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Maintenance on Disk Storage Systems Will Cause Outages October 27 & 28

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

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By Jane Himmel, Associate Director, CLEAR

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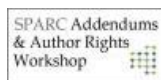
Free Workshop on "Addendums and Author Rights" Offered

By Claudia Lynch, *Benchmarks   Online* Editor

Celebrate **2012 International Open Access Week @ UNT** by attending a **free** workshop on "Addendums and Author Rights" October 24 in Willis Library.

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By the Numbers

HPC Talon Statistics

CPU Utilization by Category (January through July 2012) for Talon:

- Academic Funded: 93.0%
- Academic Unfunded: 7.0%
- Academic General: 0.0%
- Art & Humanities: 0.0%
- Collaborative: 0.0%
- External: 0.0%

Outcome-Based-Assessment Workshops Continue

By Amber Bryant, Senior Marketing Specialist, CLEAR

CLEAR is continuing to offer 50 minute workshops by Dr. Ron Carriveau that provide everything needed to develop measurable student learning outcomes and outcome based assessments.

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EDUCAUSE News Update

By Claudia Lynch, *Benchmarks Online* Editor

The 2012 Annual Conference coming is up next month and the 2012 Leadership Awards recipients will be honored there. You will soon be able to register for the West/Southwest Regional Conference to be held February 12–14, 2013 in Austin, Texas; and there is still time to register to be a speaker at the Enterprise IT Leadership Conference in St. Louis, Missouri next April.

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ITSS Quarterly Newsletter Launched

By Claudia Lynch, *Benchmarks Online* Editor

The *ITSS Quarterly Newsletter* premiered late last month. It is comprised of IT-related news relevant to anyone who uses or has an interest in shared services and applications throughout the UNT System and its member institutions.

Read more   BOOKMARK

Today's Cartoon

Click on the link above for an information age laugh.

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Campus Computing News

Maintenance on Disk Storage Systems Will Cause Outages October 27 & 28

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

On October 27 and October 28, various technical services of Academic Computing and User Services (ACUS) will be abbreviated or unavailable due to maintenance undertaken by the UNT System IT Shared Services (ITSS) division on central disk storage systems supporting the virtual server infrastructure.For a complete explanation of the event and process please refer to the extensive announcements posted by ITSS in *INhouse*, on my.unt.edu, and sent to your official University e-mail account.

ACUS hosts many of its services on virtual machines managed by ITSS. Due to this necessary maintenance outage the following services will be completely unavailable from approximately 6:00 PM Saturday October 27, 2012 to 6:00 PM Sunday October 28:

- ACUS hosted research VMs (see listing below)

- Bulkmail

- Classweb student websites

- LimeSurvey

- Papercut print management (see notes below on workaround)

- Softrack software metering

- Statapps volume on acslicense2vm

The **Sage Hall Testing Center** will be closed on Saturday October 27 and Sunday October 28 - no reservations will be allowed during that timeframe.

Classroom Desktop Services (Discovery Park computer classrooms managed by ACUS) has no classes/services scheduled and do not anticipate any service issues as a result.

The following services will experience a ***brief outage*** due to cutover to failover servers on Friday October 26 at 11:59 PM:

- Checkin -- Checkin GAL services will operate in an alternate hosting environment with no expected degradation of services. A brief outage may occur during the transition between hosting environments at 11:59 pm on Friday, October 26, and early Monday, October 29 (2:00 AM).

The following services will experience a ***brief outage*** due to cutover to failover servers on Saturday October 27 at 11:00 am:

- AMOS concurrent installations

- EViews

- MATLAB concurrent installations

- SPSS Statistics concurrent installations

Users should be aware that anomalies in these services may occur during the October 27 6:00 pm - October 28 6:00 pm time frame though this is not anticipated by our technical staff.

