

Benchmarks

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Benchmarks - May, 2012

Campus Computing News



On the Move

By [Dr. Philip Baczewski](#), Senior Director of Academic Computing and User Services and Deputy Chief Information Officer for University Information Technology

After over 40 years in Sycamore Hall (formerly the Information Sciences Building), Academic Computing and User Services (ACUS) will be moving to Sage Hall, with services in the new building expected to be available by mid-June, 2012.

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Summer Hours

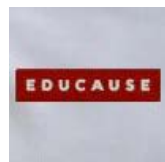


By [Claudia Lynch](#), *Benchmarks* *Online* Editor

Summer is here, at least as far as the UNT schedule of classes is concerned. Summer 2012 consists of six sessions and not all campus facilities are open during all the sessions.*

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EDUCAUSE Annual Conference



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

Conference registration opens **May 22, 2012** for the annual -- national -- EDUCAUSE conference.

[Read more](#)

Blackboard Learn Migration



By [Jane Himmel](#), Associate Director, CLEAR*

The University of North Texas began its transition to a new learning management system platform, Blackboard Learn 9.1, in the fall of 2011. This move represents the first major LMS platform change since 2003 when the campus moved from WebCT Campus Edition to WebCT Vista. All UNT campuses have used the most recent version of Blackboard (formerly WebCT) Vista 8 since 2007.

By the Numbers

Data Center Operations

Data Center Operations supports over 150 racks containing over 1000 servers and communication devices in the Data Centers.

VMs: Currently 566

Storage: Roughly 1.2PB Raw

Backups: Over 400TB total

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[Scantron Form Ordering and Discounts](#)



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

Departments using Scantron forms for exams and other purposes are in for a bit of a price break until the end of the year. You can save 3% when you order new forms from

Scantron.

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TODAY'S CARTOON

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Campus Computing News



On the Move

By [Dr. Philip Baczewski](#), Senior Director of Academic Computing and User Services and Deputy Chief Information Officer for University Information Technology

After over 40 years in Sycamore Hall (formerly the Information Sciences Building), Academic Computing and User Services (ACUS) will be moving to Sage Hall, with services in the new building expected to be available by mid-June, 2012. ACUS staff offices as well as Data Management Services will be relocated to the third floor of Sage Hall on the north end of that building. The University Information Technology (UIT) Helpdesk will move to the first floor of Sage Hall into a newly-constructed suite just inside the main entrances.



Data Management

Data Management services will be located in Sage 336 and, although on the third floor, will be easily accessible due to the proximity of the building's elevator (see diagram.) The elevator is located near the north entrance of Sage Hall. A ramp has been constructed outside that door to accommodate wheel chair access, and will also provide the quickest access if you are bringing large amounts of work to Data Management.



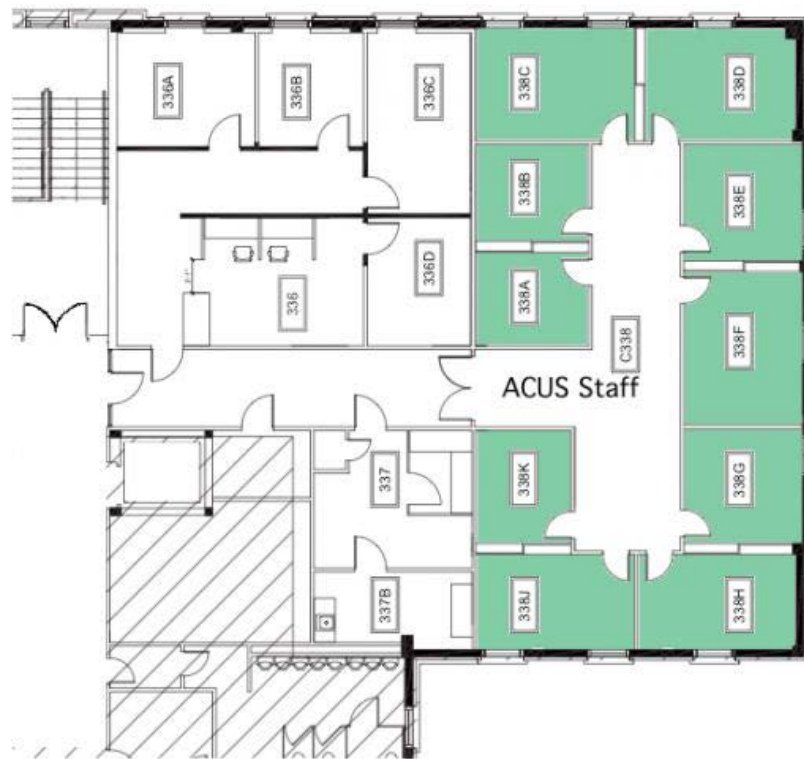
Research and Statistical Support (RSS)

Research and Statistical Support (RSS) will also be located in the 336 suite of Sage Hall. Rich Herrington and Jon Starkweather will now be in neighboring offices conveniently located near the main entrance from the hallway. A larger consultation area will be available nearby for group consultation or informal instruction.



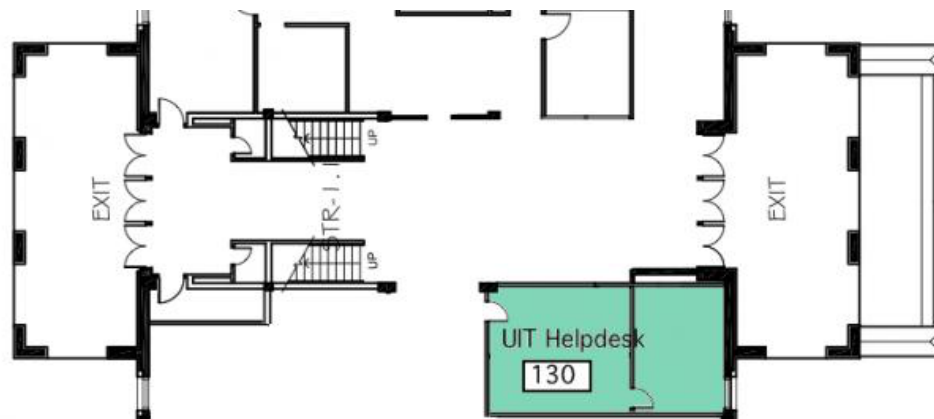
Academic Computing and User Services (ACUS)

The remainder of ACUS staff will be located in the 338 set of offices in the rear of the new space. This will include the offices of the Deputy Chief Information Officer, High Performance Computing Services, and the other key service areas of ACUS.



