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**R**ead all about the "Enterprise Information System Selection Status Report, Part Two."

## **Holiday Hours**

Wondering what labs might be open over the Thanksgiving Break? How about the possibility of getting help from the Helpdesk? If so, your questions are answered here.

### <u>UNT Internet Services in Transition</u>

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. Read on to find what this means to you.

## Academic Mainframe Shutdown Proposed

All good things must come to an end. At least that's what they say. In the information technology world, the end usually comes more quickly than we think it should. But the march of technology is not abating and change is inevitable when using computers. One pending change is the eventual shutdown of the University IBM mainframe system. Details inside ...

#### Lab-of-the-Month



Click on the title above and find out what lucky General Access Lab was profiled this month.

## Using ColdFusion: Making a Connection to a Database

Shannon Peevey continues his step-by-step guidelines for getting started with ColdFusion here at UNT.

#### Торау'л Савтоон

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 New Face in RSS" Meet the latest member of the RSS team.
- SAS Corner -- "Data Capability: Reading OSIRIS data in SAS" If you have some OSIRIS datasets sitting around, this article is for you.
- The Network Connection -- "Back to the Basics: DNS" The Internet is just "plug and play" these days, right? Well, maybe not quite ...
- Link of the Month -- "Feral Cat Rescue Group at UNT" Lots of good information can be found on this site. Some of the new features include "Lost and Found Pets" and "How to Report Animal Abandonment.".
- <u>www@unt.EDu</u> -- "Web Developers Meet to Discuss Changes at UNT" Kenn Moffitt, Director of University Online Communications, talks about the recent meeting of UNT Web developers and what some of the UNT Web development issues are.
- Short Courses -- Find out about the fall Academic Computing Services (ACS) short courses, and more, here.

- IRC News -- Minutes of the Information Resources Council are printed here when they are available. The October minutes are contained in this issue.
- Staff Activities -- New employees, people who are no longer employed at the Computing Center, and employee awards and recognitions are included in this article.



## Research and Statistical Support University of North Texas

## **RSS Matters**

#### A New Face in RSS

By **Dr. Karl Ho**, Research and Statistical Support Services Manager

You may have noticed the item in last month's "Staff Activities," or maybe you've just seen someone you didn't recognize in the ACS hallway. Whatever the case, we are pleased to inform you that we have a new member of the RSS Team. Garvii Thomas majors in Economic Research and is working on his Master of Science degree in Economics. He specializes in time series and econometric modeling using SAS and S-Plus. Originally from Grenada, Garvii is a soccer player who resembles Dutch "football" legend Ruud Gullit in his hairstyle, if not his playing style. Garvii and Rich Herrington share an office, ISB 122, AND a telephone number (565-2140), but he has his very own E-mail address (GThomas@cc.admin.unt.edu). Now that you know all that, drop him a line, pay him a visit, give him a call ... He is here to help you with you solve your research/statistical problems.



## Research and Statistical Support University of North Texas

## **SAS** Corner

By Dr. Karl Ho, Research and Statistical Support Services Manager

### Data Capability: Reading OSIRIS data in SAS

What if you had a pal from somewhere on planet earth and he just handed you a mainframe tape carrying some old-time data sets created two decades ago? The label reads: OSIRIS data. You start a journey to infinity and beyond since probably it will head nowhere. Then, SAS comes to the rescue and becomes your Buzz Lightyear. You realize, once again, that learning SAS really is worth your while.

#### The OSIRIS data format

The OSIRIS data format was a popular data format for IBM mainframe in the old days when SAS and SPSS were in their budding stage. OSIRIS data comes with special electronic codebooks and dictionary files readable by the OSIRIS statistical software. An OSIRIS dictionary is a file that contains information to read the separate OSIRIS data file. In most cases, these are the "Type 1" dictionaries, which are in a binary format and written in EBCDIC (Extended Binary Coded Decimal Interchange Code), the mainframe character coding parallel to ASCII in PC. OSIRIS "Type 5" dictionaries are character format files.

SAS has built-in data engines that read in OSIRIS (Type I) data and other old data formats such as BMDP (a Biostatistics program, currently under SPSS). There are two ways of reading OSIRIS data into SAS: PROC CONVERT and OSIRIS data engine.

## Converting an OSIRIS data file into SAS in the UNIX environment

In the following, I give an example of converting an OSIRIS data file into SAS in the UNIX environment. Once the data file is in SAS, you can convert it into another format such as SPSS and Excel.

#### 1. Convert the data in EBCDIC format

In case the data file (e.g. ICPSR data) is in ASCII format, it needs to be converted into EBCDIC even in the UNIX environment. A UNIX program, *converteb* -- widely available, can do the job:

converteb infile outfile

where infile is the original data file and outfile the output EBCDIC data file.

2. Define an OSIRIS engine library to read in the data with the dictionary:

libname xxx osiris 'outfile' dict='odict.nnnn';

where xxx is the library name and odict.nnnn is the name of the dictionary. Note that the library is pointing to the files, but not directories.

- 3. Read in the data in a DATA step:
  - \* Reading in data and converting into SAS data set. \*

data newdata; set xxx.outfile; run;

4. Now the data set is in SAS format and can be used for processing or converting to other data formats. To do the latter, use the PROC COPY procedure to export the file into a SAS transport file:

libname outlib xport '/data//temp.portable'; proc copy in=work out=outlib; select newdata; run;

5. At this point the new data file *temp.portable* is created for transporting to other platform or applications. For SPSS user, a simple statement can read the data in:

get sas data='/data//temp.portable'.

For the PROC CONVERT procedure, the syntax is just:

proc convert osiris=odata.nnnn dict=odict.nnnn
out=temp;
run;

Data again need to be in EBCDIC format.

#### Data capability is the name of the game.

Data capability of SAS is the main selling point of the software, parallel to its portability and availability of the software in large number of operating platforms. Worth the time and money? I think so, until we have a unified format for all data, which in my humble opinion will be in the ultimate remoteness beyond the universe. At this point, I am still a petite, happy SAS programmer.

#### P.S.

For those of you who are in a panic over the expiration messages in SAS, lay back and relax. We will have the mainframe and UNIX license updated by the end of November. For Windows and Mac users, the license will last till February 1, 2002.

Happy Turkey Day.

Karl



**Online** 

## Network Connecti**ຽ**ົ້ກ

By Dr. Philip Baczewski, Associate Director of Academic Computing

#### **Back to the Basics: DNS**

The Internet is ubiquitous, right? You just plug into the network and it works. All you need is a computer and a network cable and you're on your way. I guess that there's something that happens behind the wall, but nowadays in organizations like UNT, network service is like phone service. You plug in a device and it just works. Well, most of the time. We treat the Internet like the phone service, but it only works that way because of a lot of hard work and planning by a lot of people.

There is quite a bit of complex hardware and wiring which support the physical part of our Internet network. The physical routing technology has gotten more and more sophisticated over the last ten years. We have seen a movement from 10 megabit/second connections on coaxial cable (10 base-2) to 10 megabit/second connections on telephone-style wiring (10 base-T), to the present-day support of 100 megabit/second connections via that same (in most cases) wiring. That upgrade in the physical network has resulted in Internet which appears to operate faster and support more complex technologies such as streaming audio and video. All of that sophistication can grind to a halt without another important component of Internet networking: Domain Name Services (DNS).

Domain Name Services is one of the most important and most generally unknown elements of Internet networking. What I mean by generally unknown is that unless you are a computing or networking professional, DNS is not something with which you are ordinarily concerned. You may never have heard of it. That's why a bit of explanation about DNS is in order here.

In recent years, my experience has been that many cases of what appears to be a network outage has been caused by problems with DNS. I don't mean that the DNS problems are all because of bad DNS service. The problems can be caused on many levels and by many circumstances. Those circumstances can include trying to use the wrong or no server; trying to access an unregistered address; no direct connection to the DNS server; and the occasional DNS server outage.

#### What is it that DNS does that makes it so important?

DNS's primary function is to translate Internet addresses from a person-friendly format to a computer-friendly format and vice-versa. We know addresses like www.unt.edu, but that is meaningless to a network router. Network routers use addresses like 129.120.1.1. It's easier for most people to remember words (or abbreviations) than numbers. That's not the only benefit of DNS. DNS allows alphabetic addresses to remain the same even if the numeric equivalent needs to change because of a network upgrade or reconfiguration.

DNS is a bit like a big virtual phone book of Internet servers, for Internet software. When we pick the phone, we don't punch in someone's name but instead dial (an obsolete term) their phone number. If we don't know their phone number, we can look it up in a telephone directory (phone book). All Internet applications have a similar functionality built in. When you enter an alphabetic address in your web browser, your browser software will look up

that address in the DNS server your computer is configured to use, and the make a connection to the remote server using the numeric address. DNS is a distributed directory of all registered Internet addresses. If the address we need to reference is not on our network, our DNS server can look up that address on a server which supports that remote network.

#### So what happens if DNS is down?

You might enter the address www.unt.edu in your web browser, but you would not be able to connect to that page. Your browser would tell you that it could not find that server. If you knew the equivalent numeric address you could enter that in your browser, and the connection would be immediately made. In spite of the initial appearance, the network was not down, but DNS problems can make it appear that the network is down.

Another manifestation of DNS problems is servers which respond slowly. Many servers use a "reverse" DNS process to look up the alphabetic address based upon the numeric address which makes the connection. This is useful for security or tracking (to see where most of the connections originate). If a server is experiencing DNS problems, there may be a delay while that server is waiting for the address lookup to complete. To you, this will appear to be a very slow response. In some cases, a delay will cause other functions (like browser cookies) to time out prevent you from establishing any server connection.

#### How can can you distinguish network from DNS problems?

One easy way is to try a numeric address where an alphabetic address does not work. If a connection can be made using a numeric address where a alphabetic address failed, you can determine that the Internet network is working at most levels, but that DNS service may be unavailable or not operating efficiently.

On microcomputers, most DNS address are provided automatically by the network, however, if you know an alternate DNS address, you can try changing the server that your computer is talking to in order to determine if the problem is with a particular server or with all DNS servers on your network (part of the network might be down and preventing access to your DNS servers). If you can contact servers on your local network, but not on a remote network, then the remote DNS server may be down. You can test this by trying other addresses on that remote network if you know any.

It is evident by now, that DNS is a critical component of Internet networking. When it works well, the Internet will be easier to use than the telephone. When there are problems, it may appear to you that the whole Internet is broken. Knowing a little about how DNS works can help you describe problems when you are talking to technical support staff.

For example, if a server refuses your connection, that is a problem on that server. If your browser can't find a server you know should be available, this indicates a possible DNS problem. Being able to understand and notice the difference is important. The most common report I've hear over the years is "The <fill in the blank> is down." If you call and say "The Internet is down," that only narrows the possible problems to a few hundred. Being able to narrow down the problem will help find a solution much more quickly.



## Link of the Month

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



**T**he Feral Cat Rescue Group at UNT (along with the Campus Cat Coalition) has re-vamped their Website. Go to <a href="http://orgs.unt.edu/feralcat">http://orgs.unt.edu/feralcat</a> and you will find lots of news and information. Some recently added items are:

- Minutes of our last meeting. Now you can read the minutes anytime. Click on "News" and you will see a link to "Meeting Minutes."
- More volunteer opportunities. Volunteer opportunities are now being updated frequently.
- Click on "Meetings and Upcoming Events" to read about upcoming activities.
- The new t-shirts have been ordered and you can see the design on the web site. Click on "T-shirts for Sale."
- NEW feature: Lost and Found Pets
- **NEW feature:** How to Report Animal Abandonment
- **NEW links** on our "Links" page, including feline health information.
- The "Products Not Tested on Animals" page has been updated with more information and links to help you find the products.



**IRC News** 

**Staff Activities** 



# Web Developers Meet to Discuss Changes at UNT

By **Kenn Moffitt**, Director of University Online Communications

There was a meeting of UNT Web developers on Wednesday, November 7 to discuss UNT Web development issues. The attendees got the opportunity to meet departments that offer Web-related services to UNT; groups such as Academic Computing's Web Support, the UNT Library's Multimedia Development Lab, the Center for Multimedia Production, the Center for Distributed Learning, and the people involved with ACS' short courses and *Benchmarks Online* newsletter.

The reasons for scheduling a meeting are many. The nature of the Web at UNT is complex. We have many Web developers from different areas and departments all maintaining Websites that, together, comprise the whole of the UNT Website. These Web developers comprise all experience levels. As you can imagine, communication to all of those affected is difficult when informing all UNT developers about changes that affect all Websites at UNT.

The Web meeting was a good start to open dialogues for more Web development issues. A more regular meeting schedule may be warranted so that UNT Web developers can meet, communicate new information, share ideas and resources, and provide feedback to UNT Web policies and guidelines that already exist. There is a form available at <a href="http://www.unt.edu/Webinfo/Webmeet.htm">http://www.unt.edu/Webinfo/Webmeet.htm</a> that Web developers can fill out to recommend if we should schedule regular meetings and also to give input about what topics need to be addressed.

### **State and Federal Accessibility Guidelines**

The longest part of the meeting informed Web developers of the UNT, state and federal accessibility guidelines that all Web developers need to be familiar with. Steve Picket from the Office of Disability Accommodation spoke briefly and stated that 1 out of every 16 Americans has a disability of some kind and these numbers are similar in the UNT specific Web population. The state and federal accessibility guidelines make sure that Web content is available to the widest possible audience. Although visual impairment is often the focus of Web accessibility strategies, hearing and mobility impairment also need to be addressed to create Web content that is accessible to all.

According to the federal government's law, Section 508 requires that Federal agencies electronic and information technology is accessible to people with disabilities. **The federal laws were implemented on June 1, 2001**. The state guidelines have been in effect since Summer of 2000. A full list of the UNT, federal and state policies can be read from the UNT Web info site at <a href="http://www.unt.edu/Webinfo/policies.htm">http://www.unt.edu/Webinfo/policies.htm</a>. These rules contain many

of the recommendations of the W3C (World Wide Web Consortium) for all Websites. Following the rules, ensures that the broadest possible audience can have a positive experience with a Website's content. Some of the main federal accessibility guidelines are summarized below:

- All images must have ALT tags. Alt tags provide text content that describes images
  used on the site. The text equivalents used in the ALT tags are read to the sight
  impaired visitor. Images that are used for design only and do not have a text
  equivalent should contain ALT="". These null ALT tags allow the text reader (such as
  JAWS) to skip over the images completely.
- Frames can be accessible by including a TITLE attribute with the FRAME SRC attribute. The title should clearly identify the role of the different frames and aid the user in navigating between the different frames.
- Any applets and plug-ins should have an alternative means of relaying the information.
   Users should be able to read the contents of the page even if they don't have the plug-in installed or the ability to run scripts.
- When electronic forms are designed to be completed on-line, the form shall allow people using assistive technology to access the information, field elements, and functionality required for completion and submission of the form, including all directions and cues.
- Row and column headers should be identified in tables so that a text reader can associate the cells with their heading labels.
- Multimedia presentations on the Web should have alternative material that allows a person with disabilities to experience the content. For example, if a sound file is used for content, a text equivalent should also be available.
- Web pages should also be designed so that information provided using color is still
  readable without color. Make sure that the contrast between text and backgrounds are
  great enough so that the color blind can still read the content.

While the list of UNT policies and guidelines and the state and federal accessibility guidelines might seem alarming in scope. They are simply common sense rules and best Web practices that have been recommended by the Web community at large for years. By reading through them, you will be able to see that each guideline was created for a specific purpose and provides much needed structure to allow all users to have the best experience available on the UNT Website. It is, after all, the Web user or audience that we create these pages for in the first place. If you have any questions about any of the guidelines please contact me at 940-565-3476 or you can e-mail Moffitt@unt.edu .



## **Short Courses**

By Claudia Lynch, Benchmarks Online Editor

**A**CS Short Courses are winding down for the semester but there are still a few left. Please consult the Short Courses page to view the schedule. There are still openings in all the classes left to be taken this semester: FrontPage 2000, Beginning SQL, Introduction to Macromedia ColdFusion, and Getting Started with Dreamweaver 4.

#### **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, <a href="mailto:lynch@unt.edu">lynch@unt.edu</a>).

### **Especially for Faculty and Staff Members**

In addition to the <u>ACS Short Courses</u>, which are available to students, faculty and staff, staff and faculty members can take courses offered through the <u>Human Resources</u> Department, the <u>Center for Distributed Learning</u>, and the UNT Libraries' <u>Multimedia Development Lab</u>. Additionally, the <u>Center for Continuing Education and Conference Management has a new program for interdepartmental training in business computer literacy. These classes are offered for a fee but discounts are given to those associated with UNT, and Inter-departmental Orders are accepted.</u>

#### **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 <a href="http://www.unt.edu/cdl/training\_events/index.htm">http://www.unt.edu/cdl/training\_events/index.htm</a> 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 <a href="Center for Distributed Learning">Center for Distributed Learning</a> Web site.

#### **UNT Libraries'**

The UNT Libraries' Multimedia Development Lab has also offered free training to all University of North Texas faculty and staff in the basics of FrontPage and information architecture in the past. For more information see <a href="http://www.library.unt.edu/media/services.htm#Distributed">http://www.library.unt.edu/media/services.htm#Distributed</a>.

#### **Technical Training**

Technical Training for campus network managers is available, from time to time, through the <u>Campus-Wide Networks</u> 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 <a href="http://www.unt.edu/ccecm/cont\_ed/Minicourse/Courses/UNT\_Minicourse\_Page.htm">http://www.unt.edu/ccecm/cont\_ed/Minicourse/Courses/UNT\_Minicourse\_Page.htm</a>

## **Alternate Forms of Training**

Many of the <u>General Access Labs</u> 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 <u>Training</u> Web site has all sorts of information about alternate forms of training. Training tapes, Computer Based Training (<u>CBT</u>) and Web-based training are some of the alternatives offered. Of particular interest are courses available via SmartForce (formerly CBT Systems). See <a href="http://www.unt.edu/smartforce/">http://www.unt.edu/smartforce/</a> 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 <u>award winning</u> 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 <a href="http://www.zdnet.com/zdhelp/filters/office/">http://www.zdnet.com/zdhelp/filters/office/</a> December 1999's "List of the Month" offers links to free Microsoft Word and Excel information also.



Online

## **IRC News**

Minutes provided by Sue Ellen Richey, Recording Secretary



IRC Regular and Ex-officio Voting Members: Judith Adkison, College of Education; Ginny Anderson, Fiscal Affairs; Donna Asher, Administrative Affairs; Craig Berry, School of Visual Arts; Cengiz Capan, College of Business, GALC; Bobby Carter, UNT Health Science Center; Christy Crutsinger, Faculty Senate; Jim Curry, Academic Administration; VACANT, Student Association; Duncan Engler, University Planning Council; Don Grose, Libraries; Jenny Jopling, Instruction Program Group; Joneel Harris, EIS Project Group; Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Standards and Cooperation Program Group; Abraham John, Student Affairs; Christine Mitchamore, Graduate Student Council; Ramu Muthiah, School of Community Services; Jon Nelson, College of Music; Robert Nimocks, Director, Information Technology, UNTHSC; Patrick Pluscht, Distributed Learning Team; Mark Rorvig, Research Program Group (Acting Chair); Paul Schlieve, Communications Program Group; Kathleen Swigger, College of Arts and Sciences; Philip Turner, School of Library and Information Science and University Planning Council (Chair, IRC); Virginia Wheeless, Chancellor for Planning. IRC Ex-officio Nonvoting Members: VACANT, Telecommunications; Charles Andrews, GALMAC; Bill Buntain, Computing Center Networking; Jim Curry, Microcomputer Maintenance Shop; Richard Harris, Computing Center and University Planning Council; Coy Hoggard, Computing Center/Administrative; VACANT, UNT Health Science Center; Maurice Leatherbury, Computing Center/Academic; Sue Ellen Richey, Computing Center (Recording Secretary). [As of 9/2001]

#### October 23, 2001

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: PHILIP TURNER, Chair, RICHARD HARRIS, DON GROSE, ELIZABETH HINKLE-TURNER, JUDITH ADKISON, JONEEL HARRIS, DONNA ASHER, PAUL SCHLIEVE, ROBERT NIMOCKS, JON NELSON, MARK RORVIG, CENGIZ CAPAN, NANCY MCCRAY (for VIRGINIA WHEELESS), RAMU MUTHIAH, KATHLEEN SWIGGER, DUNCAN ENGLER, WIL CLARK (for JOHN PRICE), CRISTINE MITCHAMORE, BECKY MORGAN NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: PATRICK PLUSCHT, DOUG MAINS, RICHARD HARRIS, MAURICE LEATHERBURY, COY HOGGARD, CHARLES ANDREWS, SUE ELLEN RICHEY (Recording Secretary) GUESTS: JENNIFER LAFLEUR, LOU ANN BRADLEY, BETTY TOMBOULIAN

The minutes of the September 18th meeting were approved as distributed.

#### **IR Steering Committee**

Richard Harris reported that the IR Steering Committee has not met but a draft of the revised IRC Charge has been given to Dr. Pohl and Mr. Diebel for review. The revised Charge document will be considered by the IRC at today's meeting. Harris stated that the main changes to the old document were updates of members' titles, the addition of a System Center representative, a clearer definition of the Steering Committee as well as Planning Groups (in place of the Program Groups), along with membership designations for these groups. The revision clarifies the relationship of the GALC to the IRC, also.

Harris distributed copies of the revised IRC Charge showing the Red-line and strike-outs 1), as well as copies of the finished draft . During discussion, it was stated that the Chair of each Planning Group should represent that group at IRC meetings, although a designated representative can attend IRC meetings if the chair is unable to attend. Mark Rorvig

suggested that the word "centralized" be removed from the description of the Research Program Group's responsibilities. Donna Asher suggested that the UNT Staff Council be represented on the Council. The membership of the EIS Planning Group was questioned and after discussion, it was agreed that the group would consist of the Core Project Team with the addition of faculty members chosen by the Faculty Senate. Patrick Pluscht asked for clarification of his position on the Council. It was explained that because of the service aspect of the Center for Distributed Learning, it should have Non-Voting Ex-Officio representation on the Council. Harris said he would make the suggested changes and bring the new Charge to the Council for a vote at the November meeting.

#### **Distributed Computing Support Management Team**

Maurice Leatherbury reported for the Distributed Computing Support Management Team that they have met regularly and announced that there is a new security analyst position in the Computing Center which will be working with Charlotte Russell, the Security Coordinator. The new analyst will be scanning equipment on campus to provide a baseline of information on what vulnerabilities exist. Cengiz Capan asked if there is a group looking into just what assets need to be protected. Maurice replied that there is a group called "UNT First" which consists of Computing Center personnel who are concerned with this issue. Cengiz suggested that persons outside the Computing Center should also be included in that effort. The DCSMT has also discussed the rolling out of Office XP and a sub-committee has been formed to look into this.

#### **Instruction Program Group**

Maurice Leatherbury also reported for the Instruction Program Group, in Jenny Jopling's absence. The group's primary item of business has been negotiating with the UNT Testing Center on how many machines will be available for the distance learning testing facility. Dr. Turner explained that UNT spearheaded the formation of centralized testing centers at various sites across the state so that students taking distance learning courses can go to these centers to take tests, as opposed to traveling to the campus from which the course originates. The difficulty seems to be finding staff to supervise the testing facility, since the Counseling & Testing Department does not think they have the staff to handle it.

Kathy Swigger suggested that a method of evaluation be developed for classrooms that contain computer technology, stating that faculty need to be able to report to someone their satisfaction or lack of it in these classrooms.

Cengiz Capan suggested that there might be some creative way to combine general access lab usage with the testing facility, thereby making more efficient use of resources, as well as providing staffing for the testing facility. It was also suggested that the Department of Business Services, which manages the Gateway Center, might be able to provide the staff needed to supervise the testing facility.

The consensus of the group was that Dr. Turner should take the issue of the testing facility before the IR Steering Committee.

#### **Communications Program Group**

Paul Schlieve reported that the Communications Program Group has not met since the last IRC meeting.

#### **EIS Project Group**

Joneel Harris reported for the EIS Project Group that they have completed the preliminary evaluation of the software vendor RFP responses. PeopleSoft, Oracle and SCT were the only vendors who responded. All three vendors passed the preliminary evaluation phase and stayed in at least two of the major software family areas. They have also completed the preliminary evaluation of the implementation services vendor RFP responses. PeopleSoft plus eight other vendors responded as being able to provide professional services for PeopleSoft software; Oracle plus two other vendors bid professional services for Oracle software; and SCT was the only bidder for professional services for the SCT software. The Project Group will meet this week to coordinate site visits and establish what software demos are desired. Joneel noted that the very first step after deciding on an Implementation Services vendor will be to have a much more comprehensive project plan prepared. Joneel pointed out that there is a Web site that contains all the information that is available concerning this project.

#### **Research Program Group**

Mark Rorvig reported for the Research Program Group that he is still seeking members to serve on this group. Kathy Swigger stated that faculty researchers need a group that can help them with their equipment and software problems.

#### **Standards & Cooperation Program Group**

Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner reported for the Standards & Cooperation Program Group that they now have completed revisions of the Information Resources Security Policy, the Computer Resources Security Standards Policy, and the Microcomputer Data Integrity Policy. Elizabeth credited Charlotte Russell, the UNT Security Coordinator, for her assistance in rewriting these policies. It was important to have the policies conform to what the Department of Information Resources requires, and that their definitions and the ones used in these policies conform. The revised documents were taken before the Distributed Computing Support Management Team for their input, since members of that committee deal with security issues in their areas daily.

This being the first reading of these documents, the floor was opened for discussion. Mark Rorvig suggested a different approach when writing these policies, one that would first look at what data needed to be protected and then laying out procedures for establishing various methods for the protection of that data. Paul Schlieve suggested that a procedural document be written that would be more specific as to the methods of protection, and which would be referred to in the policy documents. Elizabeth agreed to work with other program groups to re-work the policies as well as prepare a procedures document.

#### **Distributed Learning Team**

Patrick Pluscht reported that the distributed learning team has not met, but there is a WebCT Conference beginning Wednesday, October 24, 2001 and continuing through Saturday, October 26. Also, UNT's Center for Distributed Learning won the award for the best elearning program in higher education at Telecon, which is the national expo and conference for videoconference web-based communication.

#### **Other Business**

Kathy Swigger reported that her department is having difficulty getting software contracts processed through the Legal Office. The Chair asked that Kathy talk with him after the

meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

## **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 has been changed to December 11<sup>th</sup>, and the May meeting to May 7<sup>th</sup>. 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:

- Frank Arnold, Programmer on UNT/HSC Fiscal Data Systems Team, ADM.
- Saeid Parivash, Programmer Analyst on the Voice and Web Strategic Applications team, MTS.
- Rachel Johnson, Microcomputer Consultant, Helpdesk, ACS (part-time).
- **Brice Tate**, I/O Consultant, Printing Services, Production Services, MTS (part-time).
- **Wendy Worsham**, I/O Consultant, Printing Services, Production Services, MTS (part-time).
- **Phillip Ramsaroop**, Administrative Computing Team Manager for the Fiscal Systems Team.

