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Questions, comments and corrections for this site: lynch@unt.edu

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Campus Computing News

Introduction to EIS via WebCT Vista

By [Mitch Smith](#), EIS Project Trainer

The EIS end-user training program is pleased to announce that our *Introduction to EIS* course is now available to all UNT and HSC faculty and staff via WebCT Vista (special thanks to the Center for Distributed Learning). Now that the first phase of EIS classroom training is largely complete, attention is being focused toward making EIS training materials more broadly available, available on an ongoing basis, and available on demand. The WebCT version of *Introduction to EIS* is an important milestone and marks a turning point in EIS project team efforts to support the UNT System community in its transition to EIS.

As the EIS implementation moves forward, expanding training needs such as the need to offer training to new employees individually, to condition EIS security paradigms upon individuals' having received certain training, or to reach numbers of people that classrooms can't accommodate provide opportunities to take advantage of many of the benefits eLearning solutions like WebCT have to offer.

EIS training staff in the Computing and Information Technology Center are currently working with trainers in the functional areas to adapt more specialized courses for selective delivery via the Web. At the same time, we are also generating infrastructure and formalizing procedures for maintaining training and support documentation to ensure it is kept up to date and for integrating these mechanisms with EIS' own training administration module to ensure that EIS training you receive is accurately reflected in your employee record.

UNT/HSC faculty and staff who haven't attended one of the *Introduction to EIS* classroom sessions, or who are curious about EIS eLearning are invited to sign up for the online version of the course at http://web2.unt.edu/eis/Training/signup_form.php . After signing up you will receive a confirmation email directing you to <http://webctvista.unt.edu> where you will be able to log in under UNT System Training using your EUID and enterprise password and complete the class from any web-connected PC. If you have any questions or comments, please address them to Mitch Smith at msmith@cc.admin.unt.edu .

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Summer Hours

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

Following are the hours for Computing Center-managed facilities for Summer I & II (May 31-August 6) and beyond. All staff offices will maintain their normal hours during this time. Additionally:

- **Print Services** will maintain their normal hours.
- The [Helpdesk](#) will be **open their normal hours**.
- The **ACS General Access Lab** (ISB 110):

May 31 - August 6:

Monday - Thursday: 9 am - 9:45 pm

Friday & Saturday: 9 am - 7 pm

Sunday: 1 pm - 9:45 pm

Special Closings

Sunday July 4: **Closed**

Hours for Other Campus Facilities

General Access Labs

- [WILLIS](#):

May 31 - August 6:

Open 24hrs/day

August 6-8:

August 6 - Close at 5:50 p.m.

August 7 - 9 a.m. to 5:50 p.m.

August 8 - **Closed**

August 9-26:

Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. to 5:50 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: **Closed**

August 27-29:

August 27 - 8 a.m. to 1:50 p.m.

August 28 - 9 a.m. to 5:50 p.m.

August 29 - Open at 1 p.m. and return to 24 Hour Schedule.

- [SLIS](#):

May 31 - August 6:

Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Friday & Saturday: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Sunday: Noon - 10 p.m.

Exceptions/Special Closings

Semester Break, August 7 - 15: **Closed**

Monday, August 16 - Sunday, August 22: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

- [MUSIC:](#)

May 31 - August 6:

Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday: 1 - 10 p.m.

Special Closings

Sunday July 4: **Closed**

Semester Break: August 7 - 29

- [SCS:](#)

May 31 - August 6:

Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Friday & Saturday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday: Noon - 10 p.m.

Special Closings

Semester Break: August 7 - 22

- [SOVA:](#)

May 31 - August 6:

Monday-Thursday: 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday: 1 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Exceptions/Special Closings

Saturday July 3, Sunday July 4: **Closed**

Semester Break: August 7 - 22: **Closed**

- [COE:](#)

May 31 - August 6:

Monday-Thursday: 7 a.m. - Midnight

Friday: 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday: Noon - 8 p.m.

Sunday: **Closed**

- [COBA:](#)

May 31 - August 6:

Monday-Thursday: 8 a.m. - 11:50 p.m.

Friday-Saturday: 8 a.m. - 7:50 p.m.

Sunday: Noon - 11:50 p.m.

Exceptions:

Friday July 2: 8 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday July 3, Sunday July 4: **Closed**

Friday, August 6: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday August 7 - Sunday August 29: **Closed**

- **CAS:**

GAB 330:

May 31 - August 6:

Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. - Midnight

Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday: Noon - 8 p.m.

Sunday: Noon - Midnight

Special Closings

Sunday July 4

Semester Break: August 7 - 22

GAB 550:

May 31 - August 6:

Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday: **Closed**

Sunday: **Closed**

Special Closings

Sunday July 4

Semester Break: August 7 - 22

Terrill 220:

May 31 - August 6:

Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday: **Closed**

Sunday: **Closed**

Special Closings

Semester Break: August 7 - 22

- **Wooten 120:**

May 31 - August 6:

Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday: **Closed**

Sunday: **Closed**

Special Closings

Semester Break: August 7 - 22

- **UNT Dallas Campus- 155A**

May 31 - August 6:

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday: **Closed**

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

May 31 - August 6:

Monday - Thursday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday: **Closed**

Saturday: **Closed**

Sunday: **Closed**

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The CITC Helpdesk and You

By [Sandy Burke](#), CITC Helpdesk Manager

This is a summer of many changes for everyone. [Switching](#) from a legacy system to a new system creates confusion and frustration. No one likes to make changes, but the changes are here so, hopefully, we at the Helpdesk can help make the transition a little easier. We do request, however, that you give us time to research answers, because, as incidents occur, changes are being made to alleviate problems with solutions. So, what we thought was correct yesterday, may be changed today!

How can the Helpdesk be of assistance during this transition?

Contact us with as much information as possible – via E-mail (helpdesk@unt.edu) or phone (940-565-2324).

Be patient.

Sometimes these problems are within an application. We will attempt to guide you to the correct department to assist you. There may be some confusion between departments as to who can best handle the problem. The new system is overlapping between areas that are accustomed to working independently. Each area has workers who may be learning the capabilities of the new, and trying not to confuse it with the legacy system.

Again, please be patient.

Help us answer these questions

We will probably make a Remedy Trouble Ticket to get the problem rectified. This is where it helps to have all the information that could help with a resolution. Some examples of questions we might ask are:

1. What is the exact error message?
2. What were you attempting to do when the error message occurred – what screen were you on, or attempting to access?
3. What Internet Browser are you using and what version of software related to it – Internet Explorer 6.0, Netscape 7.1, etc.?
4. What computer are you using – Mac or Windows or Linux?
5. Do you have a firewall on the PC you are using – either at work, home, or laptop?
6. Is our contact information for you correct? Do we need to update the phone number where you can be reached? Is your E-mail contact information correct? Is there an alternate E-mail address?