University Information Technology (UIT) Helpdesk

The UIT Helpdesk will be located on the first floor of Sage Hall once the move is accomplished. The Helpdesk will be in the central part of the building on the first floor near the main entrances to Sage. The new Helpdesk room number will be Sage 130 and walk-in as well as telephone support will be provided under the same schedule as is currently used (see helpdesk.unt.edu for current hours.)



A Bit of History and a Look Ahead

As mentioned above, this move will mark the first time in 42 years that offices of UNT's central IT organization won't be located in Sycamore Hall. However, academic computing will be returning to the building that housed the start of ACUS and the Computing Center fifty years ago. In 1962, an IBM 1401 computer was acquired to support academic research and Academic Computing and the Computing Center were founded to provide support for this new tool. However, IT is not altogether gone from Sycamore Hall. The original mainframe machine room now serves as the network hub for all of UNT.

The move to Sage Hall also marks the establishment of the first large-scale computer testing center on campus. This facility, managed by ACUS, will provide a testing location for online, blended, and large enrollment classes. The first location will be open this Summer on the third floor of Sage Hall. Additional testing space is planned for the first floor of Sage, in the same area that was once the Academic Computing Center. So in a sense, ACUS is just coming home.



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Summer Hours

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

Summer is here, at least as far as the UNT schedule of classes is concerned. Summer 2012 consists of six sessions and not all campus facilities are open during all the sessions.*

Following are the hours for University Information Technology-managed facilities over the summer. The University is [officially closed](#) on Monday, May 28 (Memorial Day) and Wednesday, July 4 (Independence Day).

- The [Helpdesk](#) will maintain standard hours on Monday, May 28 and Wednesday, July 4 but will be **closed to walk-in traffic**. They will maintain standard hours and availability for the remainder of the summer.
- [Data Management Services](#) will be **closed** Monday, May 28 and Wednesday, July 4, otherwise they will maintain their normal operating hours.
- The **ACUS General Access/Adaptive Lab** ([SYMR 104](#)) will be open during the summer the following hours:

Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Sunday: Noon - 9 p.m.



Hours for Other Campus Facilities

According to the Parking and Transportation website, the **Mean Green**, **Centre Place**, **UNT Discovery Park**, **Bernard Street**, **Colorado Express**, and **Sam Bass** routes all have summer schedules. The **North Texan** route has a summer schedule but the route has changed effective 5/14/12. **Eagle Point** and the **Campus Cruiser** do not have summer service. Be sure and check the [website](#) for changes/further information.

General Access Labs

- [WILLIS](#): (normal schedule is 24hr/7 days a week):



Maintaining normal schedule through the summer except as follows:

May 14 - 17: 7:30 a.m. - 7:50 p.m.

May 18: 7:30 a.m. - 5:50 p.m.

May 19: 9 a.m. - 5:50 p.m.

May 20: 1 p.m. - 8:50 p.m.

May 21 - 24: 7:30 a.m. - 7:50 p.m.

May 25: 7:30 a.m. - 5:50 p.m.
May 26-28: **Closed**
May 29 - 31: 7:30 a.m. - 7:50 p.m.
June 1: **Closed**
June 2: 9 a.m. - 5:50 p.m. May 21 - 24: 7:30 a.m. - 7:50 p.m.
June 3: Open at 1 p.m. and return to 24hr schedule

- [College of Information General Access Computer Lab \(CI-GACLab\)](#) (B205):

Monday-Friday: 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.
Saturday: **Closed**
Sunday: **Closed**

- [MUSIC](#):

3W1

Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday: **Closed**
Sunday: **Closed**

5W1 & 5W2:

Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: 1 p.m. - 8 p.m.

- [PACS Computing Center](#) (College of Public Affairs and Community Service, Chilton Hall):

May 14 - August 10, 2012 [**Closed** Monday, May 28 (Memorial Day) and Wednesday, July 4 (Independence Day)]:

Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Friday - Saturday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: Noon - 10 p.m.

- [CVAD](#):

3W1

Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday - Sunday: Noon - 5 p.m.

5W1 & 5W2:

Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday: Noon - 5 p.m.
Sunday: Noon - 8 p.m.

Summer Closings:

May 31 @ 5 p.m. - June 4 @ 8 a.m.
July 4
July 6 @ 5 p.m. - July 9 @ 8 a.m.
August 9 @ 5 p.m. - August 29 @ 7:30 a.m.

- [COE](#): Maintain regular hours throughout the summer except: **Closed** Monday, May 28 (Memorial Day) and Wednesday, July 4 (Independence Day).

- [COB](#) (BLB 190): Maintain regular hours throughout the summer except: **Closed** Monday, May 28 (Memorial Day) and Wednesday, July 4 (Independence Day).

- [CAS](#):

3W1

GAB 330:

Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday: Noon - 8 p.m.
Sunday: Noon - 10 p.m.

Closed: May 28 (Memorial Day), June 2-3 (Semester Break)

GAB 550: **Closed**

Terrill 220: **Closed**

Wooten 120:

Monday – Thursday: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday - Sunday: **Closed**

Closed: May 28 (Memorial Day)

5W1 and 5W2

GAB 330:

Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. – Midnight
Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday: Noon - 8 p.m.
Sunday: Noon – Midnight

Closed: July 4 (Independence Day), August 11-22 (Semester Break)

GAB 550:

Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Closed: July 4 (Independence Day), August 11-22 (Semester Break)

Terrill 220:

Monday – Thursday: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday - Sunday: **Closed**

Closed: July 4 (Independence Day), August 11-22 (Semester Break)

Wooten 120:

Monday – Thursday: 8 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday - Sunday: **Closed**

Closed: July 4 (Independence Day), August 11-22 (Semester Break)

- **Engineering General Access Lab (CENGAL, englab@unt.edu, Discovery Park, B129, 891-6733):**

Monday – Friday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday - Sunday: **Closed**

*According to the [Registrar's Office](#), the terms this year are:

1. **3W1** (3 week 1) May 14 - May 31, 2012
2. **8W1** (8 week 1) May 14 - July 6, 2012
3. **SUM** (summer) May 14 - August 10, 2012
4. **5W1** (5 week 1) June 4 - July 6, 2012
5. **10W** (10 week) June 4 - August 10, 2012

6. 5W2 (5 week 2) July 9 - August 10, 2012

Remember:



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City of Denton Residents, [sign up](#) for the CodeRED Emergency Notification System



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EDUCAUSE Annual Conference

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

Conference registration opens **May 22, 2012** for the annual -- national -- EDUCAUSE conference.



