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*Don't forget our
monthly
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Campus Computing News

Changes to EUID Password Standards

By [Dr. Philip Baczewski](#), Associate Director of Academic Computing

The UNT Computing and Information Technology Center has begun an effort to strengthen password security for the information systems used by students, faculty, and staff. The goal of this effort is to protect personal and sensitive information that may be stored on UNT computing systems. As a first step, strong passwords will now be required for using your EUID to access systems including EIS, EagleMail, WebCT, my.unt.edu, and Central Web page editing.

A strong password is one that is not easily guessed by people or computer programs. For example, your name is not a strong password, since that is information known to many others. Likewise, words in a dictionary are not strong passwords, since computer programs will easily read that dictionary and try each word if it knows your login name. A strong password is a less obvious sequence of characters which contains a variety of upper and lower case letters, numbers, and punctuation.

EUID Passwords may expire soon . . .

To ensure that strong passwords are in use, it may be necessary for UNT to set an immediate expiration date on your password before the end of this calendar year (2004). If we do so and you have not recently changed your password, you will then need to change it or reset it before you can log into central computing systems such as EIS, EagleMail, and my.unt.edu.

To change your EUID password, you can point any web browser at <http://ams.unt.edu/> and follow the steps on that page. Detailed instructions for changing or resetting your password can be found on the CITC helpdesk page (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk>). Once you set a new password, it will be valid for 120 days.

When you change or reset your EUID password via the UNT Account Management Page (<http://ams.unt.edu/>), your new password will now have to contain upper and lower case characters and either a number or punctuation mark. Your password will need to be something other than a recognizable word or name. If your password is not considered strong enough by the Account Management program, you can ask it to suggest a strengthened password for you and it will provide you with a list of possible strong passwords based on what you previously entered.

Don't wait to change your password!

If you don't have a strong password set for your EUID, we suggest that you do so as soon as possible. This will prevent our manual expiration process from disabling your account and

allow you to reset your password in a deliberate manner so that you can have time to decide on a value that is most memorable to you. Note that this information applies only to the EUID password used for the systems mentioned above and not for Windows workstation or Novell Network access.

For more information about UNT's password security practices, please read the article "Protecting Your Digital Identity: Changes to Password Procedures at UNT" in the August, 2004 issue of *Benchmarks Online* (see, <http://www.unt.edu/benchmarks/archives/2004/august04/comp.htm>).

Questions about your EUID password or requests for help changing it can be directed to the CITC Helpdesk (940-565-2324 or helpdesk@unt.edu).

We appreciate your help in maintaining a secure computing environment at UNT.

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Thanksgiving Break Hours

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

Following are the hours for Computing Center-managed facilities over the Thanksgiving break. The University is [officially closed](#) November 25th & 26th. Additionally:

- **Print Services** Thursday, November 25-Sunday, November 28: **Closed**

New regular hours for Printing Services after November 28: M-F 6AM -10PM, Sat. & Sun. 10AM-10PM to M-F 6AM -6PM, Closed Sat. & Sun.

- The [Helpdesk](#) will be **closed** Thanksgiving day (Nov. 25) then open their normal hours.
- The **ACS General Access/Adaptive Lab** ([ISB 110](#)):

Wednesday, November 24 close at 7:30 p.m.

Closed Thursday, November 25

Open Friday, November 26 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Open Saturday, November 27 at 9 a.m., resume normal schedule.

Hours for Other Campus Facilities

General Access Labs

- [WILLIS](#):

Wednesday, November 24 close at 7:50 p.m.

Closed Thursday, November 25

Open Friday, November 26 from 8 a.m. to 5:50 p.m.

Open Saturday, November 27 at 9 a.m., resume 24 hour schedule.

- [SLIS](#):

Closed Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26, then resume normal schedule.

- [MUSIC](#):

Wednesday, November 24" 7:30am - 5:00pm

Closed Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26

Sunday, November 28: 1:00 pm - Midnight

- [SCS:](#)

Thursday, November 25-Sunday, November 28: **Closed**

- [SOVA:](#)

Thanksgiving hours unavailable.

- [COE:](#)

Wednesday, November 24 close at 5 p.m.

Closed Thursday, November 25 - Sunday, November 28.

- [COBA:](#)

Wednesday, November 24 close at 4 p.m.

Closed Thursday, November 25 & Friday, November 26, then resume normal hours.

- [CAS:](#)

GAB 330:

Wednesday, November 24 close at 8 p.m.

Closed Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26.

Saturday, November 27 - resume normal hours.

GAB 550:

Wednesday, November 24 close at 5 p.m.

Closed Thursday, November 25 - Sunday, November 28.

Terrill 220:

Wednesday, November 24 close at 5 p.m.

Closed Thursday, November 25 - Sunday, November 28.

Wooten 120:

Wednesday, November 24 close at 5 p.m.

Closed Thursday, November 25 - Sunday, November 28.

- **UNT Dallas Campus- 155A**

Wednesday, November 24: 7:45 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Closed Thursday, November 25 & Friday, November 26

Saturday, November 27: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- **Engineering General Access Lab (englab@unt.edu, Research Park, B129, 891-6733)**

Close Wednesday, November 24 at 5 p.m., **remain closed:**

Thursday, November 25-Sunday, November 28

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A Higher Education Administrative Technology Conference - An EDUCAUSE Affiliate



CUMREC: A Call for Proposals

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

There is still time to submit a proposal for CUMREC, an EDUