Benchmarks Online

Volume 5 - Number 9 * September 2002

Skip Navigation Links

Columns

RSS Matters

SAS Corner

The Network Connection

Link of the Month

WWW@UNT.EDU

Short Courses

IRC News

Staff Activities

Other Resources

Back Issues, Text Search

UNT Main Page

UNT Calendar

Support Services

General Access Lab Hours

Tutorials & References

Training Web

Academic Computing Services

Feature Articles

Campus Computing News

If you have been reading *Benchmarks Online* for awhile, you may have noticed that the Computing Center has been going through a lot of changes lately. Read this article for a sort of "Cliff Notes" overview of our continuing metamorphosis.

Internet Dialup Service Changes

Some changes have been made to the Internet dialup service which most people won't notice, but which could have a positive effect on your dialup use. Read all about it.

SmartForce Computing Update

Change is the name of the game when it comes to SmartForce and its products. Details inside.

TODAY'S CARTOON

Click on the title above for an information age laugh.

Don't forget to check out our monthly columns. This month's topics:

- **RSS Matters** -- A compilation of previous

**Computing
 Center**

**About
 Benchmarks
 Online**

**Subscribe to
 Benchmarks
 Online**

statistical articles is presented.

- **SAS Corner --** "Did you Know?" Find out by reading this article.

- **The Network Connection --** "This column is brought to you by the Internet" This article invites you to think about the ongoing commercialization of the Internet and its implications.

- **Link of the Month --** "orgs.unt.edu" Find out what is available for student organizations and activities.

- **WWW@UNT.EDU** -- "The First Smiley :-)" Find out who invented the smiley and when and then think about the concept of intellectual property a little.

- **Short Courses** -- Planning is still underway for the fall Short Courses. The fall schedule should be out soon.

- **IRC News** -- Minutes of the Information Resources Council are printed here when they are available.

- **Staff Activities** -- New employees, people who are no longer employed at the Computing Center, awards and recognitions and other items of interest featured here.

Skip Navigation Links

Research and Statistical Support
University of North Texas

RSS Matters

Dr. Herrington has been out giving a paper at a conference. Check out some of his previous columns:

- Using Robust Mean and Robust Variance Estimates to Calculate Robust Effect Size

- Controlling the False Discovery Rate in Multiple Hypothesis Testing

- Dealing with Outliers in Bivariate Data: Robust Correlation

Research and Statistical Support
University of North Texas

SAS Corner

By [Dr. Karl Ho](), Research and Statistical Support Services Manager

Did you know?

- Did you know SAS version 9 is around the corner?

  Yes, this new edition, first ushered in at the SUGI 27 (April, 02 in Orlando), will have new features focusing on further consolidation of Output Delivery System (ODS), implementation of XML and new enhancements of SAS/Graph. For a peek of the new v.9, check: http://sas.com/rnd/base/index-v9-resources.html

- Did you know you can get a temporary Setinit (a license authorization code) from SAS to deal with an emergency situation?

  Yes, all you need to do is submit a profile including name, email, country and organization to SAS and create an account. The limitation is the license will last for six days only. That will be good enough, though, for you to contact us to get a school setinit for you. Visit: http://www.sas.com/getsetnow

- Did you know that you can get the latest development of the software via email?

  Like most software companies, SAS maintains mailing lists to disseminate company- or software-related news to customers. However, the Technology report SAS distributes is more than just commercials. It distributes articles on new procedures and applications and, in some cases, coding notes twice a month. To subscribe to the e-newsletter, visit: http://www.sas.com/subscriptions/enewsletter.htm

- Did you know they have a great collection of sample programs: http://sas.com/service/techsup/sample/sample_library.html

- Did you know you can find out much more information about SAS and other statistical packages/services by visiting the RSS [Website]()? Have fun browsing.

Network Connection

By **Dr. Philip Baczewski**, Associate Director of Academic Computing

This column is brought to you by the Internet

Recently, I've begun to see commentaries and newspaper comics which have made fun of the idea of expecting to find "free stuff" on the Internet. The subtext seems to be that the Internet generation is spoiled by having jokes, games, histories, or technical information available to them at no cost -- that there is no basis to complain about what you get for free. Of course, there is a cost, whether it is a subscription for a home Internet service or part of a corporate or educational infrastructure. The Internet has never been free. Still, it is surprising to run across what seems to be blatant resentment of the Internet or even subtle criticism of freely available content.

It seems that there's a double standard out there. Television is "free" yet there is no limit to the criticism of what is offered on the broadcast networks. We don't, however, complain about or criticize people getting all that content for free. In fact, we still cling to the idea that the "airwaves" belong to the people of this country and that television should in some part serve the public interest. At the same time, the television generations have grown up with the idea of corporate sponsorship - i.e. commercials. So accepting of commercials are we that we sensitize our youngest children to them by informing that their educational television program is "brought to you by the letter A."

Commercials on the Internet, however, are met with a totally different attitude. This is partly because the Internet grew up within the education and research communities where commercialism wasn't appropriate or required. The other reason may be that online advertisement is more intrusive than TV commercials. In spite of efforts by TV executives to legally bind you to your chair, you can leave the room when the commercials are on or at least focus your attention on something else. Ads on web pages tend to be placed where you are forced to see them or appear as new browser windows that you must dispatch before you can view what you were really looking for.

Sponsored by?

So, who will bring you what's on the Internet? Will we legitimize criticism by relying on corporate sponsorship of Internet content? I hope not, since the wasteland which is broadcast TV is in direct correlation with content that is mediated by corporate interests. Is there a new model that we can employ for supporting Internet content?

In part, the model already exists. It is this: given the opportunity, people will publish their interests, expertise, activities, or organizational efforts. They'll do so because they are interested and believe others are too. Their motivation may be personal or public-spirited, but in the end, we all get to benefit from their efforts (this by the way, is how "free" software gets written too). As long as the cost of publication remains low, the amount of Internet content remains large and the quality is generally high.

That last line is the catch. Internet service is becoming increasingly consumer driven. That is,

we can get as much as we want but publishing whatever we want is a bit harder. A commercial Internet service usually comes with some bit of web publishing space, however, there are limitations on size, hit tolerance, and in some cases, content allowed. If you publish a popular or useful web page, you can soon find it shut down because too many people try to access it. Or worse, you can find it shut down because somebody complains about the content. Thus to independently publish, you really need your own dedicated Internet connection and your own web server, a cost which may not be always in reach of those with truly interesting content to publish.

A radical alternative

It may be too much to hope that Internet content remains free and motivated by the public interest. There's still a chance, however, to influence the outcome. Certainly, any additional legislation governing intellectual property or digital security will affect the ability to publish on the Internet. So far this legislation has tended to be reactionary and weighted heavily in the favor of commercial interests and intellectual property holders. It's not too late, however, to include rights of fair use and support for the public interest in any future action. The other way to affect things is to continue to publish, however you can.

I've heard of another effort where information was made available at public expense to further the public interest. There were places where collections of information were gathered and made available to anyone who wished to view them, regardless of economic or social standing. I know this concept probably seems quite liberal and radical. I think those places were called "libraries."

Page One

Campus Computing News

Internet Dialup Service Changes

SmartForce Computing Update

Today's Cartoon

RSS Matters

SAS Corner

The Network Connection

Link of the Month

WWW@UNT.EDU

Short Courses

IRC News

Staff Activities

Subscribe to Benchmarks Online

Link of the Month

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

orgs.unt.edu

This site is a where you go to access/find out more about Internet Services for Student Activities and Organizations. Student activities and organizations are listed by category here, and there are also links to information about Internet Services and Support Services. So, point your browser to http://orgs.unt.edu/ and check it out!

The First Smiley :-)

By **Claudia Lynch**, *Benchmarks Online* Editor

Since the Web folks are "otherwise engaged," and Dr. Baczewski chose to write about the commercialization of the Internet in this month's Network Connection, I thought it might be fun *and* thought provoking to celebrate the invention of the smiley [:-)]. That's right, someone is actually credited with inventing this emoticon, and it is now 20 years old.

It all began, it turns out, at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) with a young man named Scott Fahlman. Apparently some folks at Microsoft set out to track down the message that started the whole emoticon revolution, and they did! Following is the message and what they have to say about it (to read their entire site, go here).

> The smiley :-) and its many variants are an important (and fun!) part of the worldwide online social culture -- allowing emotions to be conveyed in plain text. It has been in widespread use since the early '80s, when it was first proposed. Yet the original message in which the smiley was invented had been lost -- until now. :-) After a significant effort to locate it, on September 10, 2002 the original post made by Scott Fahlman on CMU CS general bboard was retrieved by Jeff Baird from an October 1982 backup tape of the spice vax (cmu-750x). Here is Scott's original post:

> 19-Sep-82 11:44 Scott E Fahlman :-)
> From: Scott E Fahlman <Fahlman at Cmu-20c>
>
> I propose that the following character sequence for joke markers:
>
> :-)
>
> Read it sideways. Actually, it is probably more economical to mark things that are NOT jokes, given current trends. For this, use
>
> :-(

Scott Fahlman is older now, but he continues to be a member of the Computer Science faculty at CMU (at least sort of, see his homepage for further information/clarification). He has been asked so often about his role in inventing the smiley that he put up a Web page on the topic.

How, you may be wondering, does this relate to the commercialization of the Internet. Well think about this - what if Dr. Fahlman decided that the smiley was his intellectual property? What if he hired lawyers and attempted to charge people for the use of his intellectual

property? What if he was able to have people arrested who refused to pay? What if others with similar claims (and proof) followed suit? Perhaps we should all pay a little closer attention when legislation comes up with regard to copyright and intellectual property, particularly when it concerns the Internet. We just may find ourselves legislated out of existence, and that would be a shame.

Short Courses

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

Planning is still underway for the fall Short Courses. Please consult the [Short Courses]() page to see the types of courses likely to be offered. The fall schedule should be out soon.

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](), usually for a small fee.

GroupWise Training

If would like to have a Basic GroupWise seminar for your area, please contact Jason Gutierrez, Campus Wide Networks, [jasong@unt.edu]() .

GroupWise 6 classes have already been scheduled for the fall semester. Here is the lineup:

        Sept 17-19 - Introduction to GroupWise 6
         Oct 22-24 - Basic GroupWise 6
         Nov 19-21 - Intermediate GroupWise 6

All classes are from 10 am to 11:50 am in the Eagle student Services Center (ESSC), Room 152. For signup information, go to [https://home.unt.edu/hr/training/treg.htm]() or E-mail Melanie Betterson at [MBetterson@ADAF.admin.unt.edu]() .

ProDirections Instructor-led Training

UNT has formed a partnership with ProDirections to offer instructor-led computer training on Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access. Classes are $99+$42 for the book. Classes in a series (3 classes in the same series) are $99 for each class and the book is free. The Excel Series includes Basic Excel, Advanced Excel-part 1, and Advanced Excel-part 2. The Access Series includes

Basic Access, Intermediate
Access, and Advanced Access.

Upcoming workshops:

Basic Access
Tuesday, October 15, 2002 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch provided)
Monday, December 9, 2002 from 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

Intermediate Access
Wednesday, October 16, 2002 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch provided)
Tuesday, December 10, 2002 from 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

Advanced Access
Thursday, October 17, 2002 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch provided)
Wednesday, December 11, 2002 from 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

Basic Excel
Tuesday, November 19, 2002 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch provided)

Advanced Excel-part 1
Wednesday, November 20, 2002 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch provided)

Advanced Excel-part 2
Thursday, November 21, 2002 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch provided)

PowerPoint
Tuesday, December 17, 2002 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch provided)

To register, send E-mail to Melanie Betterson at
MBetterson@ADAF.admin.unt.edu or call Human Resources at x4246.
Payments can be made by either a check request or with a Purchasing Card and
should go directly to ProDirections. Cancellations must be done 2 days prior to
the workshop date to receive a refund.

For a description of each class please go to http://www.prodirections.com/ and
click on "Corporate Workshops"

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 ISB 204. 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 Campus-Wide Networks division of the Computing Center.

Check the CWN site to see if and when they are offering any training.

UNT Mini-Courses

These 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 .

Alternate Forms of Training

Many of the General Access Labs around campus have tutorials installed on their computers. For example, the College of Education recently acquired some 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. Training tapes, Computer Based Training (CBT) and Web-based training are some of the alternatives offered. Of particular interest are courses available via SmartForce (formerly CBT Systems). See http://www.unt.edu/smartforce/ for more information.

There are also handouts for computer training on the following topics:

- GroupWise 5.2 Handout for Win95/NT
- FAQ for GroupWise 5.2
- Computers - Back to the Basics
- Introduction to Windows 95 /98/NT
- Introduction to Word 97
- Advanced Word 97 - MailMerge It Together
- Introduction to PowerPoint 97 (Creating a Slide Show)
- Introduction to Remedy (THE Call-Tracking Program)
- AND, the award winning Introduction to Excel 97

Adobe Acrobat Reader Format only for the following:

- Introduction to Microsoft Word 2000
- Introduction to Microsoft Excel 2000
- Creating a Slide Show with PowerPoint 2000
- Using Netscape Communicator & the UNT Home Page

Use the Internet to search for answers to Microsoft Office problems. See http://www.zdnet.com/zdhelp/filters/office/ December 1999's "List of the Month" offers links to free Microsoft Word and Excel information also.

IRC News

Minutes provided by Sue Ellen Richey, Recording Secretary

IRC Regular and Ex-officio Voting Members: *Judith Adkison, College of Education; Donna Asher, Administrative Affairs; Craig Berry, School of Visual Arts; Lou Ann Bradley, Communications Planning Group; Cengiz Capan, College of Business and GALC; Bobby Carter, UNT Health Science Center; Matt Creel, Student Government Association; Christy Crutsinger, Faculty Senate; Jim Curry, Academic Administration; Don Grose, Libraries and University Planning Council; Joneel Harris, EIS Planning Group; Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Student Computing Planning Group; Tom Jacob, College of Arts and Sciences; Abraham John, Student Development; Jenny Jopling, Instruction Planning Group; Armin Mikler, Research Planning Group; Kenn Moffitt, Standards and Cooperation Program Group; Ramu Muthiah, School of Community Services; Jon Nelson, College of Music; Robert Nimocks, Director, Information Technology, UNTHSC; John Price, UNT System Center; Philip Turner, School of Library and Information Science and University Planning Council (Chair, IRC); VACANT, Graduate Student Council; VACANT, Staff Council; VACANT, University Planning Council; Virginia Wheeless, Chancellor, for Planning; Carolyn Whitlock, Finance and Business Affairs; .* *IRC Ex-officio Nonvoting Members:* *Jim Curry, Microcomputer Maintenance and Classroom Support Services; Richard Harris, Computing Center and University Planning Council; Coy Hoggard, Computing Center/Administrative; Judy Hunter, GALMAC; Maurice Leatherbury, Computing Center/Academic; Doug Mains, UNT Health Science Center; Patrick Pluscht, Center for Distributed Learning; Sue Ellen Richey, Computing Center (Recording Secretary); Ken Sedgley, Telecommunications.*

There are no IRC minutes this month. The membership list above has been updated for the 2002-2003 academic year.

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. This fiscal year, the December meeting was changed to December 11th, the April meeting was cancelled, and the May meeting changed to May 7th. There was no meeting in August. All meetings of the IRC, its program groups, and other committees, are open to all faculty, staff, and students.

Staff Activities

Transitions

The following are new employees:

- **Praveen Kaluva** - Lab Monitor, ACS General Access Lab, ACS (part-time)

- **McKenna Metcalf** - I/O Operator, Print Services, Production Services, MTS (part-time)

- **Pablo Ozuna** - Programmer on UNT/HSC Fiscal Data Systems Team; Administrative Computing Services.

- **Arvind Srinivasan** - Lab Monitor, ACS General Access Lab, ACS (part-time).

- **Kiranmayee Yerramsetty** - Lab Monitor, ACS General Access Lab, ACS (part-time).

- **Eric Weiss** - Microcomputer Consultant, Helpdesk, ACS (part-time).

- **Harold Nogle**- Microcomputer Consultant, Helpdesk, ACS (part-time).

- **Pranav Dagaonkar** - Report Distribution Assistant (part-time).

- **Dennis Cunningham** - Report Distribution Assistant (part-time).

- **Ruthie Bekker** - I/O Operator, Print Services, Production Services, MTS (part-time).

- **Matthew Kernan** - Computer Technician II in CC1/CC2 Server/User Support (part-time).

The following people no longer work in the Computing Center:

- **Mohammad Alsadka** - Microcomputer Consultant, Helpdesk (part-time)

- **Bill Buntain** - Director of Networking and Communications Services.

- **Pat Evans** - Remedy Database Analyst.

- **Leesa Garcia** - University Information Operator.

- **Khalid Hossain** - Report Distribution Assistant (part-time).