Technical Timeline

The following is ACUS's technical timeline based on coordination with the ITSS VM team. Please note that these times are an estimate. A 'scorecard' of service availability will be visible to all users on the helpdesk.unt.edu to track changes and advancement in the timeline:

UPDATED

Friday, October 26th, 2012

11:59 pm: Checkin cutover to redundant server

Saturday, October 27th, 2012

11:00 am – 12:00 pm: Cut over Acslicense3vm license services from GAB virtual servers to Discovery Park (DP) replicas

Monday, October 29th, 2012

2:00 am: Cut over Checkin production/ Acslicense3vm license services from DP clones and ACTS redundant servers back to GAB virtual servers

A note to Papercut administrators:

During the VM maintenance, PaperCut can still function at the manager's discretion. PaperCut will still be able to push print jobs through the locally hosted print servers (thanks to PaperCut's Failure Mode). By default, these print jobs will not be logged. There will also be a ~45 seconds processing delay for each print job to go through.

Virtual printers will not be functional during the VM maintenance. It is recommended for workstations to have direct access to server printers in order for PaperCut's Failure Mode to work properly.

Complete listing of ACUS servers affected by the ITSS maintenance

Technical services servers:

- Acslicense2vm

- Acslicense3vm

- Bulkmaildev

- Bulkmailnew

- CDCServer

- Checkinnew

- CheckinA

- CheckinB

- Checkindev

- CheckOut

- Classweb

- Classwebdev

- HostMonitorACS

- Papercut

- Papercutdev

- Terra

Research Servers affected by the ITSS maintenance:

- ACUS-eht

- Cassini

- Citrus

- Django

- Gutenberg

- Jenkins

- Mercator

- RSS

- Serpico

- Sete

- Sugar

- Tangelo

- UNTwiki

- Abruzzo

- Albers

- Azimuth

- Bg

- Lingis

- Toscana

What can you do?

As stated above all, ACUS users are strongly encouraged to read the many ITSS bulletins and notices that have been published in a variety of digital venues. Concerned users are also urged to read the "Helpdesk FYI" article in this issue of *Benchmarks Online* and to check the helpdesk.unt.edu website for an up-to-the-minute display of the status of ACUS academic and research systems and services. A detailed list of servers and services affected can also be found on the IT systems outages calendar at helpdesk.unt.edu/outages. **The UIT Helpdesk will be open extended hours to answer questions via phone and e-mail during the outage, but users should be able to assess progress by simply visiting the UNT Helpdesk website.** The UIT Helpdesk will be open the following extended hours during the maintenance: Saturday 9:00 am – 9:00 pm, Sunday 8:00 am – Midnight.

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Blackboard Vista to be Retired at the End of Fall 2012

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

The Blackboard Vista course management system platform will be retired at the end of Fall 2012 and will no longer be used for course delivery at the University of North Texas. All Spring 2013 course sections will be hosted on Blackboard Learn. The deadline for requesting a course migration for **Spring 2013** is **November 27, 2012**. Note that in many cases it is more efficient to rebuild a course in Learn than to migrate one from Vista. For more information on moving to Learn, go to http://clear.unt.edu/go/migrate.

Access to Blackboard Vista after Fall 2012

Access to Vista after December 31, 2012 will be restricted to the technology administrators in IT Shared Services. The technology resources that have maintained a high level of performance on the Vista server while it was in use for classes, will be reallocated to Blackboard Learn. Activity in Vista will be *limited to processing remaining course migrations and fulfilling emergency requests*.

Because faculty and students will no longer have access Vista courses after December 31, 2012, it is important for faculty to prepare for situations that often require student data from a previous semester. As the end of the semester approaches, CLEAR will send specific instructions for downloading data that may be needed in these circumstances:

- **Incompletes**. Faculty are advised to download and save to a network or computer hard drive, assignment, discussions, and assessment data from the Vista courses for students who were given the grade of I (incomplete) before December 31, 2012. This action will ensure faculty maintain immediate access to the information needed to calculate final grades. Students finishing incomplete work for courses that were previously delivered in Vista must finish coursework in Learn (if the use of a course management system is necessary).

