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IT Governance Update

By John Hooper, **Chief Information Office, University Information Technology**

As the University faces economic headwinds and new educational paradigms, technology is often essential to increasing efficiency and to changing or creating services to meet new demand and expectations. There is no shortage of good ideas but resources are constrained. In our current climate Information Technology (IT) governance has become even more critical to assure that scarce resources are applied toward the "common good" initiatives that best support the strategies of the university. To make the best decisions about IT, the appropriate constituents should be engaged in the IT governance process.

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IT Shared Services Update

By Claudia Lynch, *Benchmarks Online* Editor

The Shared Services Initiative, announced by the UNT Board of Regents in November of 2009, is "a collaborative system-wide governance model for Information Technology and Human Resources functions." Much progress has been made since that time and now an **IT Shared Services Strategic Plan** has been approved.

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Major Makeover: Willis Library 24-Hour Computing Expands Availability and Service

By Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Director - **Academic Computing Technical Service**

The Willis Library has always been a busy place and its extension of study hours to 24/7 has proven to be a popular and welcome resource for UNT student success. Equally as busy and popular has been the Willis 24-Hour General Access Computer Lab.

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By the Numbers

HPC Talon Statistics

CPU Utilization by Field (CPU Hours -- January through July 2012) for Talon:

- Chemistry: 2125018
- Materials Science: 1647215
- Physics: 387576
- Biology: 53190
- Other: 68990

EDUCAUSE News

By Claudia Lynch, *Benchmarks Online* Editor

We have more EDUCAUSE news to share this month. A summary is now available for "Analytics 3-Day Sprint" that was held in July; the ELI Online Fall Focus Session is coming up next month; face-to-face and online conference programs are available for the 2012 Annual Conference coming up in November; you will soon be able to register for the West/Southwest Regional Conference to be held February 12–14, 2013 in Austin, Texas; and you can register to be a speaker at the Enterprise IT Leadership Conference in St. Louis, Missouri next April.

Read more   BOOKMARK

Recap of SciPy 2012

By Patrick McLeod, ACUS Host Systems Administrator

The 11th annual Scientific Computing with Python Conference (SciPy for short) took place in Austin, Texas in July. Meeting at the AT&T Conference Center at the University of Texas, the conference was sponsored by Austin-based Enthought, Google, and Los Alamos National Laboratory among others.

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Today's Cartoon

Click on the link above for an information age laugh.

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The IT Governance initiative was announced in the July issue of *Benchmarks Online*. As promised, as progress is made in implementing this new process, we will continue to inform the University community via this forum and others.

Currently IT Governance committees are in the process of being formed so that initial meetings can be held. The membership of the IT Leadership Committee and the Technical Architecture Group are set and listed below.

IT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

UNT CIO - JOHN HOOPER - CHAIR

SENIOR VICE PROVOST - YOLANDA NIEMANN

ASSOCIATE VP FOR RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - RUTHANNE THOMAS

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE – CARLOS HERNANDEZ

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING - KURUVILLA JOHN

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR TECHNOLOGY AND OPERATIONS - CENGIZ CAPAN

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS - DAN NAEGELI

DEPUTY UNT CIO – PHILIP BACZEWSKI

ITSS MANAGEMENT AND RISK SERVICES - CHARLOTTE RUSSELL (NON-VOTING)

ITSS STRATEGIC SERVICES – VACANT (NON-VOTING)

TECHNICAL ARCHITECTURE GROUP (TAG) MEMBERSHIP

UIT- PHILIP BACZEWSKI- CHAIR

CAS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES- LORENZO ROBLES

CLEAR- JOSEPH HOFFMANN

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS HELPDESK- MIKE HATCH

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION SUPPORT- PAUL HONS

COI TECHNOLOGY SERVICES GROUP- GARY MATHEWS

CVAD SUPPORT- MICHAEL BAGGETT

ENGINEERING SUPPORT- JIM BYFORD

LIBRARIES SUPPORT- SCOTT JACKSON

MUSIC HELPDESK- BEN BIGBY

PACS STAFF TECH SUPPORT- RAMU MUTHIAH

TAM NETWORK SUPPORT- ROY ZUMWALT

DECISION SUPPORT SERVICES- STELLA ANTIC

PDL IT SUPPORT- BRADLEY VARCOE

GALMAC CHAIR- JUDY HUNTER

STAFF COUNCIL- CHRIS FOSTER

ACUS- ELIZABETH HINKLE-TURNER

AITS- ABRAHAM JOHN

CSS- JIM CURRY

MMS- DEKE ISAAC

WEB DEVELOPMENT CENTER- KENN MOFFITT

ITSS MANAGEMENT & RISK SERVICES- CHARLOTTE RUSSELL

ITSS COMMUNICATION & COLLABORATION SERVICES- JOE ADAMO

ITSS ENTERPRISE SYSTEMS INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES- CRAIG TERRELL

ITSS STRATEGIC SERVICES- WIL CLARK

ITSS CAMPUS TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT SERVICES- KATY GALLAHAN

Membership appointments for some represented areas are still being sought for the Research Information Technology and Academic Information Technology advisory groups.

For more information on the IT Governance at UNT please click on this link. If you have any questions please contact Dr. Philip Baczewski, UNT Deputy CIO and chair of the committee, or myself.

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The Shared Services Initiative, announced by the UNT Board of Regents in November of 2009, is "a collaborative system-wide governance model for Information Technology and Human Resources functions." Much progress has been made since that time and now an **IT Shared Services Strategic Plan** has been approved.

As was reported in ITSS News, "IT Shared Service (ITSS) has developed a three-year Strategic Plan for their services. This plan has been reviewed and approved by all three layers of the IT governing structure (all five Program Management Committees, the IT Governance Council and the Shared Services Council). The plan is now posted on the ITSS web site at http://itss.untsystem.edu/about-itss/strategic-plan. The ITSS Leadership team is working to develop an initiative based, high level, three-year timeline for implementing approved initiatives in the plan. That timeline will be published and accessible to everyone as soon as it is finalized." For further information see the entire article here.

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By Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Director - **Academic Computing Technical Service**

The Willis Library has always been a busy place and its extension of study hours to 24/7 has proven to be a popular and welcome resource for UNT student success. Equally as busy and popular has been the Willis 24-Hour General Access Computer Lab. Just like a Reese's with "two great tastes that taste great together" (I am showing my age here!), the combination of 24 hour library access *and* 24 hour state-of-the-art computer lab access launched this fall by library staff has become an irresistable draw for literally thousands of UNT students every day. A recent article written by Caroline Booth, UNT Libraries Director of Communications and Marketing for UNT's *Inhouse* online publication announced the facility which will now be known by the name, **24hr Student Computing Center @ the Library**.


Patrons can get to the computer stations quickly upon entering the library

The expanded computing center is popular with the students who fill up the machines

Other features outlined in Booth's article include a five-fold increase in available computers for students (now about 200 machines are in the library compared to 42 in spring 2012); the opening of the *entire* library 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; and the staffing of "computer customer service representatives" to assist library patrons in getting their work completed and printed successfully. Scott Jackson, Director of Library Facilities and Systems, also discusses the addition of three SMART boards, large displays and comfortable chairs (always a plus!) as important to the new layout and features. It should also be noted that the Libraries' Cyber Cafe´ is often open so drinks and bakery items can be enjoyed while getting work done.
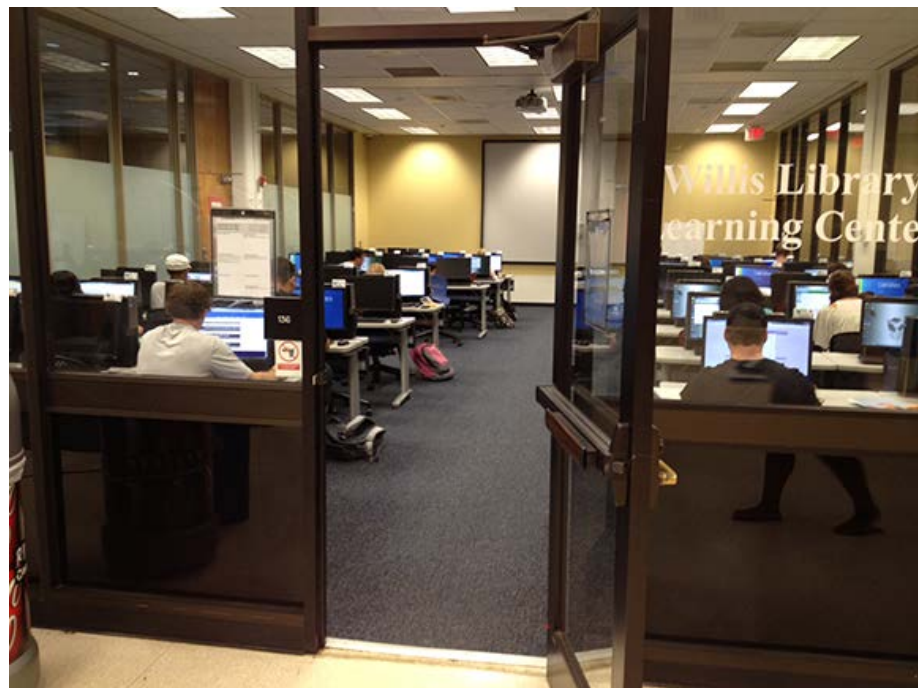
Students can also work inside the Willis Library Learning Center on the first floor

Printing has also been expanded and gotten easier in the library. Students send their documents to a large number of printers which are easily accessible and no longer crowded into a small facility. Students still need to carefully follow the printing rules and guidelines listed on the General Access Computer Lab website.