The following people no longer work in the Computing Center:

- Julie Cook, Programmer Analyst on the Student Services team.
- **Katricia Linthecum**, I/O Consultant (part-time).

#### Awards, Recognition

- Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Student Computing Services Manager, and adjunct professor of music, received an American Society of Composers, AUthors, and Publishers award recently. This award was also noted in the Nov. 2, 2001 issue of *inhouse@unt*.
- Charlotte Russell, Computer Support Specialist, Security and Administration, co-authored an article in the Nov. 2, 2001issue of inhouse@unt entitled "Suggestions to preserve security at UNT."

The following people have been nominated as Soaring Eagles and will receive their award at the President's Staff Sack Lunch on February 26:

- **Ben Howard**, Network Manager Assistant, was recognized for "his extensive knowledge and willingness to help" as he worked on installing and configuring new computers for Internal Audit.
- **Brenda Kirk**, Computing Center Network Manager, was thanked for responding on very short notice with a "prompt, professional and accurate manner" when she was asked to produce a large number of CDs needed for a meeting the following day.

- Charity Beck, Computer Support Specialist, UNT Central Web Support, was recognized for her help in building an "outstanding" Website recently.
- **Austin Laird**, Computer Support Specialist, UNT Central Web Support, wowed people by "working on a WebCT problem for students" while in Minnesota on a weekend.
- Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Student Computing Services Manager, was recognized for her great customer service, productive attitude and team spirit. She was described as "easy to do business with," and complimented for placing her trust in other UNT colleagues.



## **Campus Computing News**

By Claudia Lynch, Benchmarks Online Editor

### Enterprise Information System Selection Status Report, Part Two

As Dr. Leatherbury reported <u>last month</u>, UNT is currently in the process of selecting a new "Enterprise Information System." The plan is for this EIS system to eventually replace virtually all of the aging administrative systems on campus. Over the next three or four years, according to the current plan, these systems will be replaced and, finally, our IBM mainframe computer will be decommissioned. So, goodbye to SIMS, HRMIS, NOBIS, CEATS and any of the other acronyms associated with UNT administrative services that we've grown know and to love. This is the point when we will truly have a "UNT System." It will be shared by the Health Sciences Center, the Denton campus, and the future UNT Dallas campus.

#### **Vendor Presentations**

As was noted last month, three responses were received to our Request for Proposal from vendors of software designed to provide solutions to higher education institutions such as ours. The three responding vendors were Oracle, PeopleSoft, and SCT. You can see the RFP as well as a lot of other information about the EIS, including the membership of the various committees, at the site dedicated to the project (http://www.unt.edu/eis/EIS\_Homepage.htm).

All three vendors gave overview presentations the week of November 12. If you missed one or all of these, they will be available via streaming video from the EIS Website soon. More detailed demonstrations of the vendor products will be held in the coming weeks, during December and January, in <a href="key areas">key areas</a>
throughout the university. The plan is to have a decision about which system or systems will be recommended to the Board of Regents to purchase, including implementation services vendors, by mid-January 2002. The vendors have been told that we may purchase "best of breed" products (the student system from Vendor A, the human resources system from vendor B, for example,) so it's possible that UNT will end up with contracts with more than one vendor. If all goes according to plan, we hope to have wrapped up a contract or contracts and can start the process of acquiring the software and hardware necessary to run the new system by late February, 2002.



Online

## **Holiday Hours**

#### By Claudia Lynch, Benchmarks Online Editor

Following are the hours for Computing Center-managed facilities for the Thanksgiving holiday. All staff offices will be closed Thursday, November 22 and Friday, November 23. The Helpdesk, ACS General Access Lab and Mainframe Print Services will maintain services during much of the four day weekend, however.

• **Print Services** will **close** at midnight Wednesday 11/21 and re-open at 8 a.m. on Friday 11/23. They will close at 8 p.m.11/23 and then will be open from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday (11/24-11/25). After that they will resume their normal, schedule:

Sunday - Open 10:00 a.m. close 12:00 a.m. (midnight) Monday - Open 7:30 a.m. close 2:00 a.m. Tuesday - Open 7:30 a.m. close 2:00 a.m. Wednesday - Open 7:30 a.m. close 2:00 a.m. Thursday - Open 7:30 a.m. close 2:00 a.m. Friday - Open 7:30 a.m. close 2:00 a.m. Saturday - Open 7:30 a.m.close 12:00 a.m. (midnight)

- The **Helpdesk** will be **closed** Thursday 11/22 but will resume normal operating hours and services after that: Friday 11/23 8 a.m. 8 p.m. and Saturday 11/24 9 a.m. 5 p.m., and Sunday 11/25 1 p.m. to midnight [these hours were increased recently].
- The **ACS General Access Lab** (ISB 110) will be open Wednesday 11/21 from 8:00 a.m. to 7:45 p.m., **Closed** Thursday 11/22 and Friday 11/23, and will re-open Saturday 11/24 at 2:00 p.m., close 8:45 p.m. Regular hours (1:00 p.m. 11:45 p.m.) will be resumed Sunday 11/25.

### **Hours for Other Campus Facilities**

The University is <u>officially</u> closed for Thanksgiving break Thursday, November 22 and Friday, November 23.

#### **General Access Labs**

#### • WILLIS:

Wednesday 11/21 close at 7:50 p.m. Thursday 11/22 **Closed** Friday 11/23 -- Open from 1:00 - 5:50 p.m. Saturday 11/24 Open at 7:00 a.m. (back to 24 hrs)

#### • SLIS:

Wednesday 11/21 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. (normal hours) Thursday-Saturday, 11/22-24 **Closed** 

Sunday 11/25 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (normal hours)

#### • MUSIC:

Wednesday 11/21 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (early close) Thursday-Saturday 11/22-24 **Closed** Sunday 11/25 1:00 p.m.- Midnight (normal hours)

#### • <u>SCS</u>:

Wednesday 11/21 8:00 a.m. - Midnight. Thursday-Sunday 11/22-25 **Closed** Monday, 11/26 8 a.m. - resume normal hours.

#### • SOVA:

Wednesday 11/21, **close** at 5:00 p.m. Thursday-Sunday, 11/22-25 **Closed** Monday 11/26 8 a.m. - resume normal hours

#### • <u>COE</u>:

Wednesday, 11/21 7:00 a.m. - Midnight. Thursday-Sunday, 11/22-25 **Closed** Monday 11/26 7 a.m. - resume normal hours.