- **Grade Challenges**. To the extent that a faculty member anticipates a grade challenge for particular courses or students, it is recommended that the instructor download and save to a network or computer hard drive all grade, assignment, discussion, and assessment data from the Vista courses before December 31, 2012.

- **Research Data**. Faculty are advised to download and save to a network or computer hard drive any data that may be needed from Vista to support ongoing research projects or grant reporting by December 31, 2012.

- **Grade Book – Records Retention**. Regardless of the availability of grade books in the learning management system, grades should routinely be downloaded and saved at the end of each semester and kept on file in the academic department in which the course was offered for a period of five years. (See Records Retention Schedule - Series 7.2 - Student Records-Faculty http://records.unt.edu/untrrs/107.)

Steps for downloading data from Vista will be disseminated later in the semester. If you have questions or concerns about this issue, please contact Jane Himmel, Associate Director, CLEAR at jane.himmel@unt.edu or at 940-369-8137.

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Free Workshop on "Addendums and Author Rights" Offered

By Claudia Lynch, *Benchmarks Online* Editor

Celebrate **2012 International Open Access Week @ UNT** by attending a **free** workshop on "Addendums and Author Rights" October 24 in Willis Library.

According to the event website, the workshop "will provide tips and instruction on protecting your rights as an author when publishing your work and how to achieve wider dissemination of your work through the Open Access UNT Scholarly Works institutional repository."

International Open Access Week is a global event, now in its 6th year, promoting Open Access as a new norm in scholarship and research. It is organized by SPARC®, the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition, is an international alliance of academic and research libraries working to correct imbalances in the scholarly publishing system.

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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

Breaking Through the Paper Barrier

It seems that on all fronts, paper-based publishing is taking it on the chin. Google reached a settlement with the Association of American Publishers over its project to scan books from collections in public and university libraries. Although still in litigation with other parties, a judge has ruled that libraries are within their fair use rights when allowing Google to scan those books. On another front, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recently called for the universal adoption of digital textbooks in U.S. classrooms immediately invoking reactions from luddites and alarmists in all corners. Just today came the news that the longstanding magazine, Newsweek, will transition to an entirely online publication within a year. (Note: Benchmarks has been entirely online for about 15 years.)

E-books are well established in the "trade books" arena. I first wrote about this new phenomenon in 2009. Since then, e-books have gone on to outsell hardcover books and even all printed books in some markets. In education, adoption of electronic textbooks seems to be a bit slower and downright glacial in higher education.

Online textbooks

When my son entered high school a couple of years ago, we were told that all of his textbooks would be available on line. Yet, he still lugs a backpack with about fifty pounds worth of texts (no lockers in his school) rather than being able to have universal access to an e-text via a laptop, tablet, or smartphone. Part of this is cultural -- teachers seem to still be wedded to print copies of books -- part is technological -- the students "technically" don't have access to the school's wireless network -- and part is operational -- we were told that his American history online text was not available because they hadn't figured out how to reassign licenses from previous students accessing that text.

Competition is about to heat up in the K-12 e-text market, with the rumored introduction of the IPad Mini. Apple has previously introduced technology to support the development of online texts, supported for viewing on an iPad. Amazon.com has also introduced its own online e-text technology, with support for managing devices and information. Amazon's Kindle line of tablets are also much more affordable than iPads, falling in the $70 - $200 price range as opposed to the $500 minimum price for an iPad. Presumably, the iPad mini will address price and portability issues and even the playing field a bit in the competition for the hearts and minds (mostly minds) of students.

Despite the naysayers, I think that K-12 adoption of e-texts could now be accelerated, especially if lower cost e-editions allow for the purchase of e-readers for students that don't have access to portable technology. (As one who can afford it, I'd purchase the e-reader if it would save my son from lugging fifty pounds on his back.) The K-12 sector also has the advantage of uniform textbook adoption, sometimes, as in Texas, at the State level. The technological and budgetary challenges are solvable if the cultural ones can be overcome.