Getting printing done is easy and convenient at these print stations
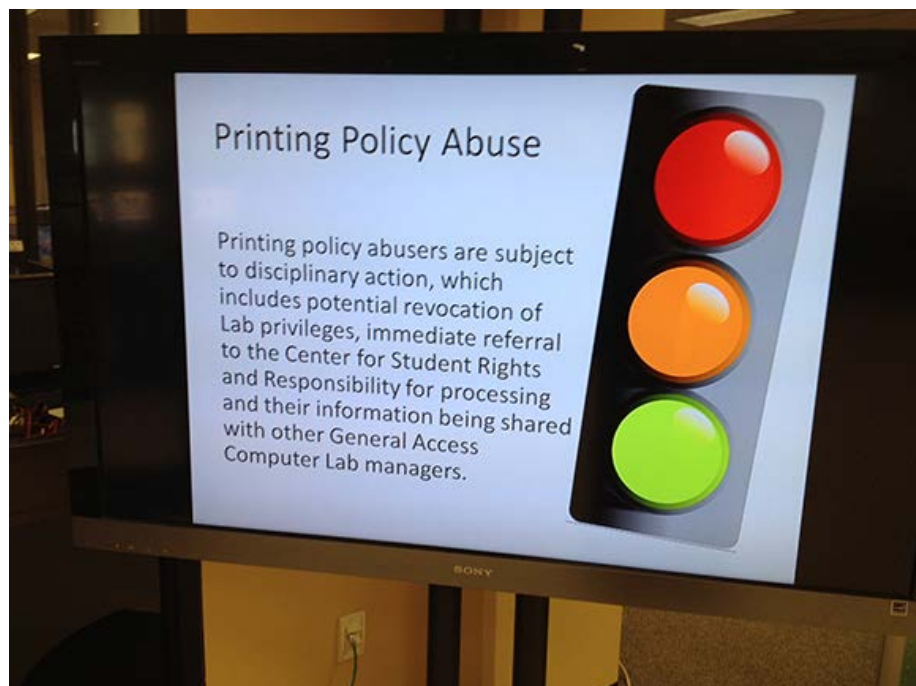
Students must still follow printing regulations for classwork!

Willis Library staff plan to continue to expand computer holdings and access throughout all the floors of the library and the UNT community is strongly encouraged to go look "where the action is" at this busy learning location. Want to know where all the students are? They are probably at the library and as Martha Stewart would say, "It's a GOOD thing!"

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

The Phone War

Autumn is almost here. Summer is now a memory as are the many blockbuster movies that were so fervently promoted only to be so quickly forgotten. There is one blockbuster event that does still linger in our memory and in some ongoing news coverage. Apple versus Samsung was the tech event of the summer that had some of us sitting on the edge of our seats following the back and forth battle and awaiting the eventual outcome. Spoiler alert: Apple eventually won a jury judgement of about a billion dollars from Samsung, but given the prospect for years of appeal, nothing is settled yet. In other words, a bevy of sequels are sure to follow.

With critical issues like the use of square icons with rounded corners and an obsolete handset image to represent the phone function, it still only took the jury in the case a little over 20 hours to come to a decision after months of testimony and reams of evidence being presented. This is seen either as a validation for patent holders everywhere or a flawed jury process, depending upon who you ask. But this verdict is only part of a global struggle for smart phone domination, with Apple and Samsung locked in legal skirmishes seemingly wherever a courtroom can be found.

Why?

Why is there all this attention around smart phones and tablets? It is because they are quickly replacing desktop and laptop PCs as most people's access to the online world. In 2011, more smart phones were shipped than PCs, with Apple and Samsung leading the U.S. market. More computer memory chips are going into tablets and smart phones than PCs. We are edging into the post PC era, and the battle for our dollars has moved along with us.

Some of us have seen this happen before. The advent of the personal computer saw a shift from large central shared computer systems to the desktop systems that are so ubiquitous today. IBM, the most iconic computer firm of that time, introduced the IBM PC, which led to a new hardware marketplace rife with competition, but ultimately ended up with a greatly diminished IBM, and a software startup called Microsoft that achieved a monopoly position amidst the chaos of the hardware market. There were lawsuits back then too. Apple sued Microsoft claiming that Microsoft Windows copied the "look and feel" of the Macintosh operating system. Apple lost, but was able to negotiate an agreement with Microsoft that ensured continued development of Office for Mac OS, and may have help save Apple as a company.

Dare to compare

Recently, after much anticipation, Apple introduced the iPhone 5, and in a stunning display of innovation, it's just like the iPhone4, except a little bigger. How does it compare against some other new device, such as the Samsung Galaxy S III? With the same price, the Samsung model has a faster processer, larger and brighter screen, better resolution, a better front-facing camera, better battery life, expandable memory, and doesn't look like a black brick. Why should Apple be worried? Perhaps also because in 2012, Samsung has been the leading producer of smart phones, with an almost 26% share of the global market compared to Apple's mere 7%. With Q2 2012 profits of over $5 billion, perhaps Samsung is not worried about that measly $1 billion judgement.

Winning the battle

Apple seems determined to win the battle that they lost in the 1980's. They will sue the biggest hardware competitor they can find to be sure that Google (Microsoft) will not copy their iOS (Mac OS) in Android (Windows) causing them

to lose market share for the iPhone (Macintosh). Ultimately, this strategy won't work. Because even if they are successful in suppressing Android, the top selling smart phone OS in the world, there are other competitors waiting to take up the challenge, and they will already know how to avoid lawsuits. For example, Firefox OS has recently been touted as a low-cost competitor in the smart phone market. Microsoft's Windows Phone 8 pairs a has-been mobile software concept with a has-been hardware company (Nokia.) Microsoft has never shown itself as a capable competitor in the mobile market (remember the Zune?) but looks to be relatively lawsuit proof.

Apple has succeeded in recent years by bringing products to market that are innovative and smartly designed. Progress happens when new and innovative designs get copied, whether the designs are for information technology, cars, or clothing. Patent and copyright law were meant to provide innovators with an opportunity to profit from their invention, but were not intended to ensure a monopoly. Apple, it seems, would be better served by continuing to innovate, rather than trying to maintain a monopoly position for an iconic product. Just ask IBM, and in another 10-20 years you can ask Microsoft. To paraphrase another summer blockbuster, The shroud of the legal side has fallen. Begun, the phone war has.

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Back to School Web Guide for Students

This month we're going outside of UNT for our *Link of the Month* to bring you "The Most Useful Resources on the Web for Students of All Ages." Topics covered include:

- How To Evaluate a Web Source

- How do I cite an article?

- Find an Answer with Answers.com

- Google Cheat Sheet

- The Best Reference Sites on the Web

- A Beginners Guide to the Web

- Free Books on the Web

- The Ultimate Search Engine List

- Web-based Tools

- How to Find Free Movies and Videos

- How to Be Safe on the Web

For more information visit the website: *http://websearch.about.com/od/referencesearch/tp/backtoschool.htm*

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Helpdesk FYI

By Jonathan "Mac" Edwards, UIT Helpdesk Manager

UNT wireless network connection settings for Windows 7

The UNT wireless network has been available for some time. While Mac users have been able to easily connect, Windows users have had a much more difficult time. The UNT network offers two main benefits over Eaglenet. First, the UNT network has increased security providing encryption. Second, it avoids going through a log-in portal to access the wireless network.

The instructions outlined below have been changed (09/16/2012) due to recomendations by UNT Datacomm. Please see step 7 for new certificate information.

1.   Download EAP-GTC-x86 for 32-bit Windows, or EAP-GTC-x64 for 64-bit Windows

        * How do I tell if I am running Windows 32 bit or 64 bit?

2.   Open and Run the installation

3.   Restart computer

4.   Click Start > Control Panel > Network and Sharing Center > Manage wireless networks

5.   Click Add > Manually create a network profile

Settings are as follows:

Network name: UNT

Security Type: WPA2-Enterprise

 Encryption type: AES

Security Key: leave blank

Check "Start this connection automatically" then click Next

Enter information for the wireless network you want to add

Network name:	UNT
Security type:	WPA2-Enterprise
Encryption type:	AES
Security Key:	☐ Hide characters

☑ Start this connection automatically

☐ Connect even if the network is not broadcasting
   Warning: If you select this option, your computer's privacy might be at risk.