It may be a quick fix to get you access again, or it may generate questions with the programmers, who will be working frantically to get the problem resolved. The end result will be a robust new way of interfacing with the University. The legacy system has to go away. The alternative to stay with the old system is not an option. It has earned it's retirement.

We do hope you will allow us to help you through this transition and the growing pains. You do matter to us, and we want to make this experience as pleasant as possible.

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Student Computing Survey Shows High Level of Satisfaction

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

The complete results of the Student Computing Services Survey conducted during Fall 2003 and early Spring 2004 are now posted online at www.unt.edu/cbt/scsurvey/. Answers are clearly posted in easy-to-read charts and all student prose comments are also published. Over 850 confirmed complete responses were received from the UNT Student Body. This was under the 1,000 - student goal desired by the Student Computing Planning Group of the IRC but it is our hope that future surveys will gain even more responses. All survey results have been distributed to the individual computing areas and also to other administration officials within the university.

The Student Computing Services Survey covered the areas of the General Access Labs, Datacom, ResNet and other dorm computing facilities, WebCT, EagleMail and other digital services used by the UNT student community. The good news for all service personnel was that overall the student body seems very positive about computing at UNT. Items receiving particularly high marks included library electronic resources and the new Eaglenet wireless network. Generally, students also indicated a great attitude about their use of ResNet, the Computing Center Helpdesk, their online learning experiences and the General Access Lab facilities.

Areas of Concern

There were areas of concern among students, several of which pointed to issues that may simply be solved by more education and instruction about university computing policies and the reasons for them. The issue of highest concern seemed to be confusion and discontent about printing in the General Access Labs.

Printing issues

The University of North Texas is the only major state institution to offer free printing to its student body (well, 'free' as in not charging an additional price over the technology fee already paid by students in their tuition bill). With this extra service comes responsibilities on both the side of the student body, the labs, and the UNT educational community.

Currently the General Access Lab policies, published at www.gal.unt.edu/PnP/ clearly state, "Only work which falls under the university guidelines for meeting the degree requirements for all courses taken may be printed in General Access

Computer Labs. Students will be allowed to make one printout per document. " The policy further explains,

- Printing will be provided ONLY to UNT students as it relates to their course work.
- Internet printing counts only as course work if the Lab Manager is made aware of the nature of the course from which the print job has been assigned.
- Students are responsible for knowing how many pages an Internet document contains BEFORE the print job is executed.
- Students are not allowed to make flyers or signs unless they are directly related to UNT course work. Proof is required.
- A user is not allowed to make more than 20 pages of laser print per print job.
- Printing should be limited to draft quality for document revisions.
- Multiple copies of the same print job are not allowed. Print jobs are considered the same if most of the original printed page is intact.
- Large print jobs (i.e. thesis or dissertation) must be cleared with the Lab Manager and must be limited to one final copy.
- Lab Managers will document printing policy abusers and share that information with other Lab Managers.
- Large print jobs should be printed during off-peak hours, evenings, or weekends.
- Users are encouraged to use double-sided printing when available and appropriate.
- Lab Managers have the authority to restrict printing and/or lab access from any user who abuses printing policies.
- Lab Managers have the authority to grant special printing requests

These printing issues have become particularly sensitive as more instructors are putting their notes and other materials online. Often these materials have not been optimized for printing and consist of poorly formatted PDFs which translate into 20+MB documents that clog printer memory and slow down printing for everyone in the lab; PowerPoint presentations which contain dark backgrounds (uses up toner) and large graphics that have been poorly reduced for digital production; and online notes in large fonts and with many illustrations.

The Student Computing Planning Group is especially concerned about these printer issues and will be working with instructors, the lab managers and students to help mediate these items. The lab managers have already revised and revisited the policies posted on their Website and provided a much more detailed accounting of printer policies. They continue to educate their employees on these issues so that the policies are adhered to across the lab system. Additionally, the lab managers regularly (about every 18 months) visit the issue of charging for printing. So far printing services have not demanded the students be charged for them; the cost of actually metering student printing and accounting for extra monies paid is MUCH MORE than our current system costs. However, in many ways, printing at UNT is an honor system and a privilege and should not be abused. Other strategies to be adopted by members of the Student Computing Planning Group to help with this problem include the education of instructors on how to properly prepare materials for digital distribution to students eliminating many of the issues with oversized PDFs and unwieldy PowerPoint presentations.

General Access Lab hours and facilities

Students also expressed concern with General Access Lab hours and facility numbers. Interestingly, many students think that there are only one or two General Access Labs! There are actually 14 labs. Students are strongly encouraged to look at the lab maps (available in all of the labs) and the lab Website to check out other locations. Window stickers indicating the presence of labs in a building are also under consideration. To see what labs are busy and what their machine offerings are, students should see checkinstats.acs.unt.edu where current lab occupancy is shown and a complete layout of each lab is given. In regards to hours, the lab managers are hopeful that with the shuffling of departments on the main campus and the research park and the many new building projects commencing on campus, that additional late- and 24- hour facilities may be available in the future.

EagleMail

Students had mixed reactions to EagleMail. Interestingly, the biggest complaint was about the official message folder that keeps blinking until one reads the official university messages! But one is SUPPOSED to read the official university messages, so we guess that the blinking works! Everyone is reminded that EagleMail is the official communication device between the university administration and the students. Students can easily forward their EagleMail, however, to their favorite email account if they are more used to a provider like AOL or Yahoo. To forward EagleMail and perform other digital changes, students should go to [the Account Management System Homepage](#) for links to these tasks. Students seemed to like the EagleMail interface, however, and find it a reliable resource.

ResNet

ResNet received generally high marks with the largest complaint being the 'throttling' of ResNet bandwidth during peak business hours. It has been found that this control must be activated, however, in order allow university employees to do their work. The Ethernet bandwidth enjoyed in the dorms still far exceeds services provided by commercial entities via phone modem, DSL or cable modem. Students have been quite pleased with Eaglenet wireless and many indicated that they would take advantage of this service in the future. Several others, however, did express frustration with the shutting down of the free phone modem access previously provided by the university to off-campus residents.

Conclusion

In general most negative remarks can be answered by more communication from the computing service areas and more education about the public nature of UNT computing services and the rights and responsibilities of all regarding their use. The survey has been very helpful to the different computing areas and all student respondents are thanked for their participation. This survey will be issued regularly in the future and, of course, student feedback is always welcome at anytime. If you have questions or comments regarding the survey, please E-mail [Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner](#) - chair of the Student Computing

Planning Group of the IRC.