There remain many challenges to widespread adoption of e-texts in higher education. Text adoption not only can vary from school to school, but even between different offerings of the same course. The specialization of academic publishing tends to keep the costs high. Also the mechanism of textbook publishing seems to drive high costs where there's an economic disincentive to reduce sales margins that could drastically reduce an author's compensation (and possibly motivation) for writing a text. The college bookstore is a cultural fixture on campuses. Without textbooks, would sales of t-shirts and technology justify the expensive real estate that book stores occupy?

A la carte access?

The expense of academic publishing was recently highlighted in the Chronicle of Higher Education (subscription may be required.) Academic journal costs are leading some libraries to cancel subscriptions to leading academic journals that may not be frequently used at their institutions. But a recent startup company wants to bring the iTunes model

of distribution to academic publishing. Rather than having to buy the whole journal (album), the company called Labtiva wants to enable "a la carte" access to articles (songs) at a lower overall cost to researchers and libraries. For e-texts to succeed in higher education, the mechanisms and culture of academic publishing will need to similarly be radically reworked to develop an alternate economic and business model.

Tradition vs. Modernity

In higher education, there seems to be a constant dissonance between the traditional and the new. This is not necessarily a bad thing. Higher education is both about exploring new frontiers of knowledge as well as preserving the knowledge and creative works that have come before. In 1995, the developing Internet allowed us to imagine and plan for a Scholar's Workstation that would bring electronic information to a academic's fingertips. The development of online information has vastly outpaced what we could imagine in 1995. Likewise, e-texts will evolve to become an integral part of the higher education landscape, with more and more print materials being made available electronically. Maybe we won't be physically flipping pages as much in the future, but having access to a wider array of information and knowledge would seem support the goals and processes of education in a way that previously hasn't been possible. And, I'm sure you'll still be able to buy the t-shirts somewhere.

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WEAR GREEN SAVE MONEY
FRIDAY IS MEAN GREEN PRIDE DAY

Wear   Green,   Save   Money

Did you know that you can support UNT by wearing green on Fridays and save money too? It's all a part of the "Mean Green Pride -- We're All In" campaign, created to encourage "solidarity among the university community, alumni and the communities they serve."

For more information visit the website: *https://meangreenpride.unt.edu/discounts*

Faculty and staff can also get additional discounts via the Perkspot program: *http://unt.perkspot.com/*

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Helpdesk FYI

By Jonathan "Mac" Edwards, UIT Helpdesk Manager

Helpdesk Extended Hours during Storage System Maintenance 7:00 PM October 4:00 PM October 28

The UIT Helpdesk will provide the following extended support hours (phone and email only) during the upcoming maintenance window:

- Saturday October 27: 9 am – 9 pm

- Sunday October 28:   8 am – Midnight

For more information on the upcoming maintenance please see the "Campus Computing" article published in this month's issue of *Benchmarks Online*.

Taking Screenshots on your Computer

When you have an issue with your computer or website you may be asked to provide a screenshot. Below is a l tutorial on taking screenshots provided by UIT Helpdesk staff member Sharukh Mithani.

Screenshot Tutorial (Windows)

Use the following guide to take a screenshot of an error message so the Helpdesk can further assist you.

1. Locate the "Print Screen" key on your keyboard. This is typically located near the top left corner of your keyboard.
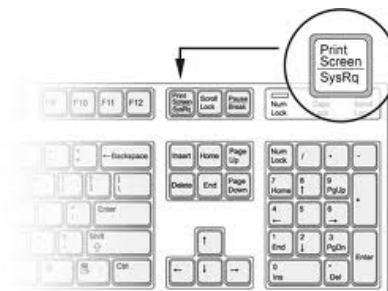
2. Press the Print Screen button to take a screenshot.

3. Click on the Start Menu.

4. Click "All Programs" then "Accessories" then "Paint"

5. Click "Paste" (Windows 7) or "Edit -> Paste" (Windows Vista/XP)

6. Click "File" then "Save As"

7. Save the file to an easily accessible location, such as your desktop. You can then email your screenshot to

the helpdesk.