#### • <u>COBA</u>:

Wednesday 11/21 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 11/22-22 **Closed** Saturday 11/24 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Sunday 11/25 Noon - Midnight

#### • <u>CAS</u>:

Wednesday 11/21: GAB 330 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. GAB 550, TH 220, WH 120 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Thursday-Friday, 11/22-23 All labs closed

Saturday 11/24: GAB 330 Noon - 8 p.m. GAB 550, TH 220, WH 120 **Closed** 

Sunday 11/26: GAB 330 Noon - Midnight GAB 550, TH 220, WH 120 **Closed** 



## **UNT Internet Services in Transition**

By Dr. Philip Baczewski, Associate Director of Academic Computing

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. Currently on the horizon, is the shutdown of the system named jove.acs.unt.edu. That's not to say that all of its function will be eliminated, however, the system itself will be replaced with a more contemporary technology targeted at the services which remain in use.

#### A brief history of Internet Services at UNT

To understand the change, it is necessary to understand the development of Internet Services at UNT. In 1993 we acquired a UNIX system that was entirely devoted to supporting academic access to the Internet and its supporting UNIX technology. At that time, most Internet applications were either based on or developed on UNIX and UNIX provided the widest suite of such applications. We named that system jove.acs.unt.edu (after Jupiter) in the scheme of solar system-based names (our largest UNIX system was named "Sol").

On jove we were able to provide access to the then current Internet staples of E-mail, Network News, ftp, telnet, archie, and many more now-forgotten utilities. The only way to access these services, though, was with a UNIX login ID and through use of UNIX commands and interfaces. This was fine, when the interested people numbered 2000 or less. As the Internet developed, however, more and more people wanted access and applications such as E-mail began to be available on personal computers which were easier for people to learn and use.

To make Internet Services and applications more accessible to a larger number of students, faculty, and staff, the following enhancements have been made over the last several years:

- the student E-mail service was <u>migrated</u> from a standalone operation on a single computer to a network system using the IMAP protocol to allow access to E-mail from anywhere on the Internet;
- a new <u>authentication system</u> was developed which is secure and which supports multiple Internet services;
- an automated account application procedure was <u>implemented</u> to provide Internet Services without the need for visiting the Computing Center offices and completing a paper form;
- a Web-based IMAP client was <u>implemented</u> to allow E-mail access from a simple Web page;
- we reconfigured sol, the research UNIX system, so that it does not use the jove home directory, but instead uses a local home directory and

authentication system;

• personal Web page publishing was <u>moved</u> to a new platform that supports newer Web publishing technologies and authentication systems.

Most of the above changes have resulted in applications moving off of jove and moving to fault-tolerant and load balanced systems which can be easily expanded to respond to increases in services. This work has resulted in an increase in performance and availability of all of these applications. The resulting question is, what is left on jove? Some people still use jove as an access point to read Internet E-mail using the pine program. Beyond that, there are a few older applications which are still available, however, usage statistics show that pine is the most used program.

#### The end of an era

Jove will be shut down **no later than August 31, 2002** (possibly sooner). In its place will be a system that existing faculty and staff can use if they still wish to use pine to read their E-mail. Since LINUX is easily available as a platform to explore UNIX technology, there are no plans to provide a general student-access UNIX system. We will continue to support UNIX for classroom instruction when requested by professors.

Just because jove will be shut down, does not mean that we cannot expand or provide new UNIX-based services. We do, however, need to move away from dependence on jove, which is an aging and soon-to-be unsupportable hardware and software platform. If you have any comments regarding jove or UNIX services, contact Dr. Philip Baczewski (baczewski@unt.edu), Associate Director of Academic Computing.

<sup>\*</sup>Actually\_we created it out of "spare parts." The Academic Solbourne system was upgraded to a more powerful four processor Solbourne series 6. With sol's two old processors, some other spare parts and a new chassis, a second UNIX system called Jove was created (two 33Mhz CPUs with 256 Meg of memory). Jove gained new life in 1996 when it was upgraded to a Sun SPARCserver 1000-E.



## Academic Mainframe Shutdown Proposed

By Dr. Philip Baczewski, Associate Director of Academic Computing

All good things must come to an end. At least that's what they say. In the information technology world, the end usually comes more quickly than we think it should. But the march of technology is not abating and change is inevitable when using computers. One pending change is the eventual shutdown of the University IBM mainframe system.

The mainframe is currently shared between academic and administrative uses. Its administrative function will be replaced by a new Enterprise Information System (EIS) for which the acquisition process is currently underway. That process will lead to the replacement of the mainframe systems with a more contemporary technology base. Once the EIS implementation is complete, the IBM mainframe will be permanently shut down and de-installed. Obviously, at that point the mainframe would also cease to be available for academic use as well.

In order to have a supportable and defined transition of academic processing off of the IBM mainframe, it is proposed that we set a date of August 31, 2003 for the shutdown of Academic processing. There are definite advantages to deciding on a shutdown date:

- setting such a date will prevent a haphazard transition at some point when it is decided that the mainframe is no longer needed for administrative work;
- shutting down the mainframe will free up funding currently applied to mainframe software licenses for support of alternate research applications and platforms;
- setting a shutdown date will allow ACS staff to plan for provision of support services to be sure that any data or programs can be migrated to an alternate processing platform;
- selecting August 31 as the shutdown date corresponds with the software and support contract renewal date (and University fiscal year) and will result in the most savings to the University budget.

At this point, the August 31, 2003 shutdown date is only a proposal. After a suitable time period for comment, a decision will be made as to what an appropriate academic mainframe shutdown date will be. If the 2003 date is selected, that will be announced by January 21, 2002 so that plans can immediately begin to transition instructional and research activity off of the IBM mainframe. If you have questions or comments about such a transition, send them to Dr. Philip Baczewski (baczewski@unt.edu), Associate Director of Academic Computing.



# Lab-of-the-Month: The School of Visual Arts General Access Lab

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

Located in Room 232 of the Art Building, the School of Visual Arts General Access Lab provides an environment especially conducive to the creation and development of art and artistic skills. In addition to all of the standard General Access Lab hardware and applications, this facility has a variety of special equipment and software to bring out the Picasso in everyone.



Some of the PCs available in the SOVA General Access Lab

The SOVA lab is divided into three sections. A central room with approximately 40 machines - equally divided between the Macintosh and PC platforms - is available at all times. Additionally, a classroom with 20 PCs and a classroom with 20 Macs flank this facility and are open for general access lab use when courses are not in session. The Mac classroom is especially exciting for Apple fans with 20 Titanium towers. Besides all these machines, the Art lab has one of the largest peripheral inventories of all of the general access facilities. Several DVD-Roms, CD-RWs and Jaz drives are available as well as five Macintosh scanners (one is large format with transparency capabilities), three PC scanners and three PC film/slide scanners. Most unusual is their large selection of printing possibilities: three standard laser printers are accompanied by two large format color plotters, one color LaserJet printer, and a Lexmark inkjet printer for photo printing. One of the laser printers has been dedicated to Vellum printing and was established for patrons in the printmaking classes.



