Benchmarks

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UNT

Columns

Network Connection

Link of the Month

Helpdesk FYI

ITC News

RSS Matters

Short Courses

Staff Activities

Home » Issues

Benchmarks - August, 2010

Campus Computing News

Newly   Revised*InHouse*   **Website   Launches**

By Carolyn Bobo, *InHouse* Editor,
University Relations, Communicatiions and Marketing

A newly revised *InHouse* website launched August 18. The internal communications website is designed to keep faculty and staff informed, build unity and pride in UNT and describe how the university is adhering to its core values to accomplish great things.

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Introducing Wimba Pronto: Instant Collaboration for Education

By **Jane Himmel, Associate Director, CLEAR**

Beginning with the fall 2010 semester, the Center for Learning Enhancement, Assessment, and Redesign (CLEAR) will run a one-year pilot study on Wimba Pronto, an instant collaboration tool designed specifically for educational settings.

Read more   BOOKMARK

Just in time for the fall semester: an Online Student Health Portal

By **Chris Stoermer, Student Health & Wellness Center IT Manager, CITC -AIS**

The Student Health and Wellness Center (SHWC) would like to introduce MEDICAT, the new campus electronic medical records system.

Read more   BOOKMARK

End of Summer Hours

By the Numbers

Virus Detection Statistics for July

Last month UNT Information Assurance detected:

- 7,558 instances of generic malware
- 458 instances of Adware/Spyware

By Claudia Lynch, *Benchmarks Online* Editor

Summer classes are over, but summer schedules are still in effect through August 25. Areas return back to their regular schedules at the beginning of the fall semester, August 26. Following are the hours for Computing and Information Technology Center-managed facilities as well as other campus facilities for the remainder of the summer.

Read more   BOOKMARK

General Access Computer Labs Enjoy a Quiet Summer

By Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, **Assistant Director - Academic Computing and User Services**

During the summer of 2010 the UNT General Access Computer Labs (GACLs) remained busy with summer student patrons but were able to enjoy time away from initiating huge projects. Much activity focused on cleaning, refreshing lab machine installations and getting all functions and applications working well with the new software offerings from Microsoft. In addition to its usual summer traffic, many of the labs were host to a variety of camps and institutes as well as new students registering for fall during orientation.

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Today's Cartoon

Click on the link above for an information age laugh.

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UNT

Columns

Network Connection

Link of the Month

Helpdesk FYI

ITC News

RSS Matters

Short Courses

Staff Activities

Home

Campus Computing News

[INhouse]

Newly Revised*InHouse* Website Launches

By Carolyn Bobo, *InHouse* Editor,

University Relations, Communicatiions and Marketing

A newly revised *InHouse* website launched August 18. The internal communications website is designed to keep faculty and staff informed, build unity and pride in UNT and describe how the university is adhering to its core values to accomplish great things. *InHouse* -- http://inhouse.unt.edu -- provides campus and administrative news, the popular Fun Facts and Portrait Gallery features, benefits information, research news, achievements and accomplishments by colleagues, obituaries, links to calendars and other UNT resources. *InHouse* also offers opportunities for faculty and staff to post news about departments and people and to share photos of events on campus.

InHouse will replace Announce.unt.edu and a former *InHouse* site.

InHouse also will be the default homepage on the browsers of most UNT computers. This site will be a great resource for UNT's employees, offering concise news about the latest events, changes, procedures and happenings on campus.

The site is designed and managed by University Relations, Communications and Marketing, matches the www.unt.edu site, which is designed to provide news and information to future students, donors and readers from outside the university community.

InHouse, with content addressed to faculty and staff, has this strategic purpose:

- Provide a campus wide communications vehicle for news about organizational strategies, business operations, academics, achievements, benefits and other employment-related information, events and community.

- Be the primary source for information that faculty and staff need and want to know, i.e., Human Resources services, parking and street repairs, facilities construction, work rules and processes.

- Engage employees to help them understand how their work contributes to the success and reputation of UNT.

- Help employees recognize UNT's position as a leader in higher education in Texas and the nation so they can best contribute to a competitive advantage.

- Provide information to help faculty and staff serve as ambassadors for UNT.

- Be the faculty and staff source of choice for campus information.

- Build a greater sense of community and camaraderie in the workplace.

Follow *InHouse* on Twitter too! http://twitter.com/InHouseUNT

BOOKMARK

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Benchmarks

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UNT

Columns

Network Connection

Link of the Month

Helpdesk FYI

ITC News

RSS Matters

Short Courses

Staff Activities

Home » issues » 2010-08 » Introducing Wimba Pronto: Instant Collaboration for Education

Introducing Wimba Pronto: Instant Collaboration for Education

By Jane Himmel, Associate Director, CLEAR

Beginning with the fall 2010 semester, the Center for Learning Enhancement, Assessment, and Redesign (CLEAR) will run a one-year pilot study on Wimba Pronto, an instant collaboration tool designed specifically for educational settings.
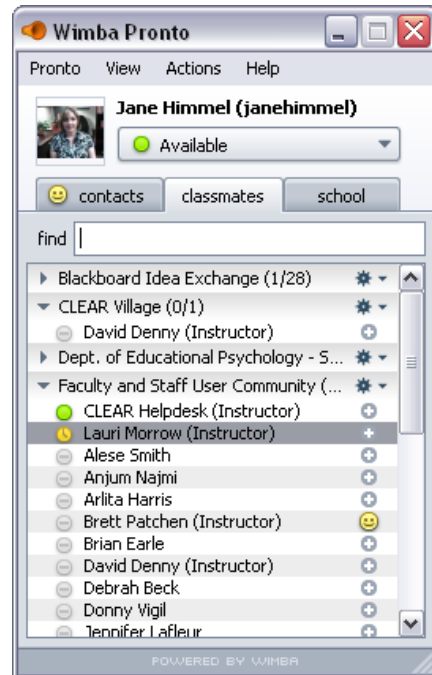

Figure 1. Pronto's interface

Pronto unites the spontaneity of an instant messenger with the functionality of a web conferencing application. With Pronto, class lists are synchronized with Blackboard course rosters, making communication with classmates and faculty easy. Users may invite classmates to chat by text, voice, or video, or use a combination of these modes. Sessions may start as a simple chat, but can quickly move into live collaboration by launching a whiteboard or by sharing an application from any participant's computer.

Ease of use and functionality make Pronto an ideal tool for promoting student collaboration for a population of students whose schedules and distance from campus often make it difficult to meet in person.