Screenshot Tutorial (Mac)

1. Press Command-Shift-3 on your keyboard

2. A screenshot will then be saved to your desktop. Simply email this file to the helpdesk.

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RSS Matters

Research and Statistical Support
University of North Texas

Reproducible Research: Can you duplicate the study and results you reported...15 years ago?

Link to the last RSS article here: lavaan: An Open Source Structural Equation Modeling Package Using the R System for Statistical Modeling. -- Ed.

By Dr. Jon Starkweather, Research and Statistical Support Consultant

This month's article concerns a topic which is often overlooked. Inspiration for this article was provided by a short course presented by Harrell (2012a) at the 5th Annual Bayesian Biostatistics conference attended by RSS staff. This article was written to provide some direction and tips for conducting and reporting research in such a way which allows the results to be duplicated at any time in the future. Essentially, the term *reproducible research* means just that; the research can be duplicated, exactly, at *any* time in the future. Reproducibility is one of the core principles of science and empirical decision making. Are the results which guide our decisions reliable? In other words, can results be consistently reproduced with other data; and even more importantly, can the results be reproduced with the same data which originally produced them? If results of a particular study cannot be replicated then those findings become suspect. Below we offer some practical suggestions to help researchers produce results and reports which can be reproduced in the future.

Use the *Right Stuff* and Sow the Seed

There are many types of *stuff* used in research. First, the apparatus, which includes a virtually limitless list of objects used for research, such as; surveys, Bunsen burners, particle accelerators, generators, chemicals, etc. Obviously, these objects should only be used when it can reasonably be expected that they themselves are reliable. But, that is not really what we are concerned with in this article. The types of stuff we are really concerned with here are software packages. If the software you are using for statistical computation cannot exactly reproduce a statistical estimate, then you are using the wrong software for statistical computation. Given the rapid development of relatively cheap computers, and the parallel evolution of more and more sophisticated statistical analyses, it is reasonable to expect a certain level of complexity to the research one is conducting. For example, often resampling techniques are used (e.g., bootstrapping) or Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) methods are used – in either case, it is important that the quasi-random process(-es) be reproducible. This may at first seem to be a contradiction, however, most software capable of doing these types of procedures are also capable of indexing the random number generator so that the results can be replicated. Therefore, it is important to understand how the software you are using is generating random numbers and how to access the system to index a particular analysis or result. For example, it is common to use the 'setseed' function in R to index the random number generator. Below, we use a simple 'sample' function to randomly sample (without replacement) from a vector (x) of sequential values from 1 to 15. In the example below, we use the date (20121010; October 10, 2012) as the 'seed' in the 'set.seed' function.

As can be seen in the above image, four samples (each of size *n* = 3) are draw at random from the vector x and those values are different each time. Then, four samples are draw after setting the seed (to the same value each time) and those values are the same in each sample.

Written   in   Stone

Not only should a researcher be concerned with reproducing exact results (statistics), but the researcher should also be concerned with reproducing the report of those results. Common word processing software is convenient; it's easy to use in order to produce a document with some formatting quickly. However, common word processing software often cannot be read by multiple collaborators/colleagues/users on different computers (i.e. operating systems). Although this area of software has improved drastically in the last ten years, there are often still differences between the same document produced, or even viewed, on different operating systems (even when using the same word processing software; see: Goldberg, 2005). For this reason, and because it offers integration with R, it is recommended that reports be generated using TeX/LaTeX (Knuth, 1995; see also: Wikipedia TeX article for a description). Reports can be written in TeX which allows the report to incorporate statistical programming code, graphics, and comments using various packages in R (Kuhn, 2012) and various packages in TeX/LaTeX. Furthermore, a TeX document can be processed on any computer (i.e. any operating system) using multiple TeX-based editors – and the produced document will appear/print exactly the same way (e.g., the document will look the same in Adobe, GhostScript, etc. regardless of operating system).