Complete registration details will be made available the day registration opens. General session speakers are:

- **Clay Shirky** -- Writer, consultant, and teacher on the social and economic effects of Internet technologies.
- **Christine Flanagan** -- Director Student Experience Lab, Business Innovation Factory.
- **Elliott Masie** -- CEO The MASIE Center think tank.
- **Diana Oblinger** -- President and CEO EDUCAUSE.
- **Edward Ayers** -- President University of Richmond.

Visit the conference website for more information: <http://www.educause.edu/E2012>



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Blackboard Learn Migration

By [Jane Himmel](#), Associate Director, CLEAR*

The University of North Texas began its transition to a new learning management system platform, Blackboard Learn 9.1, in the fall of 2011. This move represents the first major LMS platform change since 2003 when the campus moved from WebCT Campus Edition to WebCT Vista. All UNT campuses have used the most recent version of Blackboard (formerly WebCT) Vista 8 since 2007.

The UNT System's Distributed Learning Support (DLS) unit and UNT's Center for Learning Enhancement, Assessment, and Redesign (CLEAR) are coordinating the move to Learn 9.1 (<http://learn.unt.edu>). During the spring, 2011, DLS installed hardware, configured, and tested the system while CLEAR developed training. Over the summer CLEAR prepared a small group of faculty to pilot courses on the new platform during the Fall 2012 semester.

It is anticipated that approximately 2,500 course sites currently on Blackboard Vista will need to be migrated to Blackboard Learn 9.1. Using a phased transition approach, the units will support both Vista and Learn simultaneously until the end of Fall 2012 when Vista will no longer be a production system.

While the move to Learn 9.1 is necessary because Blackboard, Inc. will soon end support of Blackboard Vista, the move is also desired due to technological advances that have occurred since Vista was designed, which make it somewhat obsolete. Instructors and students are sure to be pleased with the new tools available to them in Learn 9.1, which were designed with an eye to improving both educator efficiency and student collaboration. Additionally, Blackboard Learn 9.1 has been awarded with Nonvisual Accessibility Gold Certification by the National Federation of the Blind (NFB), making it the first and only learning management system to achieve certification.

Top 10 Reasons You Will Love Blackboard Learn 9.1!

1. **BB Mobile availability** - access course content virtually anywhere!
2. **TurnItIn** - assignments can be copied to new sections so you don't have to recreate them every semester
3. **GradeCenter** - calculated columns are easier to create and edit without long cumbersome formulas
4. **Smart Views** - allow you to quickly find data matched on a customized set of criteria
5. **Early Warning System** - helps recognize when there is a performance problem based on a test score, calculated column, missed due dates, or course access.
6. **Course entry page** - can be changed to different content areas or a course tool
7. **Built in Wiki** - tool for group sharing and collaborating
8. **Performance dashboard** - provides user information about progress and activity in the course

Full Grade Center

Full Column Manage Reports Filter Discover Content Work Offline

Sort Columns By: Layout Position Order: Ascending Hide Color Coding

10 Points Possible 100 | Displayed As Score | Visible to Users: Yes Last Saved June 1, 2011 10:53 AM

App. Test	Human Score	Grade	Human Score
88.00%	100.00	...	88.00
92.00%	100.00	...	92.00
100.00%	100.00
100.00%	100.00	...	100.00
97.00%	96.00	...	97.00
100.00%	100.00
68.00%	67.00	...	68.00
100.00%	100.00	...	100.00
100.00%	95.00	...	100.00
100.00%	42.00	...	100.00
...	100.00

User Checklists
Columns Not Visible to Users
Completed
Needs Grading
Dismiss
Assign to Progress
External Grade
Grade Exempted for this User
Error
Not Participating

Learn Legend

9. **Course tasks** - organize projects or activities for users

10. **Media** - audio, video, YouTube, and flash is easily embedded into course content pages

Those providing support to end users on Blackboard Learn 9.1 will be also pleased that there are fewer and less stringent requirements for Java, OS, and browser versions than for Blackboard Vista. (A complete list of supported browsers and operating systems for the latest release can be found here: <http://bit.ly/upENgL>.)

Migration Schedule

The plan to move to Blackboard 9.1 was first announced to current Blackboard Vista faculty users early in the fall semester. Instructors were invited to request migration for spring, summer, or fall 2012. The deadline to migrate a course to be delivered in spring 2012 has passed, but instructors planning to teach on Learn in summer or fall are encouraged to request a migration soon. **All courses must be migrated by the spring 2013 semester. Vista cannot be used for course delivery after fall 2012.**

To request the migration of a Vista course, please fill out the [migration request form](#).

Semester on Learn	Request Deadline
Summer 2012	April 14, 2012
Fall 2012	August 1, 2012
Spring 2013*	November 27, 2012

Training

Although the new system offers features and tools that users will like, it does represent a significant change in terms of its interface, navigation, and functionality. Users, particularly instructors and course designers, will face a learning curve. It is strongly recommended that faculty moving to Blackboard Learn start early and take advantage of the many workshop opportunities offered by CLEAR when planning their move to Blackboard Learn 9.1. During the spring semester CLEAR expanded its training offerings from conducting only face-to-face workshops to delivering facilitated online training courses assisting faculty with mastering Blackboard Learn. Also, [Blackboard's On Demand Learning Center](http://ondemand.blackboard.com) (<http://ondemand.blackboard.com>) provides short, self-paced videos for instructors who wish to learn more about a particular tool. Additionally, instructors may be interested in exploring highlights of some of the top features and workflows of Blackboard Learn at [Blackboard's Feature Showcase](#). Finally, click on the box below and check out the UNT Blackboard Learn Boot Camp starting May 25:



“Pardon Our Construction”

Because both Blackboard Vista and Blackboard Learn will be used for delivering courses over the next seven months, it is vital that the transition be as transparent as possible for students. Based on fall 2011 data, 36,730 students were enrolled in classes that used Blackboard Vista for online, blended, or web-enhanced courses. Course sections will continue to be created in Blackboard Vista through the migration project. Students enrolled in courses that are delivered in Blackboard Learn will find a link on their Vista course site that opens their section in Learn. A Blackboard-developed tutorial on the new platform as well as help from the [On-Demand Learning Center](#) will help students learn

how to submit assignments and use the various tools in Learn 9.1.

Basic information and the timeline for the Learn 9.1 migration can be found on the [Bb Learn Upgrade](#) tab at <http://ecampus.unt.edu>. For questions about UNT's move to Blackboard Learn 9.1, please email the CLEAR Faculty Helpdesk at clearhelp@unt.edu.