Mac addicts can get their fix with the cool new Titanium Towers in the SOVA lab!"

Some restrictions apply to equipment use as many of these highly specialized tools are costly and difficult to maintain. Color LaserJet printing, vellum printing, and large format plotting are restricted. Patrons must clear their work through the checkin desk before a job will print to a restricted printer. No web printing is allowed on these printers and patrons are encouraged to only print one final copy to the restricted printers. By following these guidelines the lab is still able to offer free printing on these machines which use quite expensive materials and inks.

As an occasional user of the SOVA lab for my own work, I can testify to the fact that their staff is helpful and accommodating with the large array of much more complicated software and hardware than is found in the other labs. As dedicated artists, they are eager to help a fledgling such as myself utilize their facility as appropriate to UNT work and research. With approximately 1900 students, lab staff deal with all levels of patron requests and experience. Some of the primary users of the lab include students enrolled in *Computers in Art* which introduces some of the fundamental applications used in digital art including PhotoShop, Illustrator, and Quark. Other classes that meet and work in the lab include *Computers in Fashion* which utilizes a modified CAD system to design clothing patterns, *AutoCAD for Interiors*, *Computer Game Art* which employs 3D modeling software, and *Multimedia Production*. Vellum and photo printing are used by students for final projects in photography and printmaking classes and other typography and communication design courses.

Manager Kenneth "Kacey" Close emphasizes the fact that the SOVA lab is designed especially to contribute to a patron's creative and emotional expression. More "laid back" in atmosphere (they have wonderful dimmed lights!) and attitude than many of the other general access labs, the SOVA facility celebrates the aesthetic diversity of its primary user population. Future plans for the lab include the addition of 15 Macs and 15 PCs to their already expansive inventory. For a complete listing of all the software and hardware available in this facility see the SOVA lab Website at: http://www.art.unt.edu/about/facilities/labs/computer/index.htm.

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## Using ColdFusion: Making a Connection to a Database

By Shannon Eric Peevey, UNT Central Web Support

Shannon will be teaching two Short Courses on ColdFusion this semester. Check the Short Course <u>schedule</u> for dates, times, and locations. -- Ed.

**H**ello, again!! It has been a hectic month here at Central Web Support, and we can't seem to get caught up. I hope that it is not as hectic for all of you out there, as it is getting close to the holiday season.(I am already in the Christmas mood for some reason... Maybe it's the sudden appearance of Christmas decorations at most major stores.;-))

#### Well, To Get Started...

This month's article is going to deal with connecting to a database. As I mentioned in the previous articles, we connect to a database by using a DataSource Name, or DSN, which is essentially a gateway between the database and the rest of the world. Before we can try working this example out, you will need to contact me at: <a href="mailto:speeves@unt.edu">speeves@unt.edu</a>, and ask to have the DSN created. The information that you will need to provide me with is: the location of the database, (the location needs to be on the web server, preferably in the \_private directory), the name of the database, and the name that you would like the DSN called. (For example, location: <a href="http://web2.unt.edu/beginningclass/\_private/test.mdb">http://web2.unt.edu/beginningclass/\_private/test.mdb</a>, name of database: test.mdb, name of DSN: test\_connect.) When you contact me with this information, I will set up the DSN, and email the confirmation information back to you. You will then be able to connect to the database at will.

In <u>last month's article</u>, we set up a form and then returned the input data to the next screen. In this month's article, we are going to modify the application that we had last month to include output from a database. The first page of our application will be:

```
<html>
<head>
<title>This is my First ColdFusion</title>
</head>
<body>
<h1 align="center">This Page Will Insert Data Into</h1>
<h1 align="center">My Database!!!</h1>
This page will help you to get acquainted with the power and
ease
of ColdFusion.
       First, we need to create
two text-boxes:
  
         
1.  one is named NAME
  
        
2.  the second is named TELEPHONE
align="left">           
(HINT:  Use the code from our first application to do this
align="left">
```

```
3.  set FORM ACTION = "firstFormInsert2.cfm"
    Create them below this line:
    ___
                                                                        <FORM ACTION="firstFormInsert2.cfm" METHOD="post">
        <P><FONT SIZE=3><B> Please enter your name here:
        <INPUT TYPE=TEXT NAME="NAME" SIZE=25></B></FONT></P>
        <P><FONT SIZE=3><B> Please enter your telephone here:
        <INPUT TYPE=TEXT NAME="TELEPHONE" SIZE=25></B></FONT></P>
    _
                                                                        Create a submit button here:  (make sure that it is
    centered on the page.)
    <DIV ALIGN=CENTER>
        <P><INPUT TYPE="submit" VALUE="Submit"></P>
     
     
    </div>
    </form>
    </body>
    </html>
If you remember from last month, we only need to change the <FORM> attributes to post the information to a destination page. This
destination page will be firstFormInsert2.cfm:
    <html>
    <head>
    <title>The data that was passed from insert Page 1</title>
    </head>
    <body>
    <h1 align="center">The data that was Inserted into&nbsp;</h1>
    <h1 align="center">Your Database in Table Display:</h1>
    The following page will query your database and return the data
        1.  create a table with two columns and
    two rows.
          . label the first
    row:  NAME, TELEPHONE
           - add variables to
    the second row
        2.  write a <CFQUERY&gt; that inserts
    all of the data from the previous page into the
```

```
         
    3.  place your <CFOUTPUT&gt; tags in
the appropriate places.
    4.  Enjoy!!!
 
This is the data that was pulled from the database:
<div align="center">
<center>
<b>NAME</b>
<b>TELEPHONE</b>
</center>
</div>
_
                                            Did it work?!     If not, ask me and I will be
glad to help you. :-) Speeves
<a href="firstFormInsert.cfm">return to the first insert page</a>
</body>
</html>
```

If you copy the html for these two pages into your html editor, we can then get started writing the ColdFusion code that will insert the data from firstFormInsert.cfm into our database, test.mdb, and then querying this same database and returning the appropriate values to the screen on firstFormInsert2.cfm.

#### Let's Start Coding...

As I've mentioned earlier, the only changes that are necessary to firstFormInsert.cfm, are the changes to the <FORM> attributes. (If you copied the html from this document, the changes are already made for you.) If you are writing your own html, then you will need to write the <FORM> tag to look like this:

```
<FORM ACTION="firstFormInsert2.cfm" METHOD="post">
```

This is the only change that is necessary to the first page.

On the second page, we are going to add the meat to the ColdFusion code. The page, firstFormInsert2.cfm, is the page that actually inserts all of the data into the database, and then pulls the data out so that we can view it. We will insert the code using the <CFQUERY> tag. Here is a syntax diagram for the <CFQUERY> tag:

```
<CFQUERY NAME="query_name" DATASOURCE="ds_name">

SQL statements

</CFQUERY>
```

Note that there are more attributes than are seen here in the diagram, but for the scope of this example, these are the only attributes that are necessary. As you can see, the attributes are NAME and DATASOURCE. The NAME attribute allows you to name the query, so that you can access the query from other places in the application. (Think of the NAME attribute as the variable name of the query.) The DATASOURCE attribute tells the ColdFusion server which DSN to use to connect to the database that we want to connect to. If

this attribute is misspelled or incorrect in any way, then your query will return an error and your application will not work... (Please be sure that your DATASOURCE attribute is the same as the DSN that I set up for you. (This is why it is important to double-check the information that I return to you after I have set up the DSN.