6.   Click Change connection settings

Connection tab settings:

Check "Connect automatically when this network is in range"

Remove all other check marks

Security tab settings:

Security type: WPA2-Enterprise

Encryption type: AES

Choose a network authentication method: Microsoft: Protected EAP (PEAP)

Check "Remember my credentials for this connection each time I'm logged on"
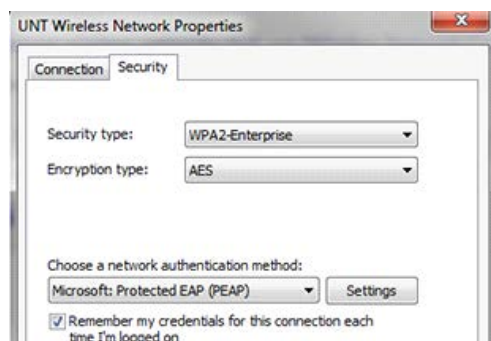
7. Click Settings

Check "Validate server certificate"

Remove check from "Connect to these servers:"

Trusted Root Certification Authorities:

Check "AddTrust External CA Root" only *new instructions*

Select Authentication Method: EAP-Token

Click OK
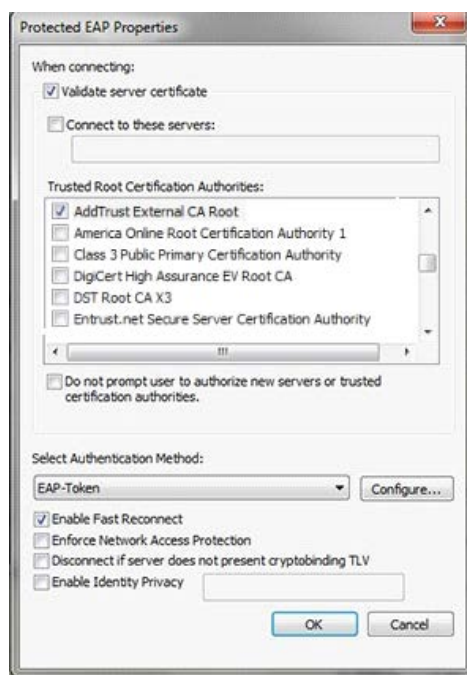
8. Click Advanced settings

802.1X tab settings:

Check "Specify authentication mode:" User or computer authentication

Remove all other check marks

802.11 settings tab:

Remove all check marks
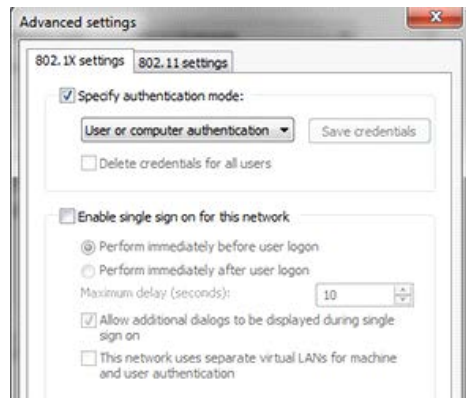
9.   Click OK, then click OK again and restart the computer

10. UNT Wireless should connect automatically after restart. When prompted, enter your euid and password, and leave domain blank.

*Instructions provided by April Cavins, ITSS DataComm.

This article can also be found here.

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RSS Matters

Research and Statistical Support
University of North Texas

lavaan: An Open Source Structural Equation Modeling Package Using the R System for Statistical Modeling

Link to the last RSS article here: SPSS -- Ed.

By Dr. Rich Herrington, Research and Statistical Support Consultant

In a previous article, Dr. Starkweather covered implementing structural equations models (SEM) within the R statistical system. Specifically, the R packages **sem** and **lavaan** were used in the article's R script examples.   In this article, we highlight some of the capabilities, and recent changes, to the R package **lavaan**.

The web page for the lavaan package can be found at http://www.lavaan.org.   The corresponding CRAN website for this package is found at: http://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/lavaan/index.html . Recently, a review article covering package **lavaan**, has appeared in the Journal of Statistical Software: http://www.jstatsoft.org/v48/i02/paper .

One of the authors primary reasons for developing **lavaan** was to provide *"access to an easy-to-use, but complete, SEM program that is inexpensive to install in a computer classroom"* (1).   This ease of use extends to the model syntax that has been chosen for **lavvan**. The author chose to emulate the syntax of the well known SEM software Mplus. Additionally, **lavaan** provides a "mimic" option for output formatting. If **mimic="Mplus"**, **lavaan** produces output that resembles the output of **Mplus** (similar mimic options exist for emulating **LISREL** and **EQS** output). Similar to **Mplus**, the conventions adopted in **lavaan** follow the following nomenclature (table taken from reference 1.):