Faculty will find Pronto perfect for holding virtual office hours. With the Office Hours feature, a main chat area and a waiting room make it possible for the faculty member to communicate with a student while others wait in line. Faculty may also find Pronto's Group Chats a convenient way for their teaching assistants to provide tutoring sessions.
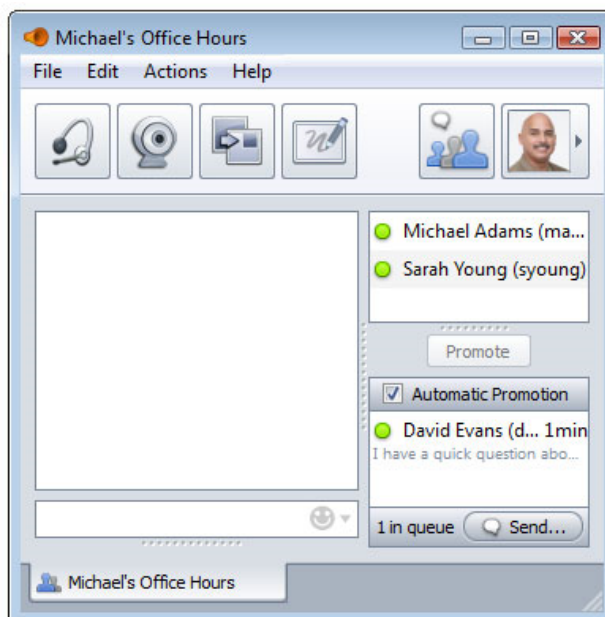
Figure 2. Office Hours window
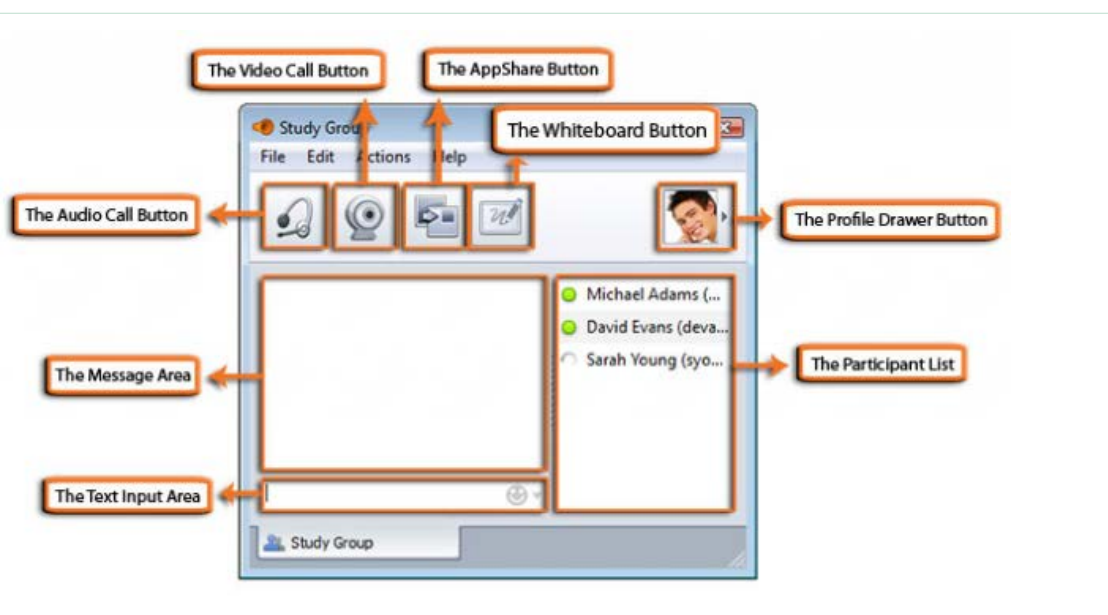
Figure 3. A group chat

Pronto's "Schools" tab allows institutions to set up public helpdesks for administrative units that provide student services and wish to add another option for students to make contact. At busy service points, multiple staff members can work the helpdesk at one time. Users remain in a waiting room until a staff member is available. Staff members see a shared list of users waiting for assistance but have separate main rooms for working with users individually.
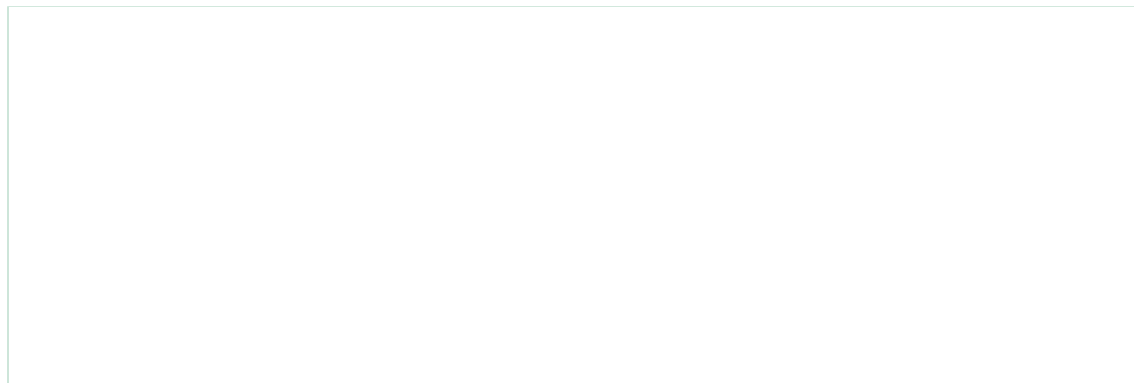
Figure 4. A Pronto Helpdesk

A small number of faculty and staff have already agreed to participate in the official pilot, but others are welcome to use Pronto and provide feedback du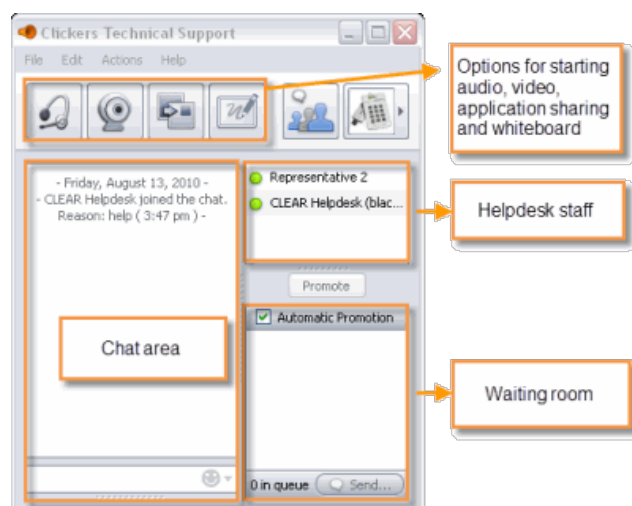ring the 2010/2011 academic year. To use Pronto, a user must set up a Pronto ID by logging in to Blackboard (formerly WebCT) at http://ecampus.unt.edu and then clicking on the Pronto link under External Courses. Follow the instructions to create an ID and then download the Pronto client.