**This is a slightly edited version of an [article](#) that appeared in the December, 2011 issue of Benchmarks Online -- Ed.*



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Network Connection

By [Dr. Philip Baczewski](#), Senior Director of Academic Computing and User Services and Deputy Chief Information Officer for University Information Technology

All Your File are Belong to Us*

This month, the latest thing on the Internet is cloud storage. Perhaps you haven't needed to store your cloud, or perhaps you don't even own one, however, that's not what we're talking about here. Cloud storage refers to Internet services that allow you to store your files and information on remote sites managed by some third party, usually a commercial interest of some kind. Cloud storage services are not new. In Internet terms, you might say they are even mature, since they've been around for over a year or more. But, with the [recent announcement](#) of Google's entry into cloud storage, named [Google Drive](#), the cloud storage market became much more visible.

On the face of it, Internet cloud storage seems like an ideal service. These companies are providing 2-5 gigabytes of storage for you to use and it's at no charge to you. They'll make a bit of money if you decide to "upgrade" to a larger amount of storage space, but you'll get the benefit of having all of your files available to you wherever you happen to be and from whatever Internet-connected device you are using. You can also easily share files with others on the Internet, some of which might be too large to send by e-mail.

What could go wrong?

We recently had a very real example of what can go wrong when in January 2012, the U.S. Government [shut down](#) a cloud storage service known as [Megaupload](#). The rationale for shutting down the site was the accusation that it was being used to host "pirated" copyrighted materials such as movies and music. If you were a Megaupload user and didn't have other copies of your files, you are out of luck. Reports indicated that all content could be [deleted](#) leaving users without copies of their personal online intellectual property. It seems that cloud storage can be as ephemeral as clouds in the sky. You can't be sure when they'll be blown away.

Even if you are not under peril from the U.S. Government, there are other concerns regarding cloud storage. Dropbox.com is one of the more successful services, but has had [questions raised](#) about its security standards and practices. Dropbox.com has also [documented](#) that their service is not FERPA or HIPAA compliant. While neither of these issues may be grounds to totally dismiss their storage service as useful, it does bring home the point that care should be taken as to what you store in the cloud versus what needs to stay in house -- that's either your personal house or your employer's.

A very old rule of e-mail that this column has [documented](#) is "assume permanence and ubiquity." Permanence comes from the fact that most of what we do in the online world is backed up or replicated at some point. Even if you think an e-mail is long gone, it may remain on some backup tape somewhere or in some archive. In the case of Google, they save everything and [claim the right](#) to use it even if you terminate your use of their service. Ubiquity comes from the fact that once you let something loose on the Internet, you potentially lose all control over that resource. All it takes is one rogue copy to be captured and the whole world can know your business. In the new world of cloud storage, the permanence and ubiquity role again comes into play.

However ...

In spite of the potential pitfalls, cloud storages services remain really useful and convenient. Some common sense can help you take advantage of such services without placing your personal intellectual property in peril. Never use cloud storage for personal or private information, either your own or information at your place of business. Never use cloud storage for proprietary information that you don't want others to have. Never use cloud storage for information for which you don't have explicit ownership.

In the future, there may be standards that develop to help assure the privacy and integrity of files store in the cloud. Internet 2, the higher education research network, and Box.com have [announced a partnership](#) to promote and develop cloud storage for educational institutions, including developing methods for ensuring security and privacy along with easy access. In the

meantime, it's best to tread carefully when walking in the cloud.

* <http://knowyourmeme.com/memes/all-your-base-are-belong-to-us>



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Research and Statistical Support

Research and Statistical Support (RSS)

The mission of the Research and Statistical Support (RSS), a division of University Information Technology (UIT), is "to facilitate access to current research tools and statistical methodologies and to promote these methods to the research, instructional, and administrative communities at UNT; to encourage a collaborative research environment for researchers through the development and use of innovative computing technologies; to provide training and consultation in the appropriate use of statistical methodologies and computer software; and to facilitate access to data collection and data management technologies."

RSS publishes a monthly column in *Benchmarks Online*. The [current column](#) is "Using RStudio and RStudio Server with R." For more information including online statistical courses in R, SAS and SPSS, visit the Research and Statistical Support website:

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



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Helpdesk FYI

By [Jonathan "Mac" Edwards](#), UIT Helpdesk Manager

SkyDrive is Changing

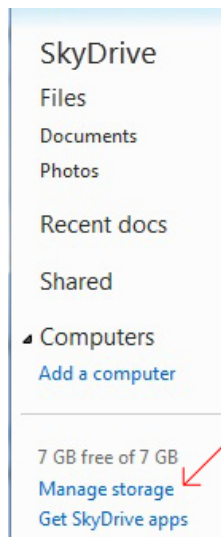
SkyDrive is the free online storage offered to UNT Students, Alumni, and Retirees. On April 22, 2012 Microsoft Live announced that SkyDrive accounts will now have 7gb worth of storage instead of 25GB. Fortunately, those who had accessed their SkyDrive account by April 22 can claim a Free Upgrade for 25GB worth of storage. Those who were already using 4GB or more of storage in SkyDrive will automatically be upgraded to 25GB.

Overview:

- Anyone who had logged into their SkyDrive account on or before April 22nd will now have 7GB of space, but can upgrade to 25GB for free.
- Anyone who had logged into their SkyDrive account on or before April 22nd, and was using at least 4GB of storage, was automatically upgraded to 25GB for free.
- Anyone who's SkyDrive account is created after April 22nd will have 7GB of space and will have to pay for any storage upgrade.
- Anyone who had not accessed their SkyDrive account before April 22nd will have 7GB of space and will have to pay for any storage upgrade.
- At this time we have no ETA on when Microsoft will remove the free upgrade option. We encourage you to upgrade ASAP, if available.
- If you do not see the "Free upgrade!" option, unfortunately, your account is not eligible for the 25GB upgrade.

How do I upgrade?

- Go to the EagleConnect Website: eagleconnect.unt.edu.
- Click on the **Sign into SkyDrive** icon.
- Find the "Manage storage" option under the SkyDrive Menu.
- Click on **Manage storage**



- You will be taken to a page that offers several upgrade options. The first option should be **SkyDrive Free**.
- Click on the **Free Upgrade** option.



- After accepting your Upgrade you should be given a confirmation message, click CLOSE.
- If you do not see the Free upgrade! option unfortunately your account is not eligible for the 25GB upgrade.

Next month the Helpdesk FYI will cover some new features from SKYDrive and new ways to access your storage.

=====

Editor's Note: The changes in the SkyDrive storage is the only change that has been made to EagleConnect accounts. **No other changes to EagleConnect accounts have been made and once students receive their EagleConnect account they may keep it forever, even upon graduation.**





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RSS Matters

Research and Statistical Support University of North Texas

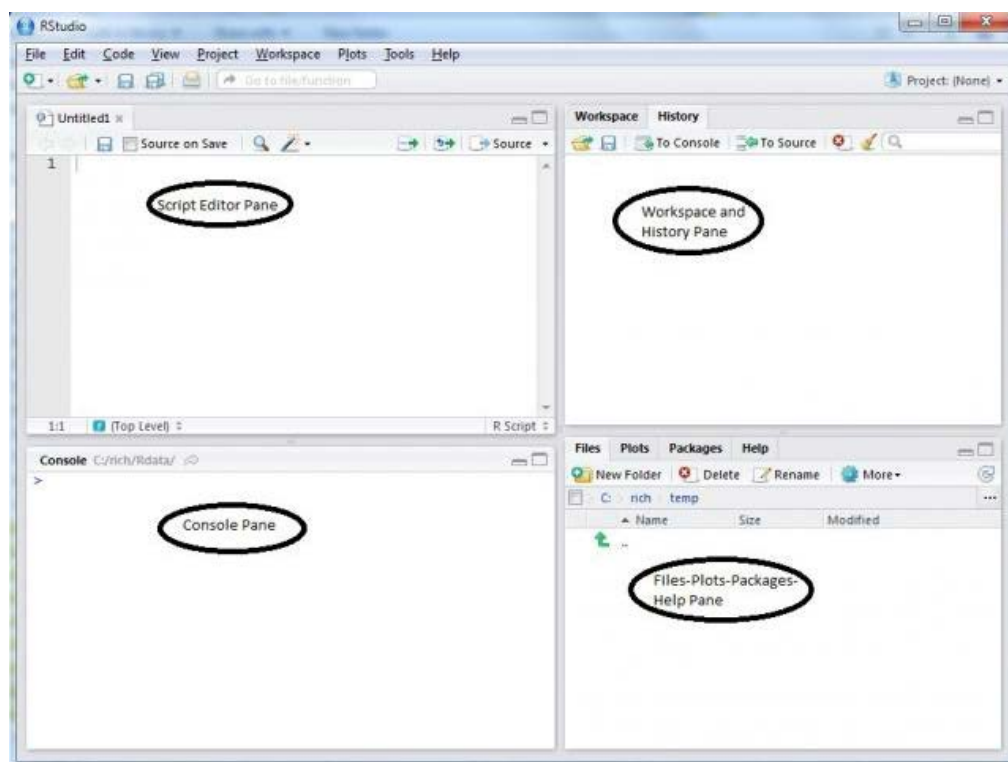
Using RStudio and RStudio Server with R

Link to the last RSS article here: [Simulation as an important method for learning and a necessary step of good research practice.](#) -- Ed.

By **Dr. Rich Herrington**, Research and Statistical Support Consultant

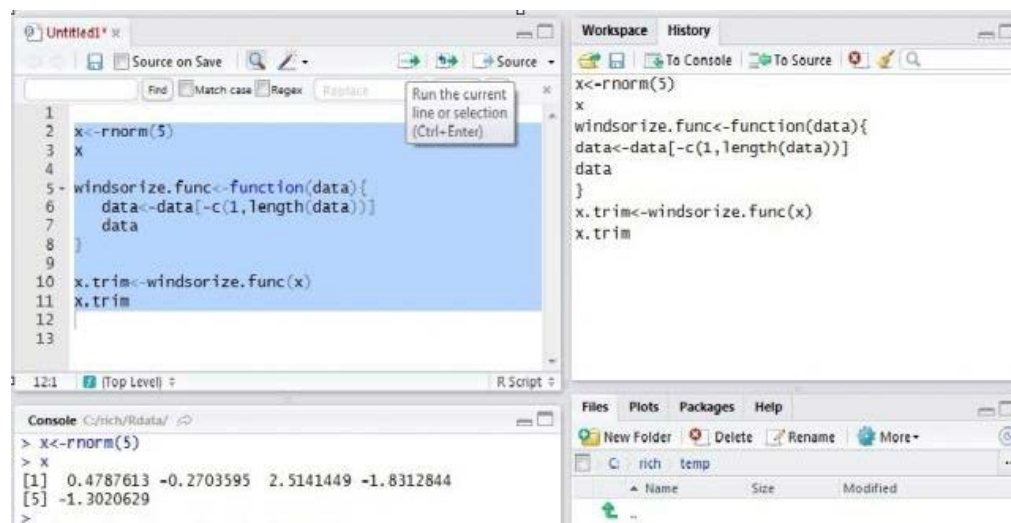
This month we look at an open-source [integrated development environment \(IDE\)](#) for R: RStudio and the accompanying RStudio Server - the URL for the project is located at <http://www.rstudio.org>.

The layout of RStudio is consistent across the stand-alone version and server version of the IDE:



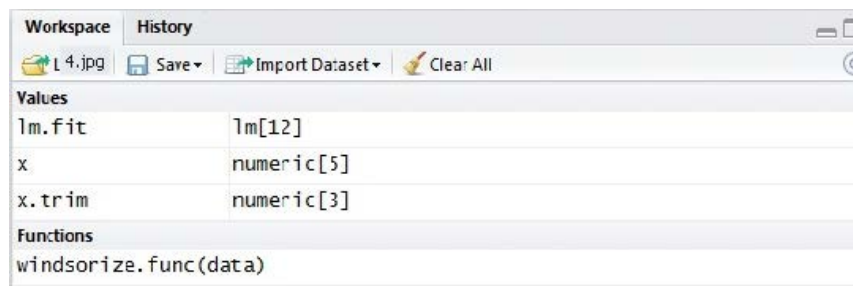
There are four regions of interest in RStudio: File Editor pane; Workspace-History pane; Console pane and the Files-

Plots-Packages-Help pane. The File Editor pane allows scripts to be entered and saved, and allows the whole script or highlighted portions of the script to be run with output displaying in the Console pane:

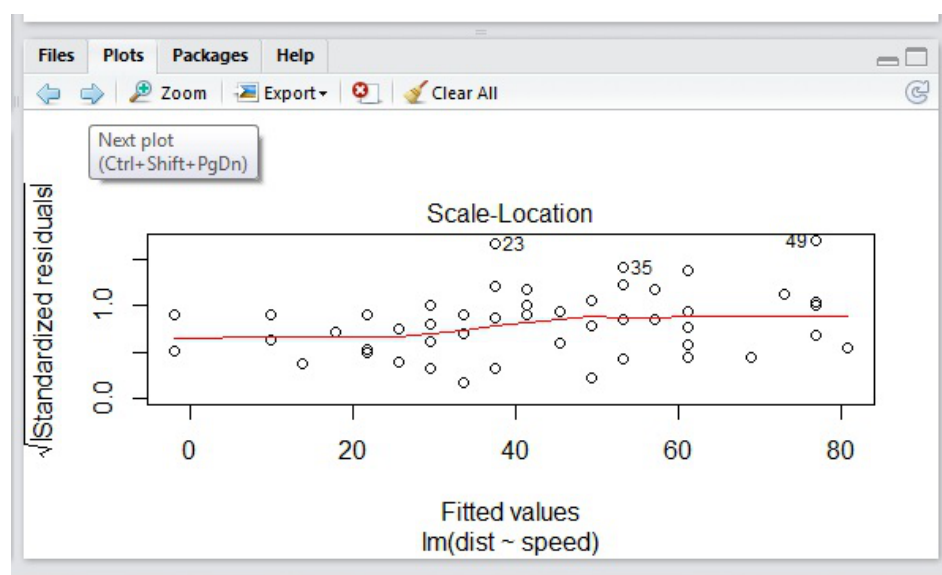


Additionally, the History pane displays past commands that have been run either as a script or in the Console pane.

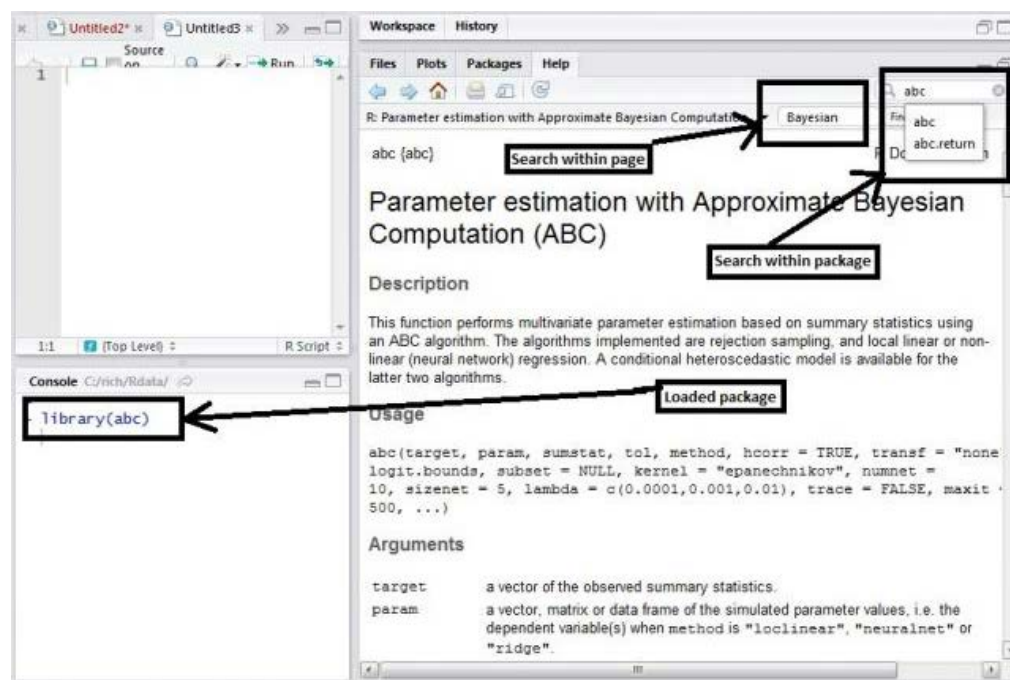
The Workspace pane keeps track of objects as they are created and gives descriptions of the objects (e.g. numeric, character, function, data.frame, etc):



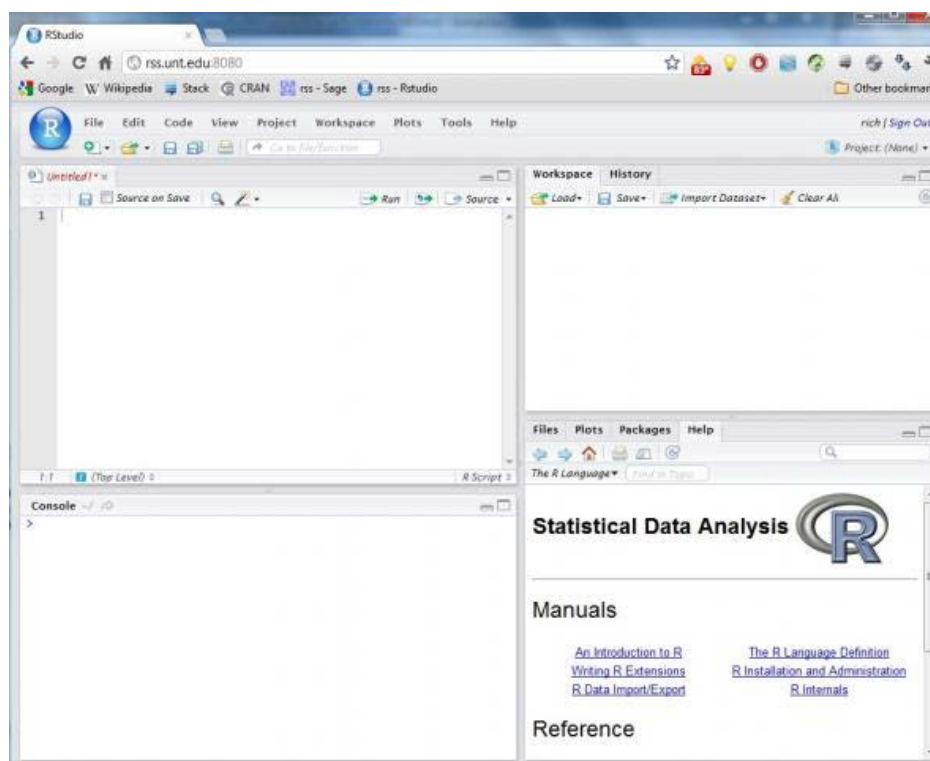
Plots are displayed and are accumulated in the Plot pane; previous plots can be viewed by using the "back" and "forward" arrows or by using the short-cut key combination `Ctrl+Shift+PgDn`:



RStudio has the R-help system built into the Help pane with global (within a loaded package) and local searches (within a help page) being available:



The RStudio server version has the same interface as the stand-alone version, but is accessible through a web-browser on a specified port (e.g. port 80, 8080 or some other web-related port). The server version of RStudio allows the state of the R session to remain suspended upon logout. Logging back enables the user to continue where he/she left off prior to logout:



RStudio run as a server, makes working with and sharing data and R scripts, across multiple platforms and multiple machines, very convenient. Directions for downloading and installing the RStudio Server version can be found at: http://www.rstudio.org/docs/server/getting_started.