Comment   Copiously

Another thing to remember when conducting statistical analysis (or any type of programming) is that the syntax, code, script, etc. should be easily understood by anyone who is likely to see it. In other words, while programming, you should include as many comments as necessary to make the actual code understandable to yourself and anyone else for the foreseeable future. Imagine trying to reproduce whatever research you are currently working on, twenty years from now; will you remember why you recoded that variable, why you used a particular missing value imputation technique? In essence, always use frequent, copious, descriptive, and intuitive comments in your code (or syntax). This recommendation is not oriented primarily to R users; researchers who use SPSS (or SAS) should also become habituated to using syntax even if the analysis only requires pointing and clicking through menus. The reason syntax is required is because menu options often change over time and the syntax will help persons in the future decipher what exactly was done and why – especially if copious comments accompany the working syntax or code. Other benefits of using syntax or code are that it preserves the order of what was done, and comments help inform or guide writing the formal report later.

Make   it   available

Finally, scientific results should not be accessible only to those fortunate enough to afford subscription fees to journals

or access to libraries. To borrow from Stewart Brand (1987); "information wants to be free" (p. 202). Your report, including the data and code, should be available upon request; if not freely available on the web. Provide links and references to the appropriate parties who own the rights to proprietary materials if proprietary data or apparatus were used. Part of the value of scientific results comes from scientists' (e.g., data analysts, graduate students, faculty, professional researchers, etc.) ethical responsibility to allow critical review and scrutinizing of their research. Without candid acknowledgment of limitations and the ability to verify findings, science becomes no more informative than rumor or speculation.

Until next time, *all the leaves are brown…*

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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 the September 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](#).

Blackboard Learn 9.1 Migration

Are you ready? The deadline for requesting a course migration for **Spring 2013** is **November 27, 2012**. See [this article](#) in this issue of *Benchmarks Online* for more information.

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/

Ed2go has a new blog! Click on the logo on the right to find out more information on company news, videos, career advice and tips from ed2go instructors.

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. 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.

Click the box on the right and support the Wounded Warrior Project and learn about the newest product releases from Microsoft.

Clinic Topics:

- 40005: First Look Clinic: Windows Server® 2012

- 40027: First Look Clinic: What's New for Developers in Microsoft SharePoint 2013

- 40028: First Look Clinic: What's New for IT Professionals in Microsoft SharePoint Server 2013

- 40023: First Look Clinic: Introduction to Windows 8 Development — HTML5

- 40025: First Look Clinic: Introduction to Windows 8 Development - C#

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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), only staff activities for UIT will continue to be be reported in this column. ITSS staff activities will be handled by ITSS Communications via the *ITSS Community Update*.

Transitions

New Employees:

- **Broderick Parks**, CSS Tech, Classroom Support Services (part-time).

- **James Guenthner**, CSS Tech, Classroom Support Services (part-time).

- **Bret Ferguson**, CSS Tech, Classroom Support Services (part-time).

- **Bradley Slayter**. MMS Tech, Microcomputer Maintenance (part-time).

Changes, Awards, Recognition, Publications, etc.

- **The Sage Hall Academic Testing Center is featured in an *INhouse* article this month. "**Good-bye Scantron, hello Academic Testing Center" showcases the testing center *and* ACUS employees: Testing Center Technology Manager **Curry Searle**, Director of Academic Computing Technical Services **Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner**, and Personnel and Reservation Manager **Yonathan Khoe**.

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Outcome-Based-Assessment Workshops Continue

By Amber Bryant, Senior Marketing Specialist, CLEAR

CLEAR is continuing to offer 50 minute workshops by Dr. Ron Carriveau that provide everything needed to develop measurable student learning outcomes and outcome based assessments. **It is not necessary to take the workshops in the order shown below, but it is highly recommended that workshop 1 be taken first.** Each workshop is limited to 10 participants and will be offered more than once in a semester. *Workshop topics and times will be posted one month in advance - see posting on the CLEAR website at **http://clear.unt.edu**.*

Advanced Registration

is required to attend these workshops.

