information Security team has been offering Information Security Awareness [courses](#) to all UNT faculty and staff. Topics to be covered will include workstation security, sensitive data handling, copyright infringement issues, identity theft, email security, and more.

For more information, or if you would like to request a customized course to be taught for your department, contact Gabe Marshall at x4062, or at [security@unt.edu](mailto:security@unt.edu).

Also, Information Security Training is [now available](#) through Blackboard Vista (formerly known as WebCT).

## Alternate Forms of Training

Many of the General Access Labs around campus have tutorials installed on their computers.

See <http://www.gal.unt.edu/> for a list of labs and their locations. The Willis Library, for example, has a [list of Tutorials and Software Support](#). The Library Instructional Unit also offers workshops and training, including "tech skills" training. Visit their website for more information: <http://www.library.unt.edu/library-instruction>

The [Training Website](#) has all sorts of information about alternate forms of training. Computer Based Training (CBT) and Web-based training are some of the alternatives offered, although due to the rising costs of training, shrinking budgets and changing technology, computer-based training at UNT is in a state of transition. For up-to-date information on CBT at UNT, see the CBT [website](#).

## Gartner Research Services

Way back in 2006 we announced [Gartner Core Research Services Now Available to the UNT Community](#). Our subscription for Gartner services has always included **all** UNT faculty, students, and staff. All you need to do to access the subscription is to log into the UNT Gartner portal page at <https://gartner.unt.edu/>. Gartner is now offering "Webinar Wednesdays." To view all the offerings see: <http://my.gartner.com/portal/server.pt?tbb=webinarcalendar> You can also listen to Gartner podcasts here: [http://www.gartner.com/it/products/podcasting/asset\\_137461\\_2616.jsp](http://www.gartner.com/it/products/podcasting/asset_137461_2616.jsp).

## State of Texas Department of Information Resources

Another possible source of training for staff and, perhaps, faculty members is the Texas Department of Information Resources. A look at their Education and Training [website](#) reveals some interesting possibilities.



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## Staff Activities

### Transitions

#### New Employees:

- **Abraham John**, Senior Director, Administrative Information Technology Services (AITS) -- Abraham joins us from the Division of Student Development. As was stated in the *Campus Computing News* [article](#) last month, "... we are proceeding with the consolidation of six administrative units that provide desktop computing support to the campus: ABN, Student Development, Facilities, CITC desktop support, Fiscal Affairs, and the Microcomputer Maintenance Shop. I have selected Abraham John to head that unit, and he starts his new duties next Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. We'll spend about a month gathering information and making plans about how best to make the transition to CITC operation of the combined support unit, at which time we'll formally reassign staff and move budgeted amounts where appropriate."
- **Niranjan Reddy Boodidha**, IT Programmer Analyst, Financial Aid & Scholarships Systems (AIS).
- **Trent Ryan**, ACS GAL Consultant (part-time).
- **Rajitha Peesari**, ACS GAL Consultant (part-time).
- **Jonathan Starkweather**, Research and Statistical Support Services Consultant, Academic Computing and User Services.
- **Anantha Gorthy**, IT Programmer Analyst, Payroll/Human Resources Services (AIS)
- **Sreenika Basireddy**, ACS GAL Consultant (part-time).
- **Srinath Kamishetty**, Space Planning and Web Support (part-time).
- **Jana Crews**, IT Programmer Analyst, Financial Aid & Scholarships Systems (AIS) (part-time).

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

- **Sridevi Mandava**, ACS GAL Consultant (part-time).
- **Sravani Pallemati**, ACS GAL Consultant (part-time).
- **Maria Irene Cunha**, ACS GAL Consultant (part-time).
- **Duane Gustavus**, Research Computing Support Manager (ACUS), retired at the end of January.

## Changes, Awards, Recognition, Publications, etc.

### New Position

**Patrick McLeod** has moved from Research and Statistical Support Services Consultant within ACUS to the **Host**

**Systems Administrator** position and is now taking care of some of ACUS' servers and infrastructure. You will notice that he still has his hand in the Research and Statistical Support area from time to time, teaching Short Courses etc.

## Presentations, Karate








- Continuing to prove that she truly is a Renaissance Woman, **Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner**, Assistant Director - Academic Computing and User Services, won second place in traditional empty-hand kata and second place in traditional weapons kata at the **NASKA Lone Star Open World Karate Championship** in Austin on January 29 and 30th.
- **Dr. Jesse Hamner**, Manager, Research and Visualization Environment (RAVE): Gerlak, Andrea, and Jesse Hamner. 2010. "Power, Geography, and Institutions in International River Basins, 1950-2004 ". Paper Presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, New Orleans, LA, February 17-20, 2010. This paper featured data and maps created in the Research and Visualization Environment by Dr. Hamner. <http://www.isanet.org/neworleans2010/>

## Citizenship

**Supaluk Joy Aswalap**, Programmer/Analyst, Financial Info. Systems (AIS) received her Doctor of Philosophy (Information Science) in [December](#) and became a **naturalized U.S. citizen** this month!

## Soaring Eagles and an Outstanding Employee

The following people were recognized as Soaring Eagles in the January/February 2010 issue of *HR Connections*, the Human Resources Newsletter. They were also honored at the President's Staff Sack Lunch on February 17. Also honored at the President's Sack Lunch was **Jonathan "Mac" Edwards**, CITC Helpdesk Manager, who was recognized as an **Outstanding Employee**.