References

- RStudio - <http://www.rstudio.org/>

- RStudio Documentation - <http://www.rstudio.org/docs/>



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ITC News

According to the Information Technology Council (ITC) [website](#), "As of June 5th, 2008, the IRC (Information Resources Council) became the ITC (Information Technology Council)." * * *

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

Members Present: Philip Baczewski (ACUS), Michael Baggett (CVAD), Jim Byford (CENG), Cengiz Capan (COB), Tim Christian (Chair), Dorothy Flores (CITC AIS), Katy Gallahan (ITSS/UNTD), Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner (ITC SCG), John Hooper (CIO), Bruce Hunter (CAS), Rebecca Thringin for Troy Johnson (VPAA Enrollment), William "Bill" Moen (VPAA), Ramu Muthiah (ITC CPG), Patrick Pluscht, (VPAA CLEAR), Charlotte Russell (ITC SPPG), Will Senn (VPAA), Chris Stoermer (Staff Council), Ruthanne Thomas (ORED) **Members Absent:** Joe Adamo (CITC), Will Clark (UNT Dallas), Matt Cooper (GSC), Jim Curry (CITC CSS), Renee Drabier (UNT HSC), Yunfei Du (COI), Martin Halbert (Libraries), Jane Himmel (ITC IPG), Paul Hons (COE), Abraham John (CITC), Scott Krejci (GALMAC), Jon Nelson (MUSIC), Joey Saxon (Finance), Scott Warren (Faculty Senate), Kiseol Yang (SMHM) **Guest(s) Present:** Michael DiPaolo (ITSS), Scott Jackson (LIB), Rich Anderson (ITSS), Rachel Purlage (ITSS), Patty Palumbo (AAHRS)

Called to Order: 2:00 p.m. in BLB 115

The minutes of [December 20th, 2011](#) meeting were approved without correction.

IT Governance

Tim started the meeting discussing Agenda Item 1 from Old Business.

Michael (DiPaolo) presented an [IT Governance Council \(ITGC\) decision chart](#), which is to be voted on at the next Governance Council meeting in mid-March. He noted (in reference to the decision chart) proposals should take weeks, not months, for resolutions depending on how they are allocated and the timing of the meetings of the decision makers. Michael then discussed net effect of the resource allocation which are, operations and maintenance (to keep things alive and well), allocation of student systems tend to have things that are specific to a campus, and finance (which are used by everyone) are shared allocations. Michael stated the five IT Program Management Committees' (ITPMC) has been created and appointed by Dr. Burggren, have a general charter they will follow for allocating resources and authorizing projects given to them by the Governance Council, their meetings will be monthly after the March Governance Council meetings, and for anyone to make it known if they have interest to be on one of the committees.

Tim stated April's meeting would be the best time to discuss how ITC will interact with these committees. Michael reinforced that things that are unique to our campus are decided by ITC, and there is not any reason for them to be pushed up to the SS at all. Cengiz had concerns the tiers would slow technology decision-making down while IT progresses at an increasingly fast pace and we need to work more pro-actively. Ruthanne and another member felt there would be a problem with stagnation with having the same people overlapping on the tier committees, and that a large population of people feel disconnected with what is going on in computing in general with all these committees, and it was suggested to have the appropriate faculty on some of the service sub-committees. Tim stated he was concerned with lack attendance of faculty representative, and Philip should meet with the Faculty Senate Representatives, it was agreed that meeting with the Chairs Council to address faculty expectations was more appropriate.

John said he needs help with determining what kind of service committees would be needed below the PMC.

Tim stated ITC will review its current charge, perhaps develop a new charge that will improve the campus's agility and interaction with ITSS governance, and noted the group is happy with what has been accomplished so far, and looking to do more.

A Model for Data Governance

Will presented [A Model for Data Governance](#) and the informational [DGI Framework](#) powerpoint to the members, and asked for them to determine if there was a need on campus for this type of program for exercising decision-making of data-related issues. He stated there is a definite problem with the quality of internal processing of ensuring the overall quality of data which should be addressed, and a solution should be proposed. Cengiz suggested to visit other universities that have a quality data governance, determine what kind of data is needed, find the data types, and get down to work creating the dictionary and what type of budget is needed. The following concerns were addressed during the meeting;

- Data definitions need to be broadly sourced throughout the University to enable informed decision-making, and help with reporting integrity and reaching goals.
- Data needs to be in a format available to/for decision-makers on all levels to reduce the side-effect of creating shadow systems.
- Will is to work on the charge to consider framework for federal and State laws for the next ITC meeting.

The following was voted on and approved during the meeting;

- Will to invite Tom Fairchild at the Health Science Center to discuss his process.
- Ruthanne will promote the issue to the Management Excellence Council.

ITC Charge Draft for Data Visualization

Wording was changed in the [ITC Charge Draft for Data Visualization](#) and the members voted upon as amended. A task force led by Matt and consisting of Will, Cengiz, and Bruce were appointed for the following;

- Identify areas of excellence within the UNT system,
- Evaluate the visualization strategy in use at other higher education institutions,
- Present the analysis as recommendations to the ITC Chair for consistent, campus-wide data visualization.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

*For a list of ITC *Regular and Ex-officio Members* click [here](#). *Tim Christian is currently the chair.*

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



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Training

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

Instructor-led courses are offered only by special request. Please contact an [RSS member](#) or [Claudia Lynch](#) if you are interested in taking such a class or wish to have someone offer a class for your students. **SPSS and SAS courses are now offered *online only***. RSS staff will be still be available for consultation on those topics, however. Another class available online is [Introduction to R](#). Make sure and check out the **RSS Matters** article [Statistical Resources](#) in the November 2011 issue of *Benchmarks Online*.

Special classes can always be arranged with the RSS staff. 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 online statistical 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](#) (CLEAR). Additionally, the [Center for Achievement and Lifelong Learning](#) (CALL) offers a variety of courses, usually for a small fee.

EIS training is available and expanding. Please see the article [EIS Training Available Online for New Faculty & Staff](#) in the August, 2011 issue of *Benchmarks Online* for further information.