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Computer-Based Training Update: New Login Screens and the Addition of KnowledgeNet

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

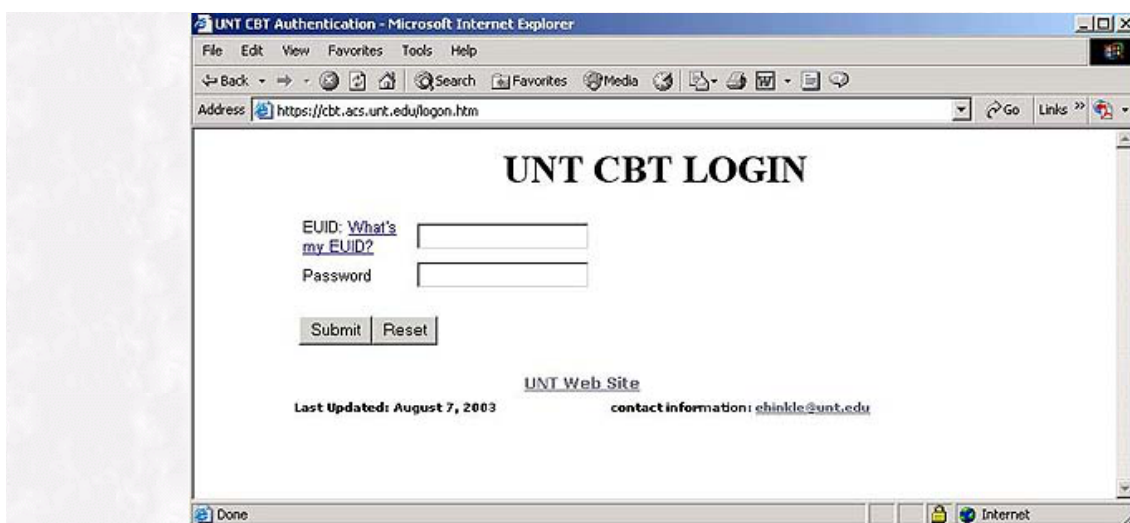
Last month I introduced you to the new computer-based training systems on campus and gave an extensive tutorial on the navigation of the SkillSoft training. This month I am going to go over a few changes we've made to login and also introduce you to KnowledgeNet training.

All eligible user accounts have been pre-loaded into both the SkillPort and KnowledgeNet systems so there is no need for you to apply for an account. We are in the process of making the login to both CBT systems as seamless as possible for you. We have been quite successful with SkillPort but are still working out some of the bugs in KnowledgeNet (more on that later).

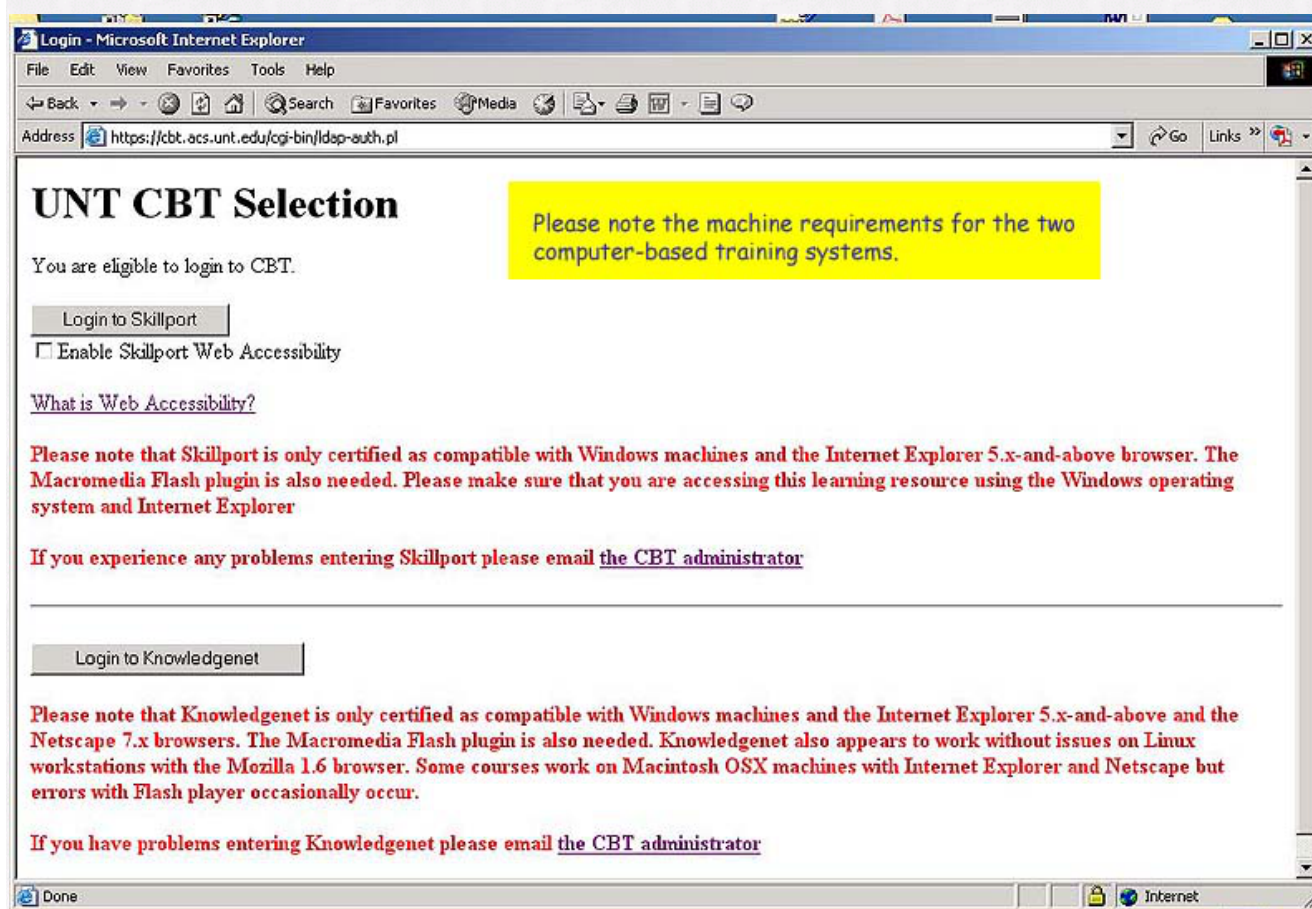
All computer-based training courseware can be accessed by going to <https://cvt.acs.unt.edu>, the new UNT online training server.



There is a slightly new CBT login page (see below) than what was shown last month:



After you are authenticated as an eligible user, you will see this screen:



Please note that on this screen there are extensive instructions as to what operating systems and plugins work with the different training providers. SkillSoft only works on Windows machines with the Internet Explorer browser. It requires the Flash plugin. KnowledgeNet appears to be compatible with Windows, Macintosh, and Linux workstations :-). However, we have noticed in our testing that KnowledgeNet courseware is a real memory hog and it is recommended that you shut down all other applications when using this software. The problem seems to be with a Flash script and I've reported it to KnowledgeNet Tech Support. By the time you read this article, the problem may be fixed.