 <i>Ben Barkin-Wilkins</i>	 <i>Matt Bishop</i>	 <i>Kory Booth</i>	 <i>David Franklin</i>
 <i>William Mason</i>	 <i>Adrian Rollette</i>	 <i>Terrence Toi</i>	

## Fun Fact Winners

Continuing the CITC tradition, we have some more "Fun Fact Winners." Congratulations to **Kala Chevli**, Programmer Analyst, Financial Aid & Scholarships Systems (AIS) who was a winner in the [February 16 InHouse](#) prize giveaway. **Rong Wang**, Programmer Analyst, Payroll/HR Systems (AIS) was a winner in the [February 11 InHouse](#) prize giveaway.



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## Kiosk Kraziness at UNT: Lots of Places Available for Between-Class "Digital Fix"

By [Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner](#), Assistant Director - Academic Computing and User Services

Recently, an observation was made at a meeting I attended that there were "hardly any computer kiosks on campus; you know, like the great ones in Wooten Hall." "*Au contraire mon ami!*" I thought, and indeed, through the efforts of the distributed computing areas on campus, *many* such facilities exist around campus. Some are tucked away in quiet corners and some are out in the open and easy to find. *All* appear to be popular with the students and well-used.

There are currently kiosks located in the following areas:

- Business Building
- GAB Building
- Chilton Hall
- Matthews Hall
- Wooten Hall
- Union
- Eagle Student Services Center
- Environmental Education, Science, and Technology Building
- (Upcoming March 2010) Information Sciences Building

I took a "kiosk walking tour" of the main Denton campus this morning and here are photos and descriptions of some of our kiosk areas:



A bird's-eye view of the GAB kiosk and laptop charging area

**The General Academic Building** - The GAB has some of the largest and nicest kiosk and laptop study areas. In addition to this facility on the third floor, electrical outlets are tucked away in corners near other seating areas for ease of laptop use and re-charging. This area is managed by the College of Arts and Sciences.



*A kiosk area in Wooten Hall*

**Wooten Hall** - There are kiosks scattered everywhere throughout the many floors of Wooten Hall. As one of the largest and busiest classroom buildings on campus, these kiosks get heavy use. Also, managed by the College of Arts and Sciences, the CAS tech team is trying to determine where they could put even more kiosks in this building. In addition to their Wooten and GAB kiosk holdings, CAS has put a few kiosks in the Environmental Education, Science and Technology Building and hope to expand kiosk services in this building in the future.



*Though bursting at the seams in terms of space, the technical team in the College of Business still managed to find a great place to stash a few kiosks for student use*

**Business Administration Building** - The folks at the College of Business are understandably excited about their new building. They have outgrown their current building but still managed to find a spot for some computer kiosks for students. The hallways and lobbies of the building are also home to many study tables and chairs often conveniently located next to electrical outlets for powered laptop use.





*Students can even print from the kiosks in Matthews Hall!*

**Matthews Hall** - Located on the third floor of Matthews Hall, the College of Education technical team has not only placed kiosks outside of their lab but also have printing available at the kiosks. An area for laptop charging and use is also available here.



*The kiosk area on the second floor of the Union is private and quiet*



*Munch on a delicious bagel and check your Facebook stuff in the Syndicate area of the Union*

**University Union** - The University Union has kiosks in many areas including single stand--alone units on the third floor. Most notable, however, are the quiet nook under the Union staircase and the very popular computer station areas in Einstein's Bagels/The Syndicate.



*Though quiet today, I have often seen this area packed with students taking advantage of the great kiosks, study tables and vending machines*

**Eagle Student Services Center** - Located on the bottom floor of the ESSC is a great kiosk and study area with the great added features of being next to vending machines and beautiful, large, clean restrooms!



*Not surprisingly, the Willis Library and the Science and Technology Library have extensive computing areas. The one pictured here is right when you walk in the front door of the Willis Library*

**The Libraries** - The UNT libraries have the largest areas available on campus for public computer use and studying with laptops. In addition to beautifully-furnished and well-stocked areas like the one pictured above, the libraries also feature long walls of electrical outlets next to study tables for convenient laptop charging and use.



*The tech folks in Chilton Hall have taken kiosks to a whole new level! Their lean, mean machines are small enough to tuck away in many places and also are easy to secure and service.*



**Chilton Hall** - The technical personnel in Chilton Hall are proud of their brand new kiosk units. These new units are sleek and easy to maintain. They are streamlined and can tuck away anywhere. This kiosk design is being reviewed by other campus tech areas and may prove to be a way of placing more kiosk facilities in small under-utilized spaces on campus.





*Academic Computing and User Services just had the large hall area outside the CITC Helpdesk lobby in the ISB wired for kiosks coming in March!*

**Information Science Building** - Academic Computing and User Services will be putting kiosks in the large open hallway in front of the CITC Helpdesk area. This area gets a lot of traffic because of the Helpdesk and the Science and Technology Library.

**Future Plans** - As noted above, computer kiosks are beginning to become ubiquitous on the main campus. While there are none currently at the Discovery Park, students do have attractive and comfortable study areas at the DP with electrical outlets for laptops. Many of the areas featured here plan to expand their kiosk holdings as much as logistics and budgets will allow. The kiosk project, initiated several years ago by the General Access Computer Lab Managers has proven to be popular. Also being studied is the possibility of offering more electrical outlets for laptop study and battery re-charging. So, keep your eye out for those kiosks; there are many of them and their numbers grow each semester!



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