Pronto supports both Mac and PC platforms. Wimba Pronto is fully keyboard-accessible and meets Microsoft Active Accessibility (MSAA) standards used on Windows operating systems to support assistive technologies, including Freedom Scientific's JAWS screen reader. For Macintosh users, Wimba Pronto is Universal Access compliant, with support for the Mac OS X VoiceOver application.

(See Wimba's Accessibility Mission, VPATs, and user guides at http://www.wimba.com/company/accessibility for more information.)

Wimba Pronto also holds the unique distinction of being the only instant collaboration platform powered by wind.

For more information about Pronto and to begin using it, please contact Jane Himmel (jane.himmel@unt.edu), Associate Director, CLEAR.

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UNT

Columns

Network Connection

Link of the Month

Helpdesk FYI

ITC News

RSS Matters

Short Courses

Staff Activities

Just in time for the fall semester: an Online Student Health Portal

By Chris Stoermer, Student Health & Wellness Center IT Manager, CITC -AIS

The Student Health and Wellness Center (SHWC) would like to introduce MEDICAT, the new campus electronic medical records system. Developed on Microsoft's SQL Server and CCHIT 2011 Certified, this product will enable us to provide premium services to our students while complying with the 1996 HIPAA regulations and the new changes signed into law by President Obama in the HITECH Act of 2009.

One of the many new services we are excited to offer is the Online Student Health Portal (OSH). OSH is a web-based portal connecting students to the SHWC 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; wired for this generation! Students will be able to perform time-saving operations from the comfort of their dorm, apartment and even from their home location —where ever in the world that may be.

These features include:

- SELF SCHEDULING – Students make their own appointments online for certain health reasons.

- SECURE MESSAGING – Providers and students communicate back and forth in a secure environment. Students are notified of messages waiting in OSH through their campus email.

- MEDICAL HISTORY – Students can complete their medical history form online prior to coming to the health center, or during the self-check in process.

- PRE-VISIT INTAKE FORMS – Appointment specific forms can be filled out by the student before they come into the clinic so they can get to a provider quicker.

- VIEW BILLING STATEMENTS – Students can view online their walk-out statements for charges billed within the health center.

BENEFITS:

- Convenient 24/7 student access

- Enables student appointment entry & cancellation

- Allows secure notification of required tests, exams or follow-up appointments

- Provides accessible Online Forms

- Saves clinic staff time

Students may begin using OSH by logging on at https://myOSH.unt.edu. A campus EUID and password is all you need to get started. Questions regarding the MEDICAT system should be directed to shwcquestions@unt.edu. We do not answer health related questions via email. However, you can always schedule an appointment to speak with one of our providers.

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Columns

Network Connection

Link of the Month

Helpdesk FYI

ITC News

RSS Matters

Short Courses

Staff Activities

Home » issues » 2010-08 » End of Summer Hours

End of Summer Hours

By Claudia Lynch, *Benchmarks   Online*Editor

Summer classes are over, but summer schedules are still in effect through August 25. Areas return back to their regular schedules at the beginning of the fall semester, August 26. Following are the hours for Computing and Information Technology Center-managed facilities as well as other campus facilities for the remainder of the summer. The Helpdesk continues to maintain their normal hours.

- **Data Management Services** will will maintain their normal schedule.

- The **ACS General Access/Adaptive Lab** (ISB 104) is keeping the following hours this summer:

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

	## Hours for Other Campus Facilities

Check out the UNT Shuttle Summer Schedule here. Full service begins on August 26:
 http://www.unt.edu/transit/routes_sched.html

General Access Labs

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

  Will maintain a reduced schedule during the semester break:

   Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.– 5:50 p.m.
  Saturday–Sunday: **Closed**

   Wednesday August 25: **Closed**
  Thursday August 26: Open at 7:30 am and return to a 24hr schedule.

- College of Information General Access Computer Lab (CI-GACLab) (B205):

  Closed Semester Break: August 14 - 25

- MUSIC:

  Closed Semester Break: August 14 - 25

- PACS Computing Center (Chilton Hall):

Closed Semester Break: August 14 - 25

- CVAD (formerly SOVA):

  Closed Semester Break: August 14 - 25

- COE:

  Closed Semester Break: Aug 14-25

- COBA:

  Business Lab (Downstairs — BA152) -- Closed Semester Break: Aug 14-25

  General Access Lab (Upstairs — BA335) -- Closed Semester Break: Aug 14-25

  Curry Hall (Team Lab) -- Closed Semester Break: Aug 14-25

- CAS:

  GAB 330 -- Closed Semester Break: August 14 - 25

  GAB 550 -- Closed Semester Break: August 14 - 25

  Terrill 220 -- Closed Semester Break: August 14 - 25

  Wooten 120 -- Closed Semester Break: August 14 - 25

- **UNT Dallas Campus - 155A**:

  Keeping their normal schedule throughout the summer.

- **College of Engineering General Access Computer Lab (CENG GACL, englab@unt.edu, Discovery Park, B129, 891-6733)**

  Closed Semester Break: August 14 - 25

Remember:

Get your alerts fast in case of inclement weather	
Visit the Emergency Management website	
City of Denton Residents, sign up for the CodeRED Emergency Notification System	

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Columns

Network Connection

Link of the Month

Helpdesk FYI

ITC News

RSS Matters

Short Courses

Staff Activities

Network Connection

By Dr. Philip Baczewski, Director of Academic Computing and User Services

The End is Near

The Internet is running out of addresses. There are about 4.3 billion possible numeric addresses that can be used on the Internet, and by some accounts, those will be all used up within a year. This may not be a noticeable problem at first, since existing Internet sites are already provisioned with addresses and Internet management organizations like ARIN have policies to ration, reclaim, and reassign existing addresses. However, adding new Internet sites or services may become difficult if there are not available addresses to be assigned to those Internet servers. Adding new Internet users will become difficult if there are not available addresses to be assigned to those users' computers.

It's all hexadecimal

You might be wondering if anybody had anticipated this problem, and the answer to that question is yes -- in 1998. The numeric addresses used on the Internet are defined by a standard known as Internet Protocol Version 4, or IPv4. This standard defines a numeric address with 4 parts, each part being a number between 0 and 255 (that's 0 and 1111111 in binary.) For example, you may visit www.unt.edu, but the Internet software and routers that allow you to access that site know it as 129.120.188.44. Even with 4.3 billion possible addresses, Internet designers in 1998 knew that these kinds of addresses would be depleted some day and they designed a new Internet address scheme that would provide enough addresses for any imaginable number of devices. The Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6) standard was first published in 1998 and included a definition that greatly increased the possible number of numeric addresses. Instead of having 4 numeric parts with 8 bits each (11111111), these new addresses would have 8 numeric parts with 16 bits each, supplying about 3.4×10^{38} (trillions of trillions of trillions of trillions) possible unique combinations. The common way these addresses are represented are in hexadecimal numbers. For example, www.v6.facebook.com has an IPv6 address of 2620:0000:1cfe:face:b00c:0000:0000:0003, but since the protocol allows for the elimination of some embedded and trailing zeros, the address could be written as 2620:0:1cfe:face:b00c::3. While not a feature of the design, you can't help but notice that this IPv6 address has a clue to its owner in the series of digits that spell out "faceb00c".

Whither IPv6?

So, the next question is, if we've known about this problem for so long, why haven't we done anything about it. The short answer is that we haven't needed to. Until now, there have been plenty of Internet addresses to go around, however, in the last couple of years, the alarm level has risen and IPv4 address exhaustion now has its own Wikipedia entry. The other part of the answer is that the technology that supports Internet access has to understand the new addresses as well. By 2000, Cisco had IPv6 support in its routers. By 2005, most of the major operating systems had IPv6 support built in. After that, core of the Internet needs to understand and handle (route) IPv6 addresses. In 2008, IPv6 name servers were added to the Internet allowing two computers to communicate using just IPv6 addresses. Individual programs like FireFox have to be able to support IPv6. Finally, local networks have to support IPv6 addresses. IPv6 has yet to come to the unt.edu network, even though the computers on the network have long been able to support the protocol.

While the Internet sky is not falling yet, it is likely that we'll start to hear more about IPv6 in the coming years. For networks like UNT's it may be initially possible to do address translation at the router when accessing exclusively IPv6 sites, or we may decide to route IPv6 addresses on our network. If done correctly, Internet users won't notice, since we'll just be clicking on a link or typing in a URL like ipv6.google.com. But right now, ipv6.google.com doesn't work for most people and until network service providers adopt IPv6, we may have a two-tiered Internet, with the newest services and technology available via IPv6. A little time will tell and let's hope that time is used wisely.

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[INhouse]

***InHouse,* an integrated communications website**

August 18, 2010 marked the beginning of a new era at UNT as far as campus communication for UNT faculty and staff is concerned. The newly revised *InHouse* website is designed to be the the primary source of information for faculty and staff, to keep them informed, "build unity and pride in UNT and describe how the university is adhering to its core values to accomplish great things."* It will be the default Internet browser homepage in all UNT offices so that information is easy to access and easy to find. It also has new features that allow faculty and staff to post their own stories about important events or news from their departments and divisions and people will also be able to share their photos of campus life and events.

http://inhouse.unt.edu

IN house UNT	Follow *InHouse* on Twitter too! http://twitter.com/InHouseUNT

*Quoted from the "Campus Computing News" article in this issue of *Benchmarks Online*.

BOOKMARK

Columns

Network Connection

Link of the Month

Helpdesk FYI

ITC News

RSS Matters

Short Courses

Staff Activities

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Columns

Network Connection

Link of the Month

Helpdesk FYI

ITC News

RSS Matters

Short Courses

Staff Activities

Home » issues » 2010-08 » helpdesk-fyi

Helpdesk FYI

By Jonathan "Mac" Edwards, Assistant Manager of the CITC Helpdesk

EUID   Passwords*

EUID "Enterprise" passwords expire after 120 days. You can receive an email notification prior to your password expiring by logging into the Account Management System (AMS) at http://ams.unt.edu and enabling the "Password Expiration Notice" option.

There are two ways to reset your password:

1. The first method is the Password Reset process linked on the AMS http://ams.unt.edu site. The Password Reset process does not require you to provide your existing password but it does require you to verify your identity by providing some biographical information and answering your "secret question".

2. The second -- and easiest -- way to reset your password is by logging in to AMS and selecting "Change Password". The Change Password process does not require you to go through the identity verification steps that the Reset Password process does because you have to successfully login to initiate the Change Password process.

It is suggested that you go through the Change Password process prior to your password expiring to avoid having to go through the more lengthy Reset Password process.

Having trouble coming up with a new Password?

Try the following suggestion from ACUS staff member Yonathan Khoe: Try shifting your fingers one key to the right on the keyboard to make a unique easy to remember password.

----

*This is a modification of a column originally published in 2008 and is information that is re-published periodically.

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Columns

- Network Connection
- Link of the Month
- Helpdesk FYI
- ITC News
- RSS Matters
- Short Courses
- Staff Activities

IRC News

Minutes provided by Susan Richroath Recording Secretary*

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

January 19, 2010

Members present: Joe Adamo, Joel Arredondo, Philip Baczewski, Michael Baggett, Bea Bigby for Jon Nelson, Lou Ann Bradley, Warren Burggren (chair), Jim Byford, Cengiz Capan, Tim Christian, Matt Cooper, Yunfei Du, Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Joseph Hoffman for Jane Himmel and Patrick Pluscht, Paul Hons for Judith Adkison, John Hooper, Troy Johnson, Maurice Leatherbury, Alan Livingston, William Moen, Ramu Muthiah, Patty Palumbo, Susan Richroath (secretary), Charlotte Russell, Joey Saxon, and Ruthanne Thomas. **Members absent**: Judith Adkison, Wil Clark, Jim Curry, Renee Drabier, Katy Gallahan, Martin Halbert, Jane Himmel, Bruce Hunter, Abraham John, Jon Nelson, Patrick Pluscht, Will Senn, Scott Warren, and Kiseol Yang.

The minutes of the previous ITC meeting, November 17, 2009, were approved with no recommended corrections.

Student Government Association

Joel Arredondo shared the following list of student IT concerns which he received from the Student Government Association.

- increase number of outlets in classrooms

- greater wireless signal/less drop rates

- increase in the amount of tech labs on campus/more 24 hour tech labs

- walk up kiosks (similar to Wooten and ESSC)

- maps of where the computer labs are located

- increase in student software licenses for major programs

- more VPN/cloud computing

- more open plotter printers in art building

- DTV in the art building to showcase student works

- Outlook on all computers on campus

- language bar on all computers on campus

- increase in customer service skills from lab attendants

- offer Office to students for a greater discount

After discussion on several of the items, Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner volunteered to work on the list of action items and provide a progress report at the end of the semester. It was also noted that the last IT student survey was 3 years ago so it is time develop and conduct a new one.

HR/IT shared services system project

Maurice Leatherbury provided an update on the HR/IT shared services system project. The Shared Services Council has been appointed and consists of the Chancellor, the Presidents of the UNT institutions, the Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services, the System and university chief financial officers, the chief academic officers of the universities, and the future Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. The Council had its first meeting this morning.   A draft job description for the new System CIO was discussed by the Shared Services Council this morning and once it is approved, a search will be conducted to fill the position. A report on the organization, funding, and staffing of IT units across our campus, existing shared IT services, and key IT and HR projects has been shared with the Council. Maurice Leatherbury and Warren Burggren will send a memo to President Bataille offering assistance as needed.