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 for instructions on accessing this training. If you haven't accessed the training since last year you will need to get a new access code. UNT, UNTHSC and UNTSYSTEM e-mail addresses are now able to access Microsoft E-Learning.

Microsoft Outlook Tutorials and much more

The Enterprise Messaging and Directory Services Group has all sorts of useful information on their [website](#), including tutorials and FAQs. The home page displays a list of their newest tutorials with tutorial topic pages displaying the most accessed pages. You can search the site for whatever you're interested via a Search Box on the left-hand side of the page.

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



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

Faculty meet for lunch once a month during the Fall and Spring sessions in Chilton 245 from Noon-1 p.m for "Brown Bag Seminars". 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](#).

Click on the box below and check out the Blackboard Learn Boot Camp starting May 25:



Ed2go

Ed2go are courses that are offered, for a fee, to UNT faculty, staff and students as well as the general public.

According to the CALL [website](#):

CALL has partnered up to provide online learning on a variety of topics. From standardized test preparation to database programming to training for libraries and their staff, there's a variety of areas from which to choose in online learning.

The online minicourses, provided in conjunction with Ed2go, are standardized 12-lesson modules released over a six week period. (Courses are active for eight weeks to provide some flexibility). Each module features a quiz. Lessons are instructor-led and course participants and instructor communicate through a course discussion board. Lessons can be downloaded and saved. At the end of the course there is a final quiz. A passing grade opens a window that allows students to print out a course completion certificate.

All courses are \$89, and UNT faculty, staff and students may receive a \$10 discount.

For additional information surf over to <http://www.ed2go.com/unt/>

Information Security Awareness

The UNT Information Security team offers 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.

It is a policy requirement that ALL staff take an information security course at least once a year.

Please contact [Allan Anderson](#) in ITSS Information Security if you have any questions, or would like more information about the online training. **Either attending a live class or going through the online training will count towards your training requirement.** You can also request a customized course to be taught for your department.

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 websites 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

UNT has offered Gartner Core Research Services to **all** UNT faculty, students, and staff since 2006. All you need to do to access the subscription is to **log into the UNT Gartner portal page** at <https://gartner.unt.edu/>. Once you have logged in, you can view upcoming webinars: <http://www.gartner.com/webinars/> and listen to Gartner podcasts here: http://www.gartner.com/it/products/podcasting/asset_137461_2616.jsp. For more information about Gartner Research Services, see the article [Gartner Core Research Services Available to the UNT Community](#) in the August, 2011 issue of *Benchmarks Online*.

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.

New Horizons Computer Learning Centers

New Horizons is a DIR vendor, which means that state agencies, like UNT, get special pricing for their services negotiated at the State level (click [here](#) for more information about DIR vendors). [New Horizons](#) offers courses at their own facilities in Dallas and Fort Worth, but will arrange for onsite training as well.

SPECTECHULAR

A TECHNOLOGY EXTRAVAGANZA
2012

June 7, 2012 | 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Back by popular demand, New Horizons Computer Learning Center of Dallas is opening its doors for our 5th annual technology open house, SpecTECHular!

This **free event** will highlight the latest in IT Process Management, Adobe and Microsoft Technologies.

You'll be able to [choose your own learning path](#) by attending educational breakout sessions that are relevant to your specific needs. Also enjoy a complimentary lunch and be eligible to win terrific prizes!

P.S. Sessions will fill up fast so be sure to [register](#) today!



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Staff Activities

Due to [organizational changes](#) with regard the dissolution of CITC into IT Shared Services (ITSS) and University Information Technology (UIT), it has been decided that only staff activities for UIT will continue to be reported in this column. ITSS staff activities will be handled by ITSS Communications.

Transitions

New Employees:

- **Hines Vaughan**, UIT Helpdesk Consultant (part-time).
- **Jackson Hardesty**, UIT Helpdesk Consultant (part-time).
- **Michael Pete**, UIT Helpdesk Consultant (part-time).
- **Justin J Peterson**, CSS Tech, Classroom Support Services (part-time).

Happy Graduation!

Congratulations to our recent graduates:

- **Marlaina Montoya**, Data Management assistant (part-time) graduated with a degree in Applied Behavioral Analysis.
- **Farica Mascarenhas**, UIT Helpdesk Consultant (part-time): BS Computer Engineering. Graduated with Honors, magna cum laude.
- **David Heflin**, UIT Helpdesk Consultant (part-time): BA Communication Design, minor in Music.
- **McCall Clark**, UIT Helpdesk Consultant (part-time): BFA in Studio Arts with a concentration in Watercolor. Graduated with Honors, summa cum laude.



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Scantron Form Ordering and Discounts

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

Departments using Scantron forms for exams and other purposes are in for a bit of a price break until the end of the year. You can save 3% when you order new forms from Scantron.

According to the folks at Scantron, improvements have been made to their business practices so that re-ordering stock forms is now easier, faster, and cheaper. These improvements include:

- Integrated our two online stores into one, new store with a wider selection of forms
- Eliminated handling fees
- Lowered freight charges
- Currently offering a 3% promotion on selected stock forms (limited time only)

To take advantage of the 3% promotional offer, please contact [JoAnn Luksich](#), Data Manager, Academic Computing and User Services.



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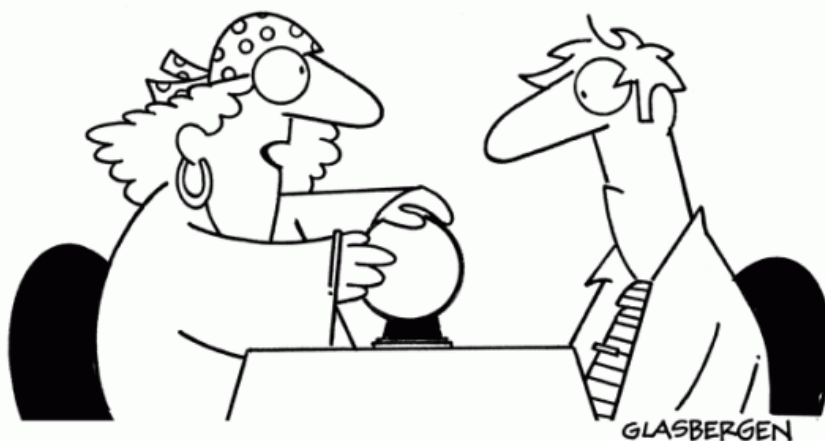
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Today's Cartoon

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"I can't see your future, but I found your bank files, Social Security number and all of your company passwords."

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