Formula type	Operator	Mnemonic
Latent variable	=~	is manifested by
Regression	~	is regressed on
(Residual) (co)variance	~~	is correlated with
Intercept	~ 1	intercept
Defined parameter	:=	is defined as
Equality constraint	==	is equal to
Inequality constraint	<	is smaller than
Inequality constraint	>	is larger than

An example of the prototypical R code necessary to declare a **lavaan** model in R appears as follows:

Note that lines with "#" are comment lines and do not effect the evaluation of the script. The R code above assigns a character string to the model object "myModel". An example taken from the help pages of *lavaan* include a famous model and data set, included in many articles and texts covering SEM methodology:

lavaan SEM R script:

```
#  lavaan SEM R script

library(lavaan)

# The Holzinger and Swineford (1939) example

HS.model <- ' visual  =~ x1 + x2 + x3
              textual =~ x4 + x5 + x6
              speed   =~ x7 + x8 + x9 '

fit <- lavaan(HS.model, data=HolzingerSwineford1939,
              auto.var=TRUE, auto.fix.first=TRUE,
              auto.cov.lv.x=TRUE)

summary(fit, fit.measures=TRUE)
```

The resulting lavaan output:

Output Part 1:

```
# lavaan SEM output

lavaan (0.5-9) converged normally after  41 iterations

  Number of observations                          301

  Estimator                                        ML
  Minimum Function Chi-square                   85.306
  Degrees of freedom                               24
  P-value                                       0.000

Chi-square test baseline model:

  Minimum Function Chi-square                  918.852
  Degrees of freedom                               36
  P-value                                       0.000

Full model versus baseline model:

  Comparative Fit Index (CFI)                   0.931
  Tucker-Lewis Index (TLI)                      0.896

Loglikelihood and Information Criteria:

  Loglikelihood user model (H0)             -3737.745
  Loglikelihood unrestricted model (H1)     -3695.092

  Number of free parameters                        21
  Akaike (AIC)                               7517.490
  Bayesian (BIC)                             7595.339
  Sample-size adjusted Bayesian (BIC)        7528.739

Root Mean Square Error of Approximation:

  RMSEA                                         0.092
  90 Percent Confidence Interval        0.071   0.114
  P-value RMSEA <= 0.05                          0.001
```

Output Part 2:

```
Standardized Root Mean Square Residual:

  SRMR                                          0.065

Parameter estimates:

  Information                                 Expected
  Standard Errors                             Standard

                    Estimate  Std.err  Z-value  P(>|z|)
Latent variables:
  visual =~
    x1                1.000
    x2                0.553    0.100    5.554    0.000
    x3                0.729    0.109    6.685    0.000
  textual =~
    x4                1.000
    x5                1.113    0.065   17.014    0.000
    x6                0.926    0.055   16.703    0.000
  speed =~
    x7                1.000
    x8                1.180    0.165    7.152    0.000
    x9                1.082    0.151    7.155    0.000

Covariances:
  visual ~~
    textual           0.408    0.074    5.552    0.000
    speed             0.262    0.056    4.660    0.000
  textual ~~
    speed             0.173    0.049    3.518    0.000

Variances:
    x1                0.549    0.114
    x2                1.134    0.102
    x3                0.844    0.091
    x4                0.371    0.048
    x5                0.446    0.058
    x6                0.356    0.043
    x7                0.799    0.081
    x8                0.488    0.074
    x9                0.566    0.071
    visual            0.809    0.145
    textual           0.979    0.112
    speed             0.384    0.086
```

Some of the functionality available to users in the current version of lavaan (0.5.9) includes:

-        Esitmators: ML, GLS, WLS, MLM, MLF, MLR

-        Can use Bollen-Stine bootstrapping

-        Provides full FIML missing value analysis for MCAR and MAR settings

-        Can implement general nonlinear equality and inequality constraints

-        Provides full support for mean structures with parameter restrictions across groups

-        Provides modification indicies and expected parameter changes based on these indices

\-   Provides full support for categorical and ordinal data using three stage WLS: WLS, WLSM, & WLSMV

References:

(1)   [lavaan: An R Package for Structural Equation Modeling](#)

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ITC News

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

No ITC meetings are scheduled for this year since the new UNT IT governance groups are getting underway. For more information see the "Campus Computing News" article in this issue of *Benchmarks   Online*

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Training

By Claudia Lynch, *Benchmarks Online* Editor

Do you need training on widely used computer programs including those used in statistical analysis? If so, this monthly *Benchmarks Online* column is for you.

Statistical Analysis

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

Special classes can always be arranged with the RSS staff. Also, you can ***always*** contact the RSS staff for one-on-one consultation. **Please read the FAQ before requesting an appointment though.**

Especially for Faculty and Staff Members

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

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

Microsoft E-Learning

Microsoft E-Learning courses are available for **faculty and staff** via our UNT-Microsoft Campus Agreement. Please contact Claudia Lynch at lynch@unt.edu for instructions on accessing this training. If you haven't accessed the training since last year you will need to get a new access code. UNT, UNTHSC and UNTSYSTEM e-mail addresses are now able to access Microsoft E-Learning.

Microsoft IT Academy

All **students, faculty and staff** within the UNT System now have access to online learning via the Microsoft IT Academy. See this article in the July issue of *Benchmarks Online* for more information.

Microsoft Outlook Tutorials and much more

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

Central Web Support

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

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

CLEAR

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

Faculty meet for lunch once a month during the Fall and Spring sessions, usually in Chilton 245, from Noon-1 p.m for "Brown Bag Seminars". The purpose of this group is to bring faculty members together to share their experiences with distributed learning. One demonstration will be made at each meeting by a faculty member with experience in distributed learning. More information on these activities can be found at the CLEAR Website.

Blackboard Learn 9.1 Migration

Are you ready? Click on the box below and find out:

The **Blackboard Learn Boot Camp** is a workshop introducing instructors to designing your courses for online delivery. This hands-on workshop is targeted for instructors new to Blackboard Learn and/or those interested in learning more about quality course design. Topics will cover best practices for course design as well as the basics of Blackboard Learn. Click on the box below and check out the expanded Blackboard Learn Boot Camp schedule:

Ed2go

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

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

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

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

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

Information Security Awareness

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

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

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

Alternate Forms of Training

Many of the General Access Labs around campus have tutorials installed on their computers. See http://www.gacl.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.

Info~Tech, UNT's new IT Research Partner

Info~Tech has replaced Gartner Core Research Services as UNT's IT research partner. For more information see the August *Campus Computing News* article.

State of Texas Department of Information Resources

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

New Horizons Computer Learning Centers

New Horizins is a DIR vendor, which means that state agencies, like UNT, get special pricing for their services negotiated at the State level (click here for more information about DIR vendors). New Horizons offers courses at their own facilities in Dallas and Fort Worth, but will arrange for onsite training as well. **Coming up on October 1**, New Horizons is now offering Windows 7 Administrator Certification training as an **Online Live** boot camp from Big Brain Bootcamps. Register here or contact your Account Executive.

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Staff Activities

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

Transitions

New Employees:

- **Revant Sati**, ACUS/Adaptive Lab consultant (part-time).

- **Amer Sardar**, ACUS/Adaptive Lab consultant (part-time).

- **Siwaporn Chaicharoen**, ACUS/Adaptive Lab consultant (part-time).

- **Lorie Foster**, Data Management Student Assistant (part-time).

- **Sharukh Mithani**, UIT Helpdesk Consultant (part-time).

- **Jessica Tate**, CSS Tech, Classroom Support Services (part-time).

No longer working in UIT:

- **Barbara Leon** , ACUS/Adaptive Lab consultant (part-time).

- **Marlaina Montoya**, Data Management Student Assistant (part-time).

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EDUCAUSE News

By Claudia Lynch, *Benchmarks Online* Editor

We have more EDUCAUSE news to share this month. A summary is now available for "Analytics 3-Day Sprint" that was held in July; the ELI Online Fall Focus Session is coming up next month; face-to-face and online conference programs are available for the 2012 Annual Conference coming up in November; you will soon be able to register for the West/Southwest Regional Conference to be held February 12–14, 2013 in Austin, Texas; and you can register to be a speaker at the Enterprise IT Leadership Conference in St. Louis, Missouri next April.

The following information was collected and reproduced from documents EDUCAUSE has distributed.

EDUCAUSE Analytics Sprint Summary Now Available

ANALYTICS 3-DAY SPRINT
July 24–26, 2012

EDUCAUSE

The EDUCAUSE Analytics 3-Day Sprint, held on July 24-26, demonstrated the many ways analytics can alter higher education. Now, you can view a full summary and revisit the resources from the event.

Emerging Technologies, Innovation, and Academic Transformation

Click on the graphic below to see the program details.

ELI AGENDA

ELI Online Fall Focus Session
October 2-3, 2012

Emerging Technologies, Innovation, and Academic Transformation

It is possible to have group on-campus participation in this event. For more information see the EDUCAUSE On Campus event planning kit.

EDUCAUSE2012
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

November 6–9
Denver, Colorado, and Online

Registration is open and online and face-to-face daily agendas are now live. You can customize your conference experience by using the topic themes to search the program for educational opportunities that best align with your

interests and learning needs. **Register before October 9 for the best rate.**

Visit the conference website for more information: http://www.educause.edu/annual-conference

West/Southwest Regional Conference

February 12–14, 2013 • Austin, Texas | Registration for this conference opens October 30.

For more information see: http://www.educause.edu/west-southwest-regional-conference

Be a Speaker at the Enterprise IT Leadership Conference

April 16–18, 2013 | St. Louis, Missouri
No Boundaries: Leading IT in an Open Enterprise

For more information see: http://www.educause.edu/events/enterprise-it-leadership-conference

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Recap of SciPy 2012

By Patrick McLeod, ACUS Host Systems Administrator

The 11th annual Scientific Computing with Python Conference (SciPy for short) took place in Austin, Texas in July. Meeting at the AT&T Conference Center at the University of Texas, the conference was sponsored by Austin-based Enthought, Google, and Los Alamos National Laboratory among others. Many of the conference's organizers are Enthought employees, and as with 2011's SciPy, which also took place in Austin, the conference was perfectly assembled and executed (view the conference website).

SciPy?

SciPy is a an annual conference that offers tutorials and talks focused on the scientific community's uses and implementations of Python. In this sense, my use of "scientific community" is a broad one; tutorial instructors come from both industry and the public sector and speakers represent institutions as diverse as Wall Street financial houses, university graduate programs, and U.S. national laboratories.

This year's introductory tutorials focused on the packages NumPy and Matplotlib, HDF5 (a data storage and data management tool), running Python in parallel for high performance computing, and the exciting iPython package. The menu of advanced tutorials for this year's SciPy meeting included scikit-learn, advanced Matplotlib, the panda package for time series analysis, and the statsmodels package.

This year's talks were organized around four tracks: on General Session Day 1 (Wednesday), the two tracks were Python for statistical analyses and Python in high performance computing. Both tracks occurred simultaneously, so participants chose between competing topics presented at the same time in two different locations. One of the advantages of SciPy's current location, the AT&T Conference Center at the University of Texas, is that the conference facility is large enough to accomodate two different medium-sized conferences at the same time while not making the participants sprint from one talk to the next should they want to skip between tracks. I spent most of my day in the Python for statistical analyses track which also had a fasincating presentation on using Python to hack a robot built with Lego Mindstorms to allow the robot to use some of Python's edge detection and image analysis features to self-drive through an elementary obstacle course. I did skip over to the Python in high performance computing track to hear a talk on using the SciPy package in combination with a popular data reduction algorithm called MapReduce. Wednesday evening was filled with two mini-symposia tracks, tracks full of shorter talks aimed at specific audiences; the mini-symposia for that day were focused on geophysics and astronomy.

The General Session Day 2 (Thursday) talks were organized around Python in the scientific workflow track and Python for user interface track. Day 2 opened with one of the best scientific presentations I've had the privilege to witness given by Dr. Joshua Bloom of the University of California - Berkeley. Dr. Bloom is an astronomer who works on deep space transient events and who has built a most impressive scientific workflow for his studies using Python as, he calls it, the glue of his work. Python powers everything in Dr. Bloom's scientific workflow, from literally turning the lights on and off and opening and closing the dome on his research telescope in Arizona all the way through data collection, data sifting, and identifying promising areas of space to search. The telescope Dr. Bloom and his research group use also tweets the coordinates in space that it examines each night for transient events; you can follow it on Twitter @PAIRITEL . Dr. Bloom described his work as "getting very good at identifying needles by becoming very, very good at identifying hay." Thursday's mini-symposia covered Python for meteorology and bioinformatics.

Recommendations

Three things that I'd particularly like to recommend for the University community with regards to SciPy is its affordability, ease of travel, and collegiality. Python is, in many areas of computational research, already a core language. In other areas, it is a language on the rise. One thing that is sadly true of the computational world is that conferences tend to be exhorbitantly expensive, to the point of pricing not only graduate students, but professors as well, out of attending. SciPy is affordable for professors ($550 for two days of tutorials and two days of conference)

and for students ($400 for two days of tutorials and two days of conference). Travel is also affordable, since Austin is a mere four hour drive down I-35. Besides its affordability, the other real game-changing aspect of SciPy is that many of the tutorial instructors and speakers are authors of and committers to the packages that are being used and/or discussed.

If you are using Python in your current research and/or instruction or if you plan on beginning to use Python, I would strongly encourage you and your graduate students to consider looking at SciPy 2013. It's a great conference with some unique opportunities to meet with, network with, and learn from the leading personalities in the scientific Python community. It also has the benefits of offering good opportunities for both students and professors. If anyone in the UNT community would like to know more about SciPy, please contact me.

Happy computing!

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