Please also note that if you have any problems accessing either application, that you should contact me - the CBT administrator at ehinkle@unt.edu. We have preloaded all eligible accounts into our systems but with the many changes that are currently happening to our databases at UNT, your account may have slipped through the cracks. If it HAS, I will manually configure one for you right away.

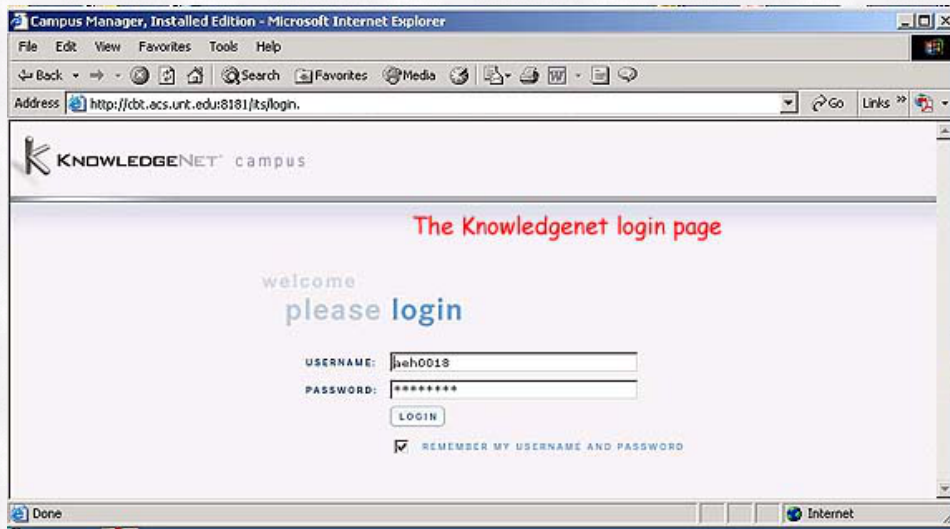
Another thing to note: THE KNOWLEDGENET LOGIN SYSTEM HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETELY CONSTRUCTED YET! If you wish to try out KnowledgeNet after reading this article, PLEASE EMAIL ME AND I WILL GIVE YOU A

TEMPORARY PASSWORD TO USE TO ACCESS THE SYSTEM UNTIL WE HAVE THE FINAL STRUCTURE IN PLACE. Thanks - I'll stop shouting at you now....

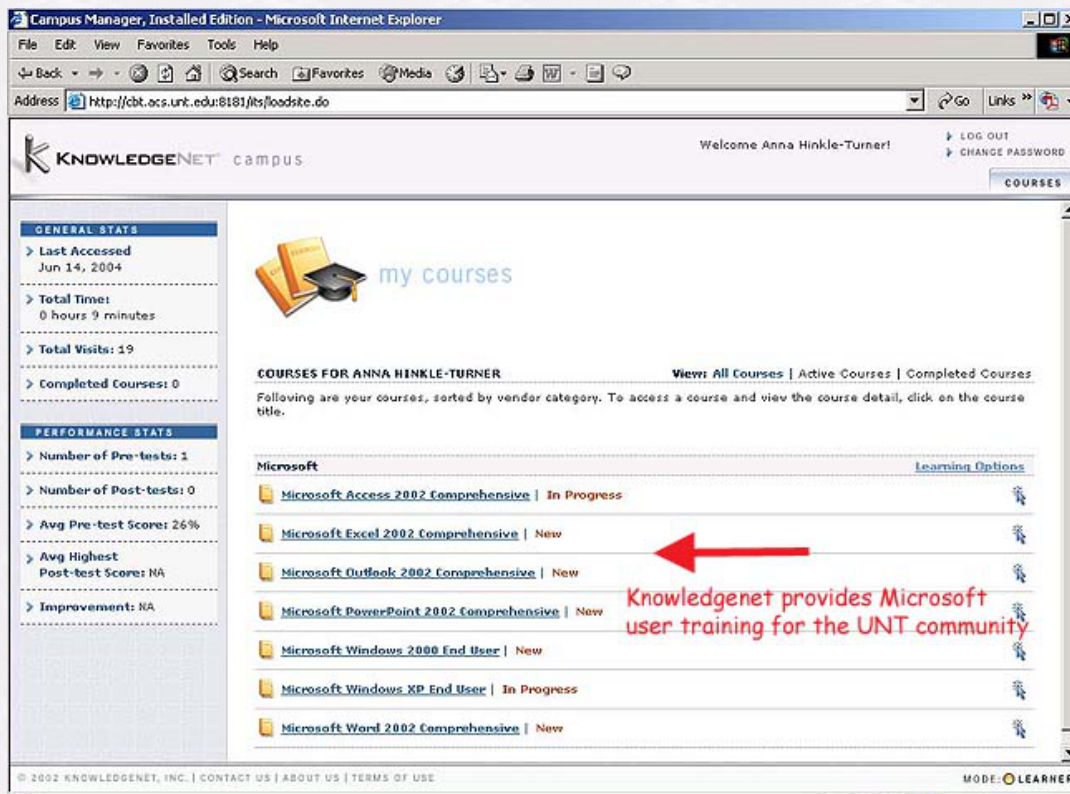
KnowledgeNet - How to access this new Microsoft training

Microsoft training has been available since January to all faculty and staff at UNT. This online training is provided by Microsoft itself and all eligible folks are encouraged to use it. A tutorial on how to get this Microsoft training is featured [here](#). KnowledgeNet also provides even more extensive Microsoft end-user training and is available to all UNT community members including students.

Once you push the KnowledgeNet button on the CBT choice screen you will come to the KnowledgeNet login page. For now, you login using your EUID and the temporary password I will provide for you.



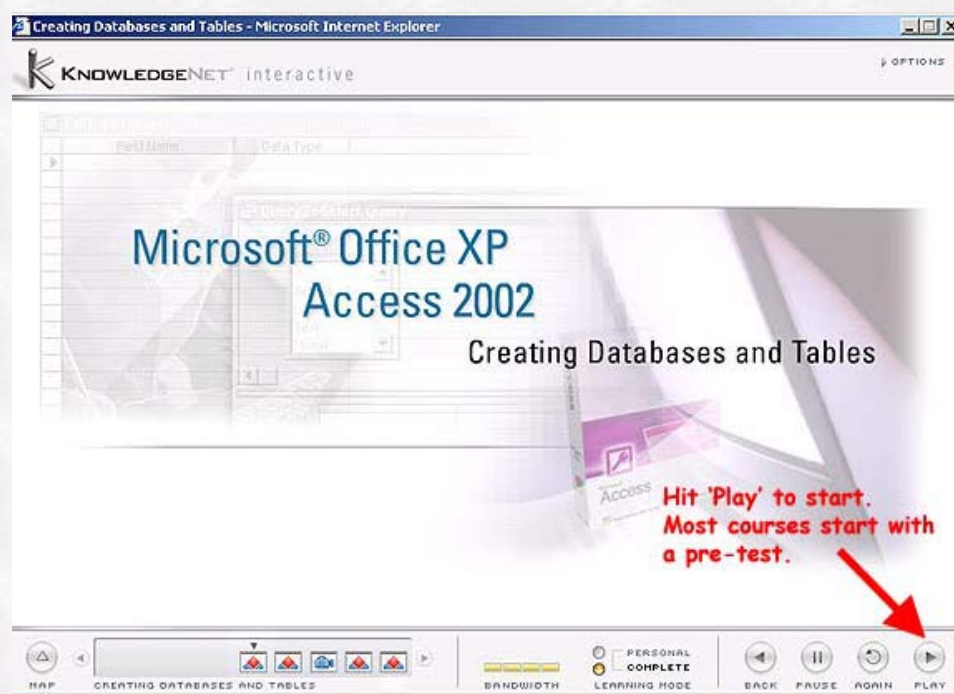
You will then come to a homepage and list of courses. Click on the course you want - you will then see a series of course chapters. Clicking on one of these course chapters launches the courseware:



The course will launch using the Macromedia Flash player - this can take awhile:



Finally you will get the courseware. Be sure to have your sound turned on because there are some speech elements to parts of the courses. The controls of the courses are easy to navigate: they are like the transport controls on a tape player.



A note on ADA issues

As reported last month, SkillsSoft courseware has been tested by the ODA and found to be ADA compatible (screen reader compatible). Just be sure to check the box on the CBT choice page that indicates you need web accessibility. We have not had a chance to test KnowledgeNet for ADA compliance but will be doing so in the next few days. Some elements of KnowledgeNet (the sound) would, of course, not be available for persons with hearing issues. This *Benchmarks Online* tutorial is readable by JAWS. If you have any other questions about CBT at UNT and ADA compliance, please direct them to me at chinkle@unt.edu and I will be happy to help you.

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Student Position Available

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



Job Opening - Academic Computing Services / Adaptive Technology Lab [ISB 110]

Checkin Developer/ Lead Technical Support Manager

The UNT Academic Computer Services/Adaptive Lab has an opening for a Checkin Developer. Read below to see qualifications. We are open to applications from all interested AND qualified students regardless of major or class status (undergrad or grad).

General Duties

General duties for this position include the following:

- A. Assist the student computing services manager in the maintenance of the General Access Lab Checkin system and its general access lab website components. [requires knowledge of Linux administration and security, application programming - specifically Perl, database processing - specifically MySQL] For more information about the Checkin 4 application and its components see: <http://www.unt.edu/cbt/checkin/>.
- B. Assist the student computing services manager in the maintenance of the General Access Lab Checkin servers. [requires knowledge of Linux administration; Debian Linux knowledge especially useful]
- C. Attend meetings as called upon by the Checkin development team.
- D. Attend a job review and assessment interview with the lab manager each semester.

General Qualifications

Candidates for this position must have the following general qualifications:

- A. Good oral and written English language skills.
- B. Ability to work flexible hours, including nights, weekends, and university holidays.
- C. Ability to work on team computing projects with a variety of university-wide computing staff at various skill levels.

Specific Qualifications

Candidates for this position must have demonstrated qualifications in the following technical areas:

- A. Installation and use of the Linux operating system
- B. Linux server security and maintenance
- C. Application programming languages Perl, C, C++, Java, JavaScript
- D. Web development tools: HTML, DreamWeaver, FrontPage

Please also indicate if you are familiar with:

- A. Batch file programming and basic DOS functions
- B. Adaptive technologies
- C. Knowledge of student computing services and their use in the General Access Labs including UNT Student Storage and WebCT
- D. Knowledge of Novell Netware Server and Zenworks Management

Application Procedures, Start Date, Wages and more:

To be considered for this position, persons will interview with the ACS/Adaptive Lab Manager (Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner) and also successfully complete the ACS/Adaptive Lab Consultant Exam.

Start date for this position is **July 5, 2004**.

Starting wage is \$9.00 per hour. Position holder will train in specific aspects of the job (as needed) during a Summer II semester probationary period at this wage. Upon successful completion of the job training (by August 9, 2004) - she/he will receive full status and a raise to \$11.00 per hour.

This position is for UNT students only.

This position is NOT ELIGIBLE FOR AN IN-STATE TUITION WAIVER

Interested applicants should contact Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner in her office (ISB 129 - behind the Computing Center Helpdesk area), via phone (940-565-4808) or by email: ehinkle@unt.edu .

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TODAY'S CARTOON

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"Our anti-spam software deleted your report because the flow chart was shaped sort of like a Nigerian prince."

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Network Connection

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

You can't be too careful

Internet commerce is SO convenient. A few clicks. Some shipping information. Some billing information. Before you know it, you've got a brand new pedometer in your mailbox.

Since the time when the Internet went commercial (about ten years ago) most people would probably say that E-mail and shopping are it's most useful services. Internet commerce has grown up with the network and it is now an integral part of most retail businesses and is the only part of some retail businesses. But with the rise of Internet commerce there has also been a rise in Internet fraud.

A new trend in Internet fraud

A new trend in Internet fraud is a kind of [social engineering](#) called "phishing." Just as calling someone "phat" with correct pronunciation of the "ph" shouldn't get you slapped, phishing will not yield anything you can pan fry.

Phishing takes the form of an urgent E-mail which tells you that there is something wrong with your -- fill-in-the-blank -- account and that unless you update your information right away, your account will be cancelled. Usually you are directed to a web site on which you can provide personal or financial information. Usually, the web site is a phony location, just set up to harvest credit card numbers or other security-sensitive information.

[PayPal](#) online payment service accounts have been one of the most frequent targets of phishing. The E-mail usually says something like, "unless you update your credit card information, your account will be closed." Doing so, however, would most likely result in your credit card being misappropriated. PayPal states on their site, "If we require information from you, we will notify you in an email and request that you enter the information only after you have safely and securely logged in to your PayPal account." In other words, if you need to communicate with PayPal, do so through secure means and via their site only.

The first rule of computer security is to never give out your password . . .

Whenever you are providing credit card or other sensitive information (including, whenever possible, login name and password) to a Website, you should be sure that the information will be sent via an encrypted connection and that the information is being sent to the site where you think it's being sent. Web pages use a technology called SSL to send information from your browser to the web server in an encrypted manner so that only the remote Website can read your information. You can tell a secure site because its URL starts with "https:" and

in most browsers, a lock icon will show up somewhere at the bottom of the browser window. In most cases, clicking on that lock icon will allow you to see what organization issued the security certificate and to what organization it was issued.

Beyond being careful where you Websurf, also use common sense to protect your online information. A recent BBC [article](#) revealed that 70 percent of Britons sampled at random in London would give out their computer login name and password in exchange for a bar of chocolate. How much could someone learn about you by logging in and reading your E-mail or accessing your network files? The first rule of computer security is to never give out your password and that anybody who asks for it is probably not entitled to know it.

One of the older social engineering tricks used by hackers is to phone someone up and pretend to be a technical support specialist fixing the network. The conversation usually gets around to asking you to reveal your password so that they can test the network. If you tell them, you've just compromised the network's and your own information security.

Resources

The Federal Trade Commission offers some [basic advice](#) on how to avoid being hooked by a phishing scam. Another source is an industry group which provides www.antiphishing.org which also provides a [page](#) on how to avoid phishing scams. Both urge you to be suspicious of urgent E-mails which ask you to reveal or update financial information. And -- by the way -- don't send your bank account information to anyone claiming to be a former Nigerian government member.

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Link of the Month

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

Campus Directory

One of the best kept secrets on campus may be the existence of the online Campus Directory. It has been around a long time, unofficially, and was made official in [2003](#). Still, many people are unaware of it. Recently, the directory has been updated internally, and this is "new and improved." Check it out: <http://info.unt.edu>

Search the Directory

*Searches the beginning part of first and last names.
Last name is required.*

First Name:

Last Name:

Maximum results:

Search For:

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IRC News



Minutes provided by Sue Ellen Richey,
Recording Secretary

May 18, 2004

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

Approval of the minutes of the April 20, 2004, meeting was postponed until the June meeting since there was not a quorum present.

IR Steering Committee

Dr. Turner announced that the IR Steering Committee has not met since the last IRC meeting, so there is no report.

Distributed Computing Support Management Team

Maurice Leatherbury reported that the Distributed Computing Support Management Team has met and dealt with two major issues: 1) preparation for an audit of security vulnerability by State Auditors on Monday, May 24; and 2) prior findings by auditors regarding expiration of passwords were discussed and plans were begun to develop password aging rules to force computer users to change their passwords with some regularity.

Communications Planning Group, Standards & Policy Planning Group

There were no reports from the Communications Planning Group, or the Standards & Policy Planning Group.

Student Computing Planning Group

Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner reported for the Student Computing Planning Group that they have created a website with all of the student computing survey results which they will publicize and announce to the campus community next month.

Distributed Learning Team

Patrick Pluscht reported that the Distributed Learning Team has not met since the last IRC meeting, but he announced that Macromedia is presenting a demo of their new product, Breeze, on Thursday, May 20. The demo is being hosted remotely, so contact Patrick if you are interested in participating from Dallas campus, on-line or by phone. Patrick stated that it is taking longer than expected to get Vista 3.0 stable and available for use in converting courses and preparing training for it. They are proceeding with converting the older Campus Edition courses to the Vista platform. They have hired a five-person team to help migrate the courses; they will take a Campus Edition course, go through it and find things that don't work in Vista, modify them and give the course back to the faculty to update.

A vote to merge the IPG with the Distributed Learning Team was postponed to the June meeting due to lack of a quorum.

National LambdaRail

Maurice Leatherbury reported on the progress of LEARN's (Lonestar Education and Research Network) efforts to establish a state-wide fiber optic network. There are 30 members of that group now and they last met last Friday in a telephone conference and decided to formally join the national lambda rail project which will cost \$1 million per year, UNT's share being approximately \$20,000/year. The National LambdaRail will eventually run from San Diego to Seattle, to Chicago, across to the Northeast to Florida, to Baton Rouge, to Houston, to Dallas, El Paso and back to San Diego. A continuing attempt is being made to get funding from the Texas Governor's office. Maurice explained that the membership fee does not fund the building of the network.

EIS Planning Group, other business

Coy Hoggard reported for the EIS Planning Group that EIS has done limited registration with good results. Human Resources is trying to improve the time-keeping process by the use of spreadsheets. They are concerned because the environment is so new, so they are engaging the services of a firm to do some load-testing of the system to determine how it's going to hold up under the strain of full registration in the Fall. Lou Ann Bradley asked how E-Commerce was doing. Coy responded that the Pilot Project is going well and that they expect to have training for all of the campus completed by the end of the summer. Coy further commented that it is the intent to have the whole campus using the E-Commerce system by September first. Lou Ann asked if the account holders are able to see the financial transactions yet? Coy answered that the expenses, such as Travel, are not being reported in real-time yet. Lou Ann expressed some frustration at not having current information available on line yet.

Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner commented that the ID Card Office is being proactive in getting together with everyone who has systems that will be affected by the change in the ID cards. They plan to keep the length of the number the same on the ID cards. Elizabeth said they are making changes in the Check-in system to adapt to the new EIS numbering system. Elizabeth brought up the fact that Term Codes have been changed also and her observation was that classes that are offered by the EIS Project team to educate the campus community about the changes should be announced with very specific information given as to class content so everyone affected by the changes will know they should attend. Lou Ann Bradley suggested that classes be offered that provide basic information about the EIS system that would be useful to everyone no matter what level user they are.

The Chair asked if Dr. Dworak could return to make his report about Records Retention at

the June meeting, since there was not a quorum at this meeting.

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

IRC Meeting Schedule

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

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Research and Statistical Support University of North Texas

RSS Matters

Link to the last RSS article here: [Using R with Excel - A \(D\)COM Server for the Windows Platform \(Part I\)](#) - Ed.