If I made a mistake, you could spend hours trying to debug your program and never figure out the error.)) After you have opened the query, you will need to write the SQL statements that will perform the desired functions for your application.

As an aside, I want to mention that you should always do some pre-coding thought and diagramming before you start to write code "by the seat of your pants". It is not as noticeable in a program that is as small and simple as this, but it will become very noticeable when your applications start to become larger. (Even though it may seem to be more work now, it is good to get into the habit, and will actually save you time in the future.)

Returning to our regularly scheduled programming, ;-), what action do we need to perform before we can pull information from the database? That's right, we need to INSERT that information into the database. The INSERT statement will look like this:

```
INSERT INTO [tablename] (column1, column2, etc)
VALUES
('string_data', number, etc)
```

We INSERT the data into a table, [tablename], with the columns named, column1 and column2, the VALUES, string\_data, and a number. (I am afraid that SQL is not the focus of this article, so for a good tutorial, check out: <a href="http://www.baycongroup.com/tocsql.htm">http://www.baycongroup.com/tocsql.htm</a>. For the scope of this article, I will only do a cursory explanation of the SQL statements that are being used in this application.)

After this brief explanation of the <CFQUERY> statements, and the INSERT statement, we will write our first <CFQUERY> within the <BODY> tag of our html document. It will look like this:

```
<CFQUERY NAME="insert_data" DATASOURCE="test_source">
     INSERT INTO name_table (NAME, TELEPHONE)
     VALUES
     ('Shannon', 555-1212)
</CFQUERY>
```

Now, this works fine, if you want to keep entering the same data into the database table over and over again, but this is not what we are looking to do. We are looking to exploit the power of ColdFusion and turn it to our own sinister will. Therefore, we will need to replace the VALUES in the preceding statement with the FORM values from firstInsertForm.cfm. To do this, you will use the variable names that are associated with the two forms on firstInsertForm.cfm, NAME and TELEPHONE. Our query will then need to be modified to look like this:

```
<CFQUERY NAME="insert_data" DATASOURCE="test_source">
        INSERT INTO name_table (NAME, TELEPHONE)
        VALUES
        ('#Form.NAME#', '#Form.TELEPHONE#')
</CFQUERY>
```

This modified query will take the data entered into the forms on firstInsertForm.cfm and insert that information into the table "name\_table" using the DSN "test\_source", that I have set up for you.

Now... How do you know if the information was entered into the database? You could easily open the database, and see for yourself... But wouldn't it be easier to write another query that will pull the information from the table itself? That way, you don't have to copy the database to your computer, etc, etc. To SELECT all of the information from the desired database table, you will use the same <CFQUERY> and change the SQL statements, to perform the SELECT "function" instead of the INSERT "function".

```
<CFQUERY NAME="select_data" DATASOURCE="test_source">
        SELECT * FROM name_table

</CFQUERY>
```

The SQL statement "SELECTS" all of the information from the database table, "name\_table". (The \* is considered a meta-character with the meaning, "everything", or "all".) You will now add this query underneath the INSERT query, and then add the <CFOUTPUT> tags to the html, which in this case is in the form of a table.

```
<div align="center">
```

```
<center>
  <b>NAME</b>
  <b>TELEPHONE</b>
  <!---Start the output from the database--->
  <CFOUTPUT QUERY="select_data">
  #NAME#
  #TELEPHONE#
  </CFOUTPUT>
  <!---Finish output--->
  </center>
</div>
```

This is will output all of the information from your database into a tabular format, which makes the returned values very readable.

• One note, you don't want to include your headings in the <CFOUTPUT>, because your output will repeat for every row of data in your database, giving you something like:

NAME	TELEPHONE
Speevey	555-1234
NAME	TELEPHONE
Mary	555-4321

(Of course, if you want your output to look like that, you can go ahead and do it. The sky is the limit!!)

- Note number two. We are adding an attribute to our <CFOUTPUT> tag that we didn't see last month. The QUERY attribute. The QUERY attribute points our <CFOUTPUT> to the correct <CFQUERY>. (In this case, the "select\_data" query.)
- And finally, note number three. The output variables must have the same name as the database tables' columns. That is the way that the ColdFusion server knows how to pull the data from the database, and where to output the data to the screen.

#### In Conclusion...

Etc, etc...

In this month's article, we have written two pages of html, and turned them into ColdFusion dynamic dynamo. We are accepting input from two forms on the first page, then inserting the data into a database and reviewing our database information on the second page. This is very easy using ColdFusion, and opens up the doors to the real power of the RAD application.

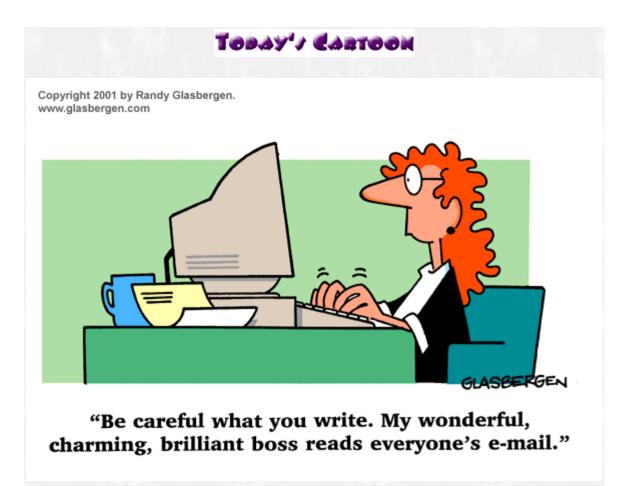
Now that you have this information, and have tested the examples, try different SQL statements to see what they do. If you are unsure about what SQL is, or want to know more, check out my mini-course: Introduction to SQL, and also check-out the url that I mentioned earlier in the article. There is a lot of information in those two places. Also, I am offering another short course this semester called "Introduction to ColdFusion" in which we cover many of the same concepts that we have been covering in these articles. (For more information on the short courses offered by the Computing Center, check out <a href="http://www.unt.edu/training/shortcrs.htm">http://www.unt.edu/training/shortcrs.htm</a>)

Next month, we are going to cover the <CFQUERY> in more depth, and look at how to deal with some of the small quirks that html throws at us in our ColdFusion application creation.

Until then...

For a completed example of the application that I just created, hit <a href="http://web2.unt.edu/speeves/firstdbapp">http://web2.unt.edu/speeves/firstdbapp</a>.





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