UNT Five-Year Strategic Plan

Maurice Leatherbury shared a revised CITC's Contribution to the UNT Five-Year Strategic Plan document with the ITC.

Next Meeting

ITC will discuss the symposium on open access policy at the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2010 at 2 p.m. in GAB 210.

Meeting adjourned.

March 30, 2010

Members present: Joe Adamo, Joel Arredondo, Philip Baczewski, Michael Baggett, Ben Bigby for Jon Nelson, Warren Burggren (chair), Jim Byford, Cengiz Capan, Tim Christian, Wil Clark, Matt Cooper, Yunfei Du, Katy Gallahan, Jane Himmel, Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Paul Hons for Judith Adkison, John Hooper, Bruce Hunter, Maurice Leatherbury, Alan Livingston, William Moen, Ramu Muthiah, Patrick Pluscht, Susan Richroath (secretary), Charlotte Russell, Joey Saxon, Will Senn, and Ruthanne Thomas. **Members absent**: Judith Adkison, Jim Curry, Renee Drabier, Scott Jackson, Abraham John, Troy Johnson, Jon Nelson, Patty Palumbo, Scott Warren, and Kiseol Yang.

The minutes of the previous ITC meeting, January 19, 2010, were approved with no recommended corrections.

ITC status

At this time, UNT Administration has decided various committees and councils on campus do not need to be written into policy. Until the ITC is recognized in formal existence, Warren Burggren recommends the ITC maintain status quo in taking care of business. Until the IT restructuring is complete, Warren Burggren proposed that the ITC relinquish the required reports of the ITC planning groups and the necessity to replace members to the planning groups. He also suggested the establishment of ad hoc groups on an as-needed basis. The ITC members concurred with this plan.

Lecture Capture System project

Jane Himmel updated the ITC on the Lecture Capture System project. The planning group will be viewing demonstrations in late March and early April.

HR/IT shared governance system project

Maurice Leatherbury provided an update on the HR/IT shared governance system project. The shared governance committee is in the process of reviewing two RFP submissions for a consultant firm to review and recommend how to structure HR. The System recently hired a CFO who will handle IT issues.

SGA's remote access concerns

Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner provided a slide show and presentation in response to SGA's remote access concerns, available kiosks around campus, and critical student success. On behalf of the SGA, Joel Arredondo thanked the ITC for their quick feedback and interest of the students. After the presentation, the ITC approved the following charge by voice vote. The Student Communications Sub-Committee is charged by the ITC to develop formal digital communication guidelines for critical student success areas on campus in order to create an unambiguous information conduit between the critical success areas and the students which also enhance the university's goals for greener and more cost-effective operations. Furthermore, the sub-committee is charged with creating guidelines and suggestions for student communication for other university areas and events in order to assist these areas with getting the message out to students about campus activities that while not critical to achievement, can greatly enhance student life and education.

Open access policy symposium

Bill Moen discussed the open access policy symposium which will be held at UNT on May 18.

ITC May meeting rescheduled

Due to the conflicting date of our scheduled ITC meeting in May and the open access symposium, the ITC May meeting will be rescheduled to May 25, 2010 at 2 p.m. in GAB 210.

Meeting adjourned.

May 25, 2010

Members present: Philip Baczewski, Michael Baggett, Warren Burggren (chair), Tim Christian, Wil Clark, Matt Cooper, Katy Gallahan, Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Paul Hons for Judith Adkison, John Hooper, Bruce Hunter, Maurice Leatherbury, John Luetkemeyer (guest), William Moen, Ramu Muthiah, Jon Nelson, Patrick Pluscht, Susan Richroath (secretary), Charlotte Russell, Joey Saxon, Peter Sheehan for Will Senn, Mary Speight for Jane Himmel, and Ruthanne Thomas. **Members absent**: Joe Adamo, Judith Adkison, Joel Arredondo, Jim Byford, Cengiz Capan, Jim Curry, Renee Drabier, Yunfei Du, Jane Himmel, Scott Jackson, Abraham John, Troy Johnson, Alan Livingston, Patty Palumbo, Will Senn, Scott Warren, and Kiseol Yang.

The minutes of the previous ITC meeting, , March 30, 2010, were approved with no recommended corrections.

Lecture Capture System project

Mary Speight provided an update on the Lecture Capture System project. Vendors and costs are being reviewed with plans to report to the ITC by early Fall.

Student Computing Planning Group

Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner reported that the Student Computing Planning Group met with the Associate Deans' Council and received support for the recommended communication plan.   The subcommittee will meet in June and the full group later in the summer to continue progress on the plan.

Open access policy symposium

Bill Moen reported that the open access policy symposium was a success with 175 attendees. The Provost plans to present the revised policy to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee in late May. Discussion among the Council members included repository participation mandate for peer review journals, tracking of faculty articles through the Faculty Profile System to assist with compliance, publisher policies, types of formats, and posting of non-textual scholarly works.

Data management plans concerns

Ruthanne Thomas mentioned the need for future discussion about data management plans. Federal agencies that fund research have a policy that data/results should be stored for availability. There may be cost and security concerns to address.

HR/IT shared governance system project

Maurice Leatherbury provided an update on the HR/IT shared governance system project.

3G data service for iPad

Council discussed reimbursement ruling for 3G data service for iPad (personal item, who pays for applications as they are linked to the person). At this time, UNT will not reimburse and the items should not be purchased with UNT p-card.

Next ITC meeting

The next ITC meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2010 at 2 p.m. in GAB 210.

Meeting adjourned.

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

**DCSMT Minutes can be found here.

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Columns

Network Connection

Link of the Month

Helpdesk FYI

ITC News

RSS Matters

Short Courses

Staff Activities

RSS Matters

Research and Statistical Support
University of North Texas

Using the Bootstrap with Small Data Sets: Smoothed Bootstrap

*This article is an "oldie but a goodie," originally published in September of 2001. It has been slightly edited to reflect the passage of time. **NOTE:** Link to the last RSS article here: Principal Components Analysis vs. Factor Analysis…and Appropriate Alternatives -- Ed.*

By Dr. Rich Herrington Research and Statistical Support Consultant

Some years back we examined using the bootstrap and robust estimation to calculate statistical power, this month we explore the use of the smoothed bootstrap with small data sets. The GNU S language, "R" is used to implement this procedure. R is a statistical programming environment that is a clone of the S and S-Plus language developed at Lucent Technologies. In the following document we illustrate the use of a GNU Web interface to the R engine on the "rss" server, http://rss.acs.unt.edu/cgi-bin/R/Rprog. This GNU Web interface is a derivative of the "Rcgi" Perl scripts available for download from the CRAN website, http://www.cran.r-project.org (the main "R" website). Scripts can be submitted interactively, edited, and be re-submitted with changed parameters by selecting the hypertext link buttons that appear below the figures. For example, clicking the "Run Program" button below samples 1000 random numbers from a normal distribution, then uses nonparametric density estimation to fit a density curve to the data. To view any text output, scroll to the bottom of the browser window. To view the density curve, select the "Display Graphic" link. The script can be edited and resubmitted by changing the script in the form window and then selecting "Run the R Program". Selecting the browser "back page" button will return the reader to this document.

The **Disadvantages** of Using Small Sample

Sizes   with   the   Bootstrap

In the nonparametric bootstrap, samples are drawn from a discrete set. This can be a serious disadvantage in small sample sizes in that spurious fine structure, in the original data, may be faithfully reproduced in the simulated data that has not occurred in the population. Difficulties can arise if the goal of the simulation is to produce samples that have the underlying "true" structure of the observed data without having spurious details arise from random effects. Another concern is that with small samples, with only a few values to select from, the bootstrap samples will underestimate the true variability. Statisticians generally regard the use of the bootstrap with sample sizes less than 10 as too small to rely on (Chernick, 1999).
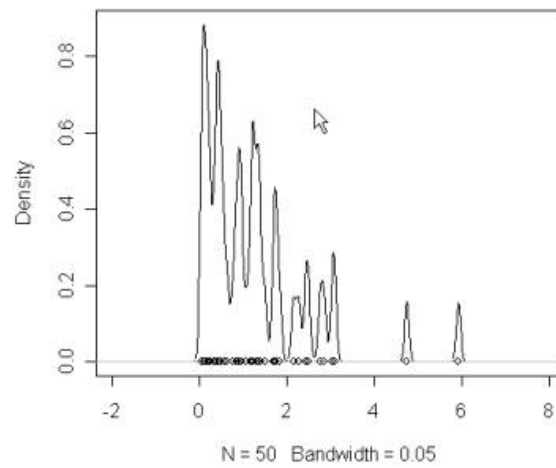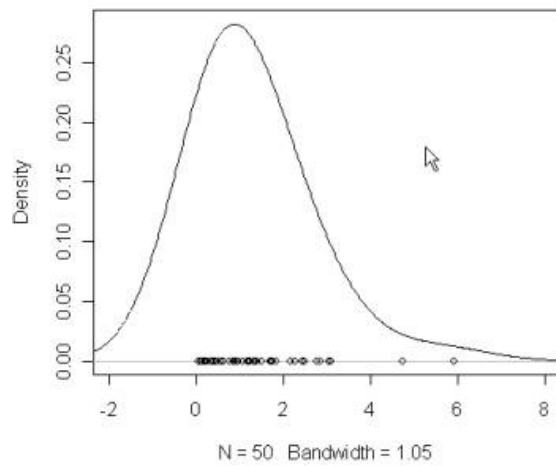
The   Smoothed   Bootstrap

One approach to dealing with the discreteness of the empirical distribution function with small sample sizes, is to smooth the empirical distribuion function and then resample from the smoothed empirical distribution function. It has been shown that the nonparametric bootstrap is improved in non-smooth cases, such as the median (Fernholz, 1993). Even though the "smoothed bootstrap" was considered early on by bootstrap researchers, there was little evidence to indicate under which conditions smoothing would be beneficial (Hall P., DiCiccio, T. & Romano, J, 1989; Silverman, B.W., & Young, G.A., 1987). Recent research on the smoothed bootstrap demonstrates that for samll sample sizes, with proper kernel bandwith selection, smoothing the empirical distribution function can yeild a first-order reduction in coverage error for the one-sided percentile method. The one-sided percentile method, based on the smoothed bootstrap with an optimally chosen bandwith, becomes asymptotically as accurate as either the bootstrap t or the accelerated bias correction (Bca) methods (Polansky, A.M. & Schucany, W.R., 1997). Similar arguments show that second-order corrections can be realized for first-order correct confidence intervals such as the two-sided percentile method intervals and bootstrap t intervals (Polansky, 2001). The smoothed bootstrap can also decrease coverage error for finite samples as well (Polansky, 2000). That is, type I error for small sample sizes can be reduced by smoothing the empirical distribution function, when using the Percentile Bootstrap method for calculating confidence intervals. It is important for the present study, to note that Fernholz (1993, 1997) proved that by smoothing the empirical distribution function with an appropriate kernel, the variance and the mean square error of certain statistical functionals can be reduced. A functional is a mapping that assigns a real value to a function. Examples of functionals are the parameters of distribution functions, including the mean, the variance, the skewness and the kurtosis of the distribution. Other examples include sample quantiles, some L-estimators, and M-estimators (Fernholz, 1997). Specifically, Fernholz demonstrates that a smaller variance is achieved when the influence function is either discontinuous (such as in the median) or piecewise linear with convexity towards the x-axis (such as in the Huber and biweight type M-estimators). Essentially, the smoothed bootstrap can be used to improve overall performance (decrease bias, MSE of estimators) in small sample sizes. Brown, Hall, and Young (2001) show that for the median, that smoothing increases efficiency for normal data over that of the conventional median. The algorithm of the smoothed bootstrap is outlined in Silverman, B.W. (1986, page 141). The basic idea is to set:

$$Y = X. + h\varepsilon$$

where each X consist of the bootstrap observations from a bootstrap sample; e is a random deviate from a probability density function K ; and h is a smoothing parameter that can be calculated from the sample moments (e.g. standard deviation). The probability density K is often referred to as the "kernel". A natural candidate for the kernel is the Gaussian distribution (normal distribution). If a Gaussian kernel is selected, then an optimal smoothing parameter can be estimated from the data (a so-called "plug-in" estimate of h):

$$h_{opt} = 1.06 \cdot \sigma \cdot n^{-1/5}$$

where s is estimated from the sample data. h will work well if the population is normally distributed, but it may oversmooth if the population is either multi-modal or skewed (the sample estimate of s is not a resistant measure). Silverman (1986, page 46) reports that for heavily skewed data, h will oversmooth, but that the formula is remarkably insensitive to kurtosis within the t family of distributions. To give some sense of how the smoothing operation effects a skew distribution, The figures below, show an exponential distribution of sample size 50. The top panel displays little or no smoothing, and the bottom panel displays much greater smoothing. It is evident that most of the skewness in the original data set is gone, and tends toward a symmetric distribution resembling a normal distribution. However, if the point is to only smooth local irregularities, but retain the overall shape of the distribution, oversmoothing will mis-represent the underlying population distribution.

density(x = y, bw = 0.05, kernel = "gaussian")

N = 50   Bandwidth = 0.05

density(x = y, bw = 1.05, kernel = "gaussian")

N = 50   Bandwidth = 1.05

The Smoothed Bootstrap Implemented in the "S" Language

The following S code set implements the smoothed bootstrap using two different kernels (*K*), and with various different window estimators (*h*). Twenty numbers are sampled from the normal distribution; this becomes our population that we will resample from. The following code chooses a Gaussian kernel with a standard smoothing parameter for the smoothed bootstrap. The population mean is estimated using the sample mean. One might change the following code to explore the effects of: 1) using different sample sizes, 2) using different numbers of bootstrap samples; 3) using either the variance corrected or uncorrected versions of the kernels, 3) using robust estimators with the smoothed bootstrap, rather than the mean, and 4) using different window estimators combined with different kernels.

Results

Running the S code listed above produces the following text and graphics:

```
> # The average Mean and Variance of all 500 bootstrap samples
>
> x.mean.500
[1] -0.5682712
> x.var.500
[1] 0.8848028
>
> # Summarize original data
>
> length(xdata)
[1] 20
> summary(xdata)
    Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
 -1.9820 -1.4540 -0.6479 -0.5646 -0.1187  2.3320
> var(xdata)
[1] 1.020477
>
> # Summarize resampled data from smoothed
> # bootstrap
>
> length(x.new)
[1] 500
> summary(x.new)
    Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
 -2.4970 -1.2920 -0.7711 -0.6230 -0.1672  2.6220
> var(x.new)
[1] 0.852574
```

The preceeding code uses the variance adjusted Gaussian kernel to smooth the empirical distribution function (rdensity3). We see that the average mean of the 500 bootstrap samples is virtually identical to the original sample: .568. The average variance of the 500 bootstrap samples, underestimates the original sample variance by a substantial amount: .885 versus the original population variance of 1.00. The 200th bootstrap sample is extracted to plot against the original sample to see how well the shape of the 200th bootstrap sample, with an N=500, captures the shape of the original sample. As can be seen below, the larger sample size smooths the discreetness of the original sample while retaining the overall shape. These results also suggest that the variance corrected version of the Gaussian kernel "overadjusts" for the variance introduced by the smoothing parameter. Further simulation results using the unadjusted version of the Gaussian kernel (rdensity5) show that the unadjusted version does very well in recapturing the population variance. Try re-running the S code above, replacing the sample size with N=10 (use rnorm(10) instead of rnorm(20) in the beginning of the program), and the kernel density estimator with "rdensity5" instead of using "rdensity3" (x.new.boot<-rdensity3(orig.data=xdata, samp.size, num.boot.samp, window=1). Compare the mean and variance of the original data (xdata) with the mean and variance of all 500 bootstrap samples. How close are they compared to the results displayed above?

Histogram of xdata

Histogram of x.new
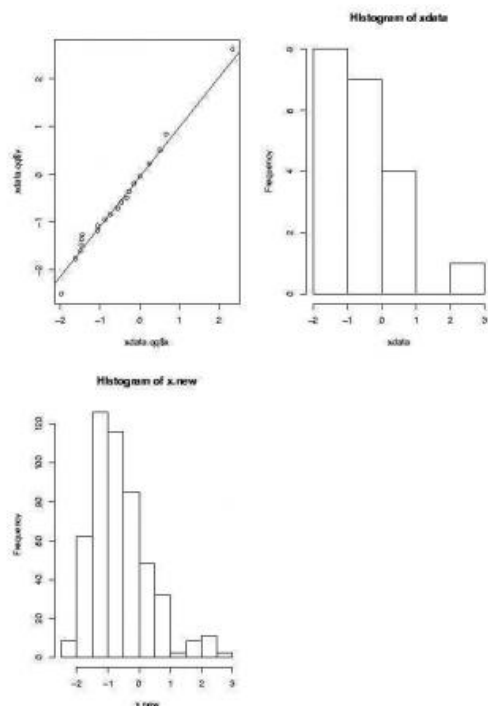
Conclusions

The bootstrap methodology allows the performance of classical and robust estimators to be evaluated in real world data sets. However, much still remains unknown about the finite sample properties of the bootstrap. In particular, small sample sizes can cause the bootstrap to fail, and give poor error coverage for type I errors, for a number of the more popular methods for calculating confidence intervals (Bca, studentized t bootstrap, and the percentile bootstrap). In contrast, the smoothed bootstrap holds promise for a number of robust estimators (median, L-estimators, M-estimators, quantile estimators), in small sample settings (i.e. approximately N< 15). However, it is evident that the proper selection of the smoothing parameter (h) is important so that oversmoothing or undersmoothing does not occur. Like robust estimators, smoothing the empirical distribution function can reduce the impact of heavy tails on a location estimatorl. Optimal selection of the smoothing parameter, h , is important so that undersmoothing or oversmoothing does not occur. Various approaches have been tried, for example, adaptive estimators (Silverman, 1986, page 48). Robust estimators such as M-estimators, optimally downweight the tails according to a statistical critierion (maximum likelihood) for a given set of tuning constants. Tuning constants are recommended that work well with a wide range of distributions found in real data (Hoaglin, Moesteller, & Tukey, 1983). The combined use of the smoothed bootstrap with an M-estimator as a location estimate, calls for an optimal combination of the tuning constants (e.g. k) for robust location, and the smoothing parameter (e.g. h) for the smoothed bootstrap. One computational approach towards this goal, would be to use various combinations of h and k , and choose the combination that produces the shortest possible confidence intervals while minimizing the coverage error under the null hypothesis. Used in this way, the parameters h and k become calibration coefficients (Polansky, 2001, page 822). Polansky (2001) reports theortetical results and simulation results that support this approach for the choice of h in small sample sizes ($N<20$). In summary, the bootstrap has become such a important tool, both theoretically and application-wise, that it has led Peter Hall, an emminent figure in the bootstrap research field, to comment, "The bootstrap has had a great impact on the practice of statistics, to the extent that the property of being bootstrappable might well be added to those of efficiency, robustness and ease of computation, as a fundamentally desirable property for statistical procedures in general" (Brown, 2001).

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UNT

Columns

Network Connection

Link of the Month

Helpdesk FYI

ITC News

RSS Matters

Short Courses

Staff Activities

Short Courses

The RSS staff decided to take a break from teaching short courses this summer. Also, **A MAJOR change has taken place WRT SPSS and SAS courses; they 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*. The RSS Instructional Services page was the *Benchmarks Online* "Link of the Month" last month.

Surf over to the Short Courses page to see instructions for accessing the SPSS and SAS online learning and other training that is available to you. You can also see the sorts instructor led courses that are likely to be held in the fall.

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

Especially for Faculty and Staff Members

In addition to the ACS Short Courses, which are available to students, faculty and staff, staff and faculty members can take courses offered through the Human Resources Department (they have a new comprehensive training curriculum), and the Center for Learning Enhancement, Assessment, and Redesign. Additionally, the Center for Achievement and Lifelong Learning offers a variety of courses, usually for a small fee.

EIS training is available. Questions or comments relating to EIS training should be sent to EISTCA@unt.edu.

Microsoft E-Learning

Microsoft E-Learning courses are now available for ***faculty and staff*** via our UNT-Microsoft Campus Agreement and some new Microsoft Office 2010 courses were recently added. Please contact Claudia Lynch at lynch@unt.edu for instructions on accessing this training.

Microsoft Outlook Training and more

The Messaging Systems Group has all sorts of useful information on their website, including training information.

Central Web Support

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

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

CLEAR (was Center for Distributed Learning)

CLEAR offers courses especially for Faculty Members. A list of topics and further information can be found here.

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

UNT Mini-Courses

There are a variety of courses offered, for a fee, to UNT faculty, staff and students as well as the general public. For additional information surf over to http://www.unt.edu/minicourses/

Information Security Awareness

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

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

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

Alternate Forms of Training

Many of the General Access Labs around campus have tutorials installed on their computers. See http://www.gal.unt.edu/ for a list of labs and their locations. The Willis Library, for example, has a list of Tutorials and Software Support. The Library Instructional Unit also offers workshops and training, including "tech skills" training. Visit their 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

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

State of Texas Department of Information Resources

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

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Columns

Network Connection

Link of the Month

Helpdesk FYI

ITC News

RSS Matters

Short Courses

Staff Activities

Staff Activities

Transitions

New Employees:

- **Kavya Chunduri**, AIS Training- Web Developer (part-time).

- **Scott Yockel**, Research Computing Support Manager (ACUS).

- **Quenton Pegues**, Computer Operations assistant (part-time).

- **Justin Neel**, MMS Tech, Microcomputer Maintenance Shop (part-time).

No longer working in the Computing and Information Technology Center:

- **Benjamin Barkin-Wilkins**, Communications Analyst, Data Communications Services.

- **David Ewing**, Computer Operations assistant (part-time).

- **Robert Ritz**, Helpdesk Microcomputer Consultant (part-time).

- **Trayton Oakes**, Helpdesk Microcomputer Consultant (part-time). He's leaving the Helpdesk for a semester to intern in Washington DC as part of the NTDC program!

Changes, Awards, Recognition, Publications, etc.

Publications

Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Assistant Director - Academic Computing and User Services, reviewed **The McLean Mix: Three Collaborations 2000-2008** DVD-Video for The Computer Music Journal recently.

Service to UNT

The **July 12** issue of *InHouse* recognized **Bahram Paiani**, UNT E-mail postmaster and Listserv Manager (Messaging Group), for his **15 years** of service to UNT. Also recognized, for **5 years** of service, was **Tariqul Hasan**, IT Programmer Analyst, Financial Information Systems (AIS). Congratulations!

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Columns

Network Connection

Link of the Month

Helpdesk FYI

ITC News

RSS Matters

Short Courses

Staff Activities

Home » issues » 2010-08 » General Access Computer Labs Enjoy a Quiet Summer

General Access Computer Labs Enjoy a Quiet Summer

By Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Assistant Director - Academic Computing and User Services

During the summer of 2010 the UNT General Access Computer Labs (GACLs) remained busy with summer student patrons but were able to enjoy time away from initiating huge projects. Much activity focused on cleaning, refreshing lab machine installations and getting all functions and applications working well with the new software offerings from Microsoft. In addition to its usual summer traffic, many of the labs were host to a variety of camps and institutes as well as new students registering for fall during orientation.

The UNT GACL system includes 14 labs on the UNT main campus, the Discovery Park and UNT-Dallas. The labs feature Windows and Macintosh computers with several facilities featuring iMacs where student patrons choose the operating system they prefer to use. MS Office is available with other general hardware and software including web browsers, DVD burners, scanners and color and black-and-white printers. Laser printing of classwork in the labs remains a free service paid for by the technology fee. Many labs also have specialized software and hardware pertinent to the students working in the schools, colleges, or departments in which they are housed. One lab is open 24/7 (Willis), one is open 24/5 (Chilton Hall) while the rest are open until midnight or 2:00 a.m. The majority of the labs are now self-service with students logging into lab machines with their EUID and password. However, students should still bring a valid UNT Student ID to show to the lab consultant in order to gain entrance to the facility.

Several labs updated their Microsoft distributions to Windows 7 and Office 2010. These include the College of Education Lab (Matthews Hall 309), the ACUS/Adaptive Technology Lab (ISB 104), the PACS/SMHM Lab (Chilton Hall 255) and the College of Visual Art and Design Lab (Art 232). Willis has moved to Windows 7 only and the College of Engineering has moved to Office 2010 only. Additionally, the College of Education (COE) Lab replaced 1/3 of its printers with color printers that utilize solid ink instead of toner embracing the idea of a lab with "green" printing facilities. The COE Lab also has replaced four of its PC workstations with iMacs. Staff at the College of Visual Art and Design (CVAD) Lab invite patrons to come see their newly painted walls and re-arranged furniture (for a cleaner look). Other GACLs (College of Arts and Sciences, College of Information and College of Music) report no major changes to their facilities for the fall.

A few "side projects" were undertaken by lab management as well. As reported in this April 2010 article, ACUS now has computer kiosks in front of the CITC Helpdesk area and they have proven to be popular this summer. Additionally, the folks in CVAD have installed new digital displays outside the hallway of their lab which will showcase student art work and give college event information.

For more information about the labs including policies, lab locations, and lab hours visit the GACL website at www.gacl.unt.edu.

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Columns

Network Connection

Link of the Month

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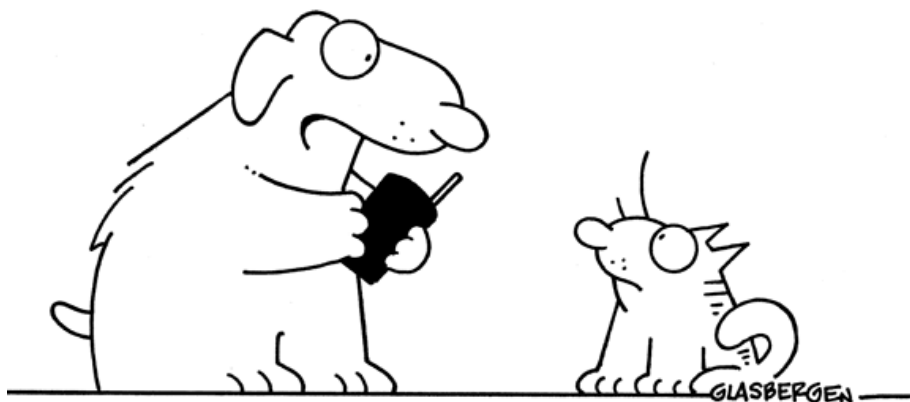
ITC News

RSS Matters

Short Courses

Staff Activities

Home

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"Words like ROTFL, LOL, BTW, OMG...they were all
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