Delivering Results to the End User: Three Stata 8.0 Examples, Part 2

By [Patrick McLeod](#), ACS Research Consultant

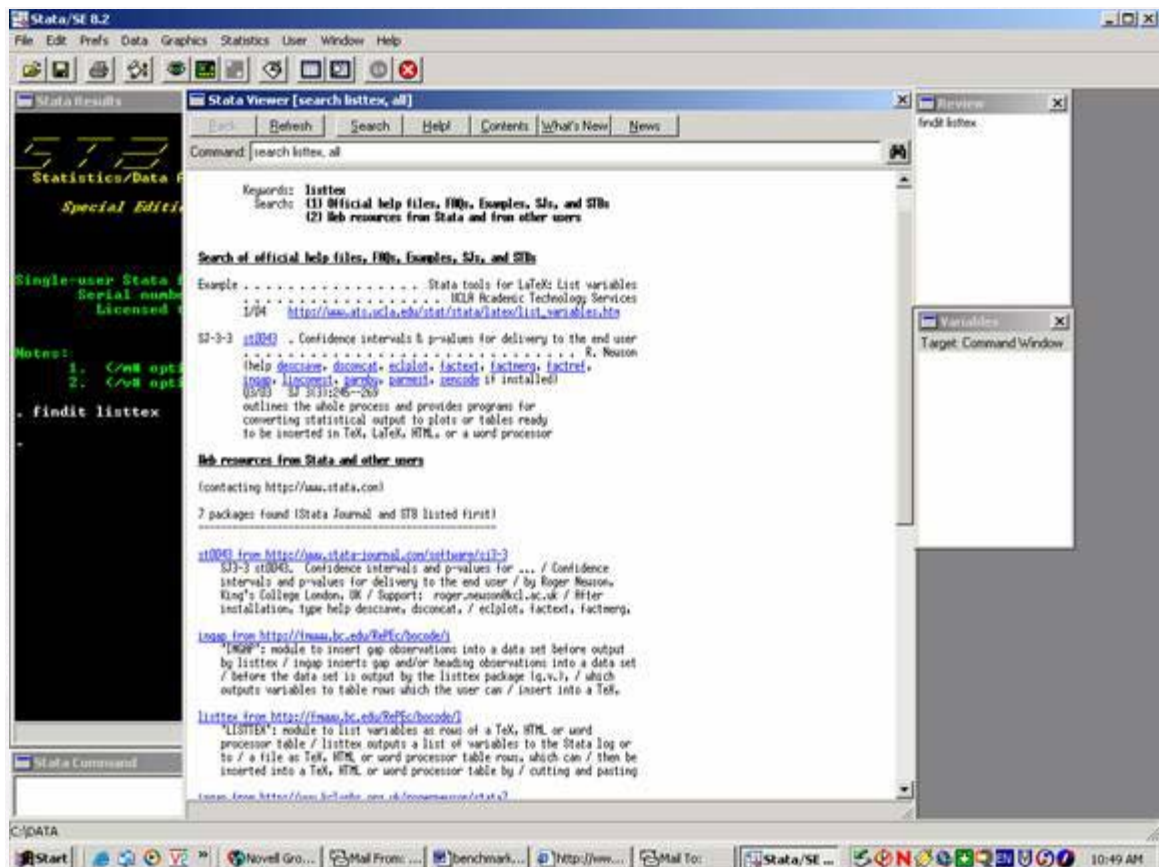
In [Part 1](#) of this article we had a brief introduction to two methods for delivering results to the end user in organized, intelligible form using Stata 8: `-estimates table-` and `-listtex-`. Part 2 will provide code and examples for the user to generate their own example files in Stata 8 and LaTeX using `-latab-`, `-listtex-` and `-outtex-`. It is worth noting for non-LaTeX users of Stata that the `-listtex-` command allows you to produce tables in HTML in addition to LaTeX format.

Before You Begin: Errata

If you are using Stata from a dedicated network connection (i.e. from an office computer at your UNT office or from a computer at home with a DSL, cable, or wireless internet connection), then you will probably need to find at least one of these files. Never fear! Stata has a painless internet search and retrieval function on computers that are connected to the internet (if you are using dialup access, this may take some time). For example, if you need to retrieve and install the `-listtex-` package for this example, you would simply type the following in the Stata Command box:

```
findit listtex
```

This should return a new Stata Viewer window with web-enabled links to different occurrences of the command `listtex` from both Stata's official help files and from the extensive body of Stata's web resources. Here's an example screenshot:



By clicking on any of the blue links (web-enabled links), you can access articles in the Stata Viewer or by clicking on a link to an issue of the Stata Technical Bulletin (links in the format stb00000) or the Stata Journal (links in the format sj00000), you will be given the opportunity to install user-written files with a simple click of your mouse. The third link down under “Web Resources from Stata and other users” is the `-listtex-` link I would recommend. Click on it with your mouse and Stata will do the rest: Installation, verification, and deletion of the extra files. And just like that we’re ready to use `-listtex-`! Go ahead and try a `-findit-` on `-latab-` and `-outtex-` while you are at this stage and install these `.do` files.

The Base `.do` File

Cut and paste the following syntax into your Stata `.do` file editor or into your editor of choice (Emacs, WinEDT, etc.):

```
clear;

#delimit;

log using benchmarks62004.log, replace;

use http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/stata/notes/hsb2;

/* listtex example statement */

listtex read write math science,type rstyle(tabular) head("\begin{tabular}{rrrr}")
```

```

"\textit{Reading}&\textit{Writing}&\textit{Mathematics}&\textit{Science}\\\\")
foot("\end{tabular}");

/* latab example statement */

tabstat math read write, by(ses);

latabstat math read write, by(ses);

/* outtex example statement */

regress write math ses;

outtex, level;

```

This file uses some test score data from UCLA's excellent Academic Technology Services center (<http://www.ats.ucla.edu>) to illustrate three potential ways of displaying information about data, descriptives, and estimation procedures.

Listtex

The `–listtex-` command issued in our example file writes out a list of all the scores for the variables `read`, `write`, `math`, and `science` to the log file in LaTeX format. You can then cut and paste the LaTeX formatted information from your log file into your LaTeX file. In this particular example, we're listing all the values for the variables `read`, `write`, `math`, and `science` in the data set with a title line for the table. For more information on `–listtex-` options, type `–help listtex-` in the Stata Command box.

Latab

The `–latab-` command allows the user to generate summary statistics and present these statistics in a LaTeX formatted table. In the example, `–latabstat-` is called to show score means for `math`, `read`, and `write` by SES categories generated from the initial `–tabstat-` command. This output can be cut-and-pasted from the Stata log file or directly from the Stata Results window into a LaTeX file. For more information on `–latab-` options, type `–help latab-` in the Stata Command box.

Outtex

The `–outtex-` command typesets the results of an estimation command into LaTeX format. The `level` option is specified in the example that adds symbols to the output that represent the coefficients' significance level. Of the three LaTeX results delivery commands discussed here, `–outtex-` has the widest array of options. It is highly recommended that the user investigate the many different options of `–outtex-` before writing what could be a rather long command to typeset estimation results in LaTeX.

Conclusion

Since creating tables in LaTeX can consume an amount of time proportional to the number of rows, columns, and elements of the table, any assistance in typesetting large tables can result in less time spent typesetting and more time spent in interpretation of results. Each of the three commands discussed in this article will allow the user to spend more time on interpretation and writing and less time on presentation thanks to the formatted delivery of results provided by these commands.

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A graphics odyssey.

By [Charity Beck](#), UNT Central Web Support

I created this effect in Fireworks MX 2004. I've always wondered how this effect was achieved, but kept putting off learning how it's done. I just figured it was just typing the text and adding a gradient fill. I found that when I actually tried to create this effect I discovered new functions such as **Converting Text to Paths**, and the **Punch** feature. I use these new [at least new to me] features all the time. Hopefully you will find them as exciting as I did. To follow along the tutorial you will need Macromedia Fireworks.

1. Choose the Text tool by clicking on it in the **Tool panel** (keyboard shortcut 't').
2. Choose a wide font. The font I used is **Arial Black** -> Size: **62** -> Color: **Red**.
3. On the canvas type the text "Glass".
4. Clone the text by selecting it with the Pointer tool and selecting **Clone** from the **Edit** menu.