- **Preston Robinson** - Report Distribution Assistant (part-time).

Changes

- **Chris Cofer** - Now leads the newly created UNIX Services team in the

Computing Center Administration division (UNIX Services was formerly under Academic Computing Services).

- **Randall Shope** - Has been moved from the Voice and Web Strategic Apps team of the Mainframe Technical Services division to the UNIX Services team, Computing Center Administration division, reporting to Chris Cofer.
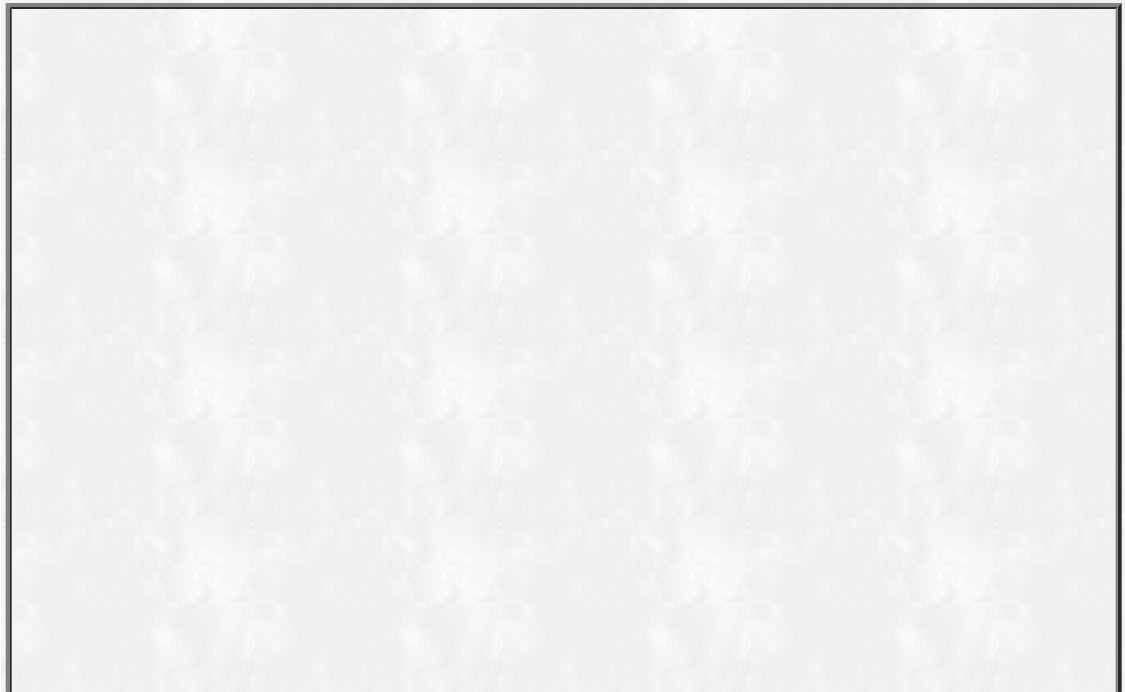
Awards, Recognition

The following people were recognized in the August 23 issue of *Inhouse* for their years of service to UNT:

- **Eric Duchemin**, EIS Project Team Leader - 15 years of service.

- **Gini Kennedy**, Programmer/Analyst with the Student Records Data Systems Team - 10 years of service.

The following people have been nominated as **Soaring Eagles** and will receive their award at the President's Staff Sack Lunch on October 22:

- **Nancy Fisher**, Voice Response Applications Team Leader, was recognized for checking in on Student Accounting while she was away. "Your dedication has been noticed.

- **Sharon McLaughlin**, Telecommunications Administrative Assistant, and **Bob Saringer**, CATV/Communications Technician, were recognized for setting up UCM "with a much needed cell phone and calling plan. Thanks for saving the day!"

Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Student Computing Services Manager, presented her research, "Crossing the Line: Women Composers and Music Technology in the United States" to the Denton Chapter of the AAUW. Dr. Hinkle-Turner has also been named to the board of directors of the Canadian Electroacoustic Community (cec.concordia.ca).

From "Today's Cartoon by Randy Glasbergen", posted with special permission.
For many more cartoons, please visit www.glasbergen.com.

Page One

Campus
Computing
News

**Internet Dialup
Service
Changes**

**SmartForce
Computing
Update**

Today's Cartoon

RSS Matters

SAS Corner

**The Network
Connection**

**Link of the
Month**

WWW@UNT.EDU

Short Courses

IRC News

Staff Activities

**Subscribe to
Benchmarks
Online**

Campus Computing News

By Claudia Lynch, *Benchmarks Online* **Editor**

Changing with the times

If you have been reading *Benchmarks Online* for awhile, you may have noticed that the Computing Center has been going through a lot of changes lately. These changes are not only going to continue, they are going to increase over the next several years. I have prepared a a sort of "Cliff Notes" overview, below, to help you grasp the magnitude of the changes you can expect.

Enterprise Information System (EIS) Acquisition/Implementation

Last year, UNT began the process of selecting a new "Enterprise Information System," (or EIS). This system will eventually replace virtually all of the aging administrative systems on campus over the next three or four years, at which time our IBM mainframe computer will be decommissioned and we'll no longer be referring to SIMS, HRMIS, NOBIS, CEATS, and all those other acronyms we've grown to love. The new system will truly be a "UNT System," because it will be shared by the Health Sciences Center and the Denton campus (and of course the future UNT Dallas.) See Enterprise Information System Selection Status Report for further background on this topic.

The EIS news Website contains up-to-date information on the project. Below are two recent entries.

- **University of North Texas System Selects PeopleSoft Enterprise Solutions - Pure Internet Applications To Provide Real-Time Information Access For Multi-Campus Institution** (August 20, 2002) - PeopleSoft Inc. (Nasdaq: PSFT) today announced that the University of North Texas System (UNT System) selected PeopleSoft's industry-leading enterprise solutions .... (Read the PeopleSoft press release).

- **UNT System reaches agreement with Ciber** (July 23, 2002) - The UNT system reached agreement with Ciber, Inc., to provide implementation services in support of the implementation of PeopleSoft's ERP suite for the UNT System. The initial effort with be a project charter effort that will commence in August. This will be followed by a project planning effort and analysis of the fit of the PeopleSoft applications to the UNT system's requirements beginning in September.

UNT Internet Services

Over the past several years, efforts have been underway to expand and improve the student E-mail system (EagleMail) and move away from older and insecure host and authentication technologies. Inevitable in this process, is the retirement

of older technologies and computer systems. The article UNT Internet Services in Transition provides you with a history of UNT Internet services and the rationale for the changes the services are undergoing. The article Internet Dialup Service Changes in this issue of *Benchmarks Online*, discusses some important - and positive - changes in that service, as well.

Academic Mainframe

Just as the Administrative Mainframe is being phased out, so too is the Academic Mainframe. This makes sense since both actually share a single CPU. The article Academic Mainframe Shutdown Proposed details the rationale for the impending shutdown, and Academic Mainframe Services to be Terminated in 2003 contains the timetable for that shutdown.

ACS General Access Lab Functions Expanded/Enhanced

This summer Academic Computing Services, the Office of Disability Accommodation, the UNT libraries, and the General Access Lab leadership took the opportunity to evaluate and act upon recommendations by the UNT administration to provide more convenient access to adaptive computing facilities for the several hundred University community members who utilize adaptive equipment on our campus. The resulting planning sessions and budgetary allocations have resulted in exciting new technical opportunities and resources.

After careful consideration it was determined that the adaptive facilities should be moved to the Academic Computing Services General Access lab located in ISB 110. This location offers many advantages including its centralized location, its close proximity to the Union where Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) is housed, and the availability of ramp access far away from busy streets. After this choice of location was made cooperative efforts between the UNT library, Academic Computing Services, the School of Community Service and the ODA helped to make this new facility an outstanding resource for the university. The article Expanded Adaptive Facilities Available for the UNT Community provides further information on this change, including the adaptive software that is available in the lab.

And there's more ...

Add some internal reorganization (in progress) to the items above, changes in computer-based instruction providers, and the possible re-location of some or all Computing Center personnel to the new UNT Research Park and you've got Change with a capital C! Keep reading *Benchmarks Online* for the latest on this and other new developments.

Internet Dialup Service Changes

By **Dr. Philip Baczewski**, **Associate Director of Academic Computing**

The best kind of change is the kind you don't notice. Some changes have been made to the Internet dialup service which most people won't notice, but which could have a positive effect on your dialup use. At the end of August 2002, dialup service was changed to use the same password authentication service that is used for EagleMail. This has simplified management of dialup passwords and resulted in a few other changes as well.

Good news for PRAS Users

One change of interest to Premium Remote Access Service (PRAS) users is that your subscription will now allow you to use our service in any of the three geographical phone service areas where it is supported: Dallas, Fort Worth, or Denton. This means that if you move from one area to another or need to use the service in different areas at different times, you no longer need to request a service area change for your PRAS account.

Things simplified for Students

Students no longer need to sign up for UNT Internet Services to use the general dialup lines or be eligible for premium dialup service. If you have EagleMail they have dialup. Faculty/Staff should still apply for "UNT Internet Services" to use dialup, or other Internet Services.

Additional Benefits

An additional benefit of this change is that the password reset facility of the management page now changes the password for all Internet Services, including dialup. Previously, dialup passwords could only be reset via the Password change menu of the UNT Internet Services.

For more information about Premium or General dialup services, please visit the Computing Center Helpdesk's Remote Access page. For other questions about dialup service, contact the Computing Center Helpdesk (helpdesk@unt.edu or 940-565-2324).

SmartForce Computing Update

By Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Student Computing Services Manager

Several new events in the area of computer-based training here at UNT have occurred this summer. A lengthy article about the new Java-based platform for SmartForce courses appeared in in the June issue of *Benchmarks Online*. Just to refresh your memory, there is now no need for a plug-in to view SmartForce courses online. That being said, this new format has brought with it some technical restrictions: SmartForce no longer runs effectively on Netscape and is best viewed with Internet Explorer 6.0. Users will also need to download some other plugins such as Flash, Realplayer, and Shockwave to take advantage of the animated portions of the courses. New course offerings include modules in Office XP and Windows XP as well as Linux and Oracle 9i. All information about computer setup and course offerings remains at www.unt.edu/SmartForce/.

A new Company

Additionally, SmartForce has now merged with a larger e-learning company, Skillsoft and the name of the company has become Skillsoft. Users can reach information about the new company at either the old www.SmartForce.com address or the new www.skillsoft.com. As the system administrator I do not know what kind of impact that will have on future courses and server upgrades but I do know that this change will not affect our already existing setup. I did spend some time musing over the name change: is it better to be "smart" and "forceful" or "skilled" and "soft"? Hmmm. My supervisor, who does woodworking, did point out that "Skillsoft" reminded him of "Skil Saw" and therefore he had the notion that the new company is "cutting edge". OK - works for me. I will keep everyone up-to-date on any technical changes that might occur due to the company merger.

EEO Compliance

Finally, Human Resources has determined that the SmartForce course, "Business Fundamentals II: Discrimination in the Workplace" fits the criteria for EEO

Compliance. As the HR compliance Website explains, "Effective September 1, 1997, the State Legislature passed an act requiring that all new State faculty and staff attend training on equal employment opportunity law as part of their orientation (Texas Labor Code, Chapter 21, Section 21.010). Beginning January 1998, UNT has included this training as part of new faculty/staff orientation. The law also mandates that all faculty and staff, including TA's, TF's and lecturers, receive supplemental information every two years so that policies are clearly understood. The training program must provide the employee with information regarding the agency's policies and procedures relating to employment discrimination involving sexual harassment."

Human Resources will be offering many options to departments about how to receive this training and one of the most convenient and efficient ways will be through the completion of this online course. The course will also be available on cd-rom. More details will be forth-coming from Human Resources and as the SmartForce administrator, I am happy to see the system expand its offerings to apply to a greater portion of the University community.

All faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to visit the university SmartForce Website to learn more about the system, its setup, and its course offerings. As always, if you have any questions feel free to E-mail me at ehinkle@unt.edu.

Page One

Campus Computing News

Internet Dialup Service Changes

SmartForce Computing Update

Today's Cartoon

RSS Matters

SAS Corner

The Network Connection

Link of the Month

WWW@UNT.EDU

Short Courses

IRC News

Staff Activities

Subscribe to Benchmarks Online

TODAY'S CARTOON

Copyright 2002 by Randy Glasbergen.
www.glasbergen.com

GLASBERGEN

"IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED, BLAME YOUR COMPUTER."

From "Today's Cartoon by Randy Glasbergen", posted with special permission. For many more cartoons, please visit www.glasbergen.com.