To register, please contact

Ron Carriveau.

It is okay to bring your lunch to the workshop.

Workshop Location: PEB 205 Conference Room

Workshop Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm.

The text for the workshops is **Connecting The Dots: Developing Student Learning Outcomes and Outcome Based Assessments (2011, R.S. Carriveau)**, which is not required but is highly recommended. *Workshop participants can purchase the book at a reduced price.*

1. Developing Measurable Student Learning Outcomes

This workshop focuses on how to begin the outcome based process, the application of a three-level SLO model, guidelines for writing measurable SLOs, writing higher level thinking SLOs, and question templates for writing outcomes and test items. *Dates: Tuesday, November 6 (12:00pm - 1:00pm)*

2. Developing Your Assessment Plan

This workshop focuses on developing an outcome-item reference map, an overall assessment plan, and test blueprints. *Dates: Wednesday, November 7 (12:00pm - 1:00pm)*

3. Writing Multiple-Choice Test Items

This workshop is on writing outcome based multiple-choice test items, including guidelines for writing the item stem and the item options (answer choices), and developing a test-item bank. *Dates: Wednesday, October 24 (12:00pm - 1:00pm), Thursday, November 8 (12:00pm - 1:00pm)*

4. Writing Constructed Response Test Items and Scoring Rubrics

This workshop covers guidelines for writing different types of constructed response test items with a focus on extended responses, types of rubrics (holistic and analytic), developing analytic rubric proficiency descriptors, and setting rubric score cut points. *Thursday, October 25 (12:00pm - 1:00pm), Tuesday, November 13 (12:00pm - 1:00pm)*

5. Using Multiple-Choice items to Measure Critical Thinking

This workshop covers the rationale, advantages, and limitations of measuring critical thinking skills with MC items, and provides guidelines for developing a critical thinking item set, examples of higher order thinking items, and an example of a MC critical thinking test that is not course content specific. *Dates: Wednesday, November 14 (12:00pm - 1:00pm), Tuesday, November 27 (12:00pm - 1:00pm)*

6. Reporting Results with the Three-Level Model

This workshop shows how to calculate a direct measure of student attainment of learning outcomes (without the use of grades) using results from MC and constructed response tests, and how to report attainment at three outcome levels and then linking to program and institutional levels, all with an emphasis on the importance of test item validity. *Dates: Thursday, November 15 (12:00pm - 1:00pm), Wednesday, November 28 (12:00pm - 1:00pm)*

Workshop topics and times are posted within the event section of the [CLEAR website](#).

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EDUCAUSE News Update

By Claudia Lynch, *Benchmarks Online* Editor

The 2012 Annual Conference coming is up next month and the 2012 Leadership Awards recipients will be honored there. You will soon be able to register for the West/Southwest Regional Conference to be held February 12–14, 2013 in Austin, Texas; and there is still time to 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.

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. **Online conference fees for increase *after* November 1.**

The 2012 award recipients — Earving L. Blythe, David G. Swartz, and Melissa Woo — will be honored at the annual conference. 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 will be available in November.

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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ITSS Quarterly Newsletter Launched

By Claudia Lynch, *Benchmarks Online* Editor

The *ITSS Quarterly Newsletter* premiered late last month. It is comprised of IT-related news relevant to anyone who uses or has an interest in shared services and applications throughout the UNT System and its member institutions.

In publication was first announced via e-mail and in an article in *INhouse*. As stated in the *INhouse* article, "prior to the formation of the ITSS department, an EIS quarterly status report, *theEnterprise,* delivered news of interest to the EIS community." It ceased publication last February. Find issue 1 of the *ITSS Quarterly Newsletter* here: http://itss.untsystem.edu/itss-quarterly-newsletter/september2012/index.htm

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Today's Cartoon

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

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