5. With the cloned text still selected, select **Convert to Paths** from the **Text** menu.
6. From the **Modify** menu select **Ungroup**. The text has been converted to paths, and now contains several anchor points instead of the text box. (A handy thing to know if you ever wanted to customize a font)

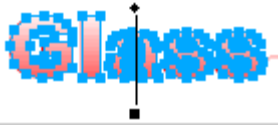


7. From the **Modify** menu select **Combine Paths** -> **Union**. This step enables you to treat the text as one unit instead of each individual letter as a unit.
8. It's now time to add the gradient. The gradient is the soul of our glass effect. From

the Property Inspector choose **Gradient** -> **Linear** from the **Fill** category.



9. With the **Pointer tool** (keyboard shortcut 'v') select the gradient and change the anchor point so the gradient has a vertical direction and is positioned at the center of the text.



10. Select the **Pen tool** (keyboard shortcut 'p') and choose a solid color from the Fill category that stands apart from the red gradient that we used. I used a bright blue.
11. Draw a wavy line through the center of the text and close the path. See example below.



12. With the **Pointer tool** (keyboard shortcut 'v') and holding down your **Shift key** select the gradient "Glass" text and the blue box.



13. From the **Modify** menu select **Combine Paths** -> **Punch**.
14. To finish the effect off, select the gradient glass text and with the up arrow key on your keyboard nudge the text up on pixel.

Glass

Questions, comments, complaints or words of wisdom?: Charity Beck (cbeck@unt.edu)

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Short Courses

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

The Summer Short Courses are up and running. Surf over to the [Short Courses](#) page to see the course schedule and information about registration. There is still room in "Introduction to SAS," "Introduction to S-Plus Programming," "Introduction to LaTeX," "New Technologies for Survey Research," "Introduction to E-Views," "Beginning Fireworks MX," and "Integrating Fireworks MX and DreamWeaver MX."

Customized Short Courses

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

Especially for Faculty and Staff Members

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

EIS Student Records Level I Training

The Registrar's Office has announced that they will continue to offer EIS Student Records Level I Training throughout the summer months. Please review the training schedule below for available times and dates.

STUDENT RECORDS LEVEL I TRAINING: Level I Student Records Training is a hands-on training session that concentrates on basic view access in EIS. In addition to discussions on basic EIS academic structure the users will view student personal information, FERPA status, residency status, registration eligibility, study lists (schedules), grades, enrollment requests, programs/plans, service indicators (blocks) and print unofficial transcripts. Users will also learn how to search for classes and rooms, view class rosters and look up instructor schedules and view the my.unt.edu student portal.

TO REGISTER: Email Carla Clark at Carla@acad.admin.unt.edu with your preferred training time. Please include your EUID, full email address and position at UNT. If you do not know your EUID please go to:

<https://ams.unt.edu/whatsmyeuid.php>

TRAINING SCHEDULE:

Date	Time	Location
June 24, 2004	8:30 - 11:30 a.m.	ESSC 152 Computer Lab
July 13, 2004	1:30 - 4:30 p.m.	ESSC 152 Computer Lab
July 15, 2004	8:30 - 11:30 a.m.	ESSC 152 Computer Lab
July 21, 2004	1:30 - 4:30 p.m.	ESSC 152 Computer Lab
July 28, 2004	8:30 - 11:30 a.m.	ESSC 152 Computer Lab

GroupWise Training

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

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

GroupWise SPAM class: A class on using GroupWise to Combat Unsolicited Email (a.k.a SPAM) was offered on March 25th, 2004. If you were unable to participate in this class, it will be offered again. Until then, the class materials are available online in PDF format (Acrobat) at http://ncs.unt.edu/gw/basicgroupwise/downloads/PDF/Dealing_with_SPAM.pdf.

Center for Distributed Learning

The Center for Distributed Learning offers courses especially for Faculty Members. A list of topics and further information can be found at http://www.unt.edu/cdl/training_events/index.htm

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

Technical Training

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

UNT Mini-Courses

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

Alternate Forms of Training

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

The [Training](#) Web site has all sorts of information about alternate forms of training. Computer Based Training (CBT) is one of the alternatives offered.

For further information on CBT at UNT, see [Computer-Based Training Update: New Login Screens and the Addition of KnowledgeNet](#) in this issue of *Benchmarks Online*.

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Transitions

New Employees:

- **Stormy Shippy**, Helpdesk Microcomputer Consultant (part-time).
- **Matthew Barnhart**, Computer Systems Manager, WebCT Group.
- **Colin Carter**, Clerical Assistant, Computing Center Administration (part-time).

No longer working in the Computing and Information Technology Center:

- **Lloyd Spaine**, Helpdesk Microcomputer Consultants (part-time).

Awards, Recognition, Publications, etc.

Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Student Computing Services Manager, received an ASCAP Composers Fellowship (\$500) for her creative musical work during the 2003-2004 year.

Congratulations to **Daren Dugan**, Network Computing Services, and his wife Jo Ann on the birth of their daughter, Rebecca Nicole, on May 31.

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Don't Forget Our Monthly Columns!

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

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

- [RSS Matters](#) - "RSS Matters" is the monthly column written by the Research and Statistical Support [Group](#) in Academic Computing Services. Their articles focus on topics of a statistical and/or research methods nature. **This month's article is by Patrick McLeod and is titled "Delivering Results to the End User: Three Stata 8.0 Examples, Part 2"**

- [The Network Connection](#) - "The Network Connection" may well be the longest running column in computer publishing history. Certainly in University of North Texas computer [publishing history](#).

This month's column is titled "You can't be too careful." Read the article and find out what phishing is.

- [Link of the Month](#) - As it says on the top of the "Link of the Month" page, "each month we highlight an Internet, USENET Special Interest Group (SIG), or similar mailing list(s) or Website(s)." Lately we have been confining ourselves to featuring UNT specific sites. **This month we focus on the Campus Directory.**
- [WWW@UNT.EDU](#) - "WWW@UNT.EDU" is a monthly column written by the Central Web Support [Group](#) in Academic Computing Services. The topics usually focus, in some way, on World-Wide-Web-related issues. **This month's topic is "The Glass Effect" take a graphics odyssey here ...**
- [Short Courses](#) - Every semester, Academic Computing Services (ACS) offers short courses on computer-related topics, many of them having to do with statistical research. This column keeps you up-to-date on what is being offered and when as well as other training opportunities. **This month, read all about the courses offered this summer.**
- [IRC News](#) - As their Webpage [says](#), "the IRC is an advisory and oversight body created to foster communication and cooperation between and among UNT information resources providers and users." We publish the minutes of the IRC meetings each month, when they are available. This month you can read the May IRC minutes.

Staff Activities - This column focuses on new employees, people who are no longer employed at the Computing and Information Technology Center, awards and recognitions and other items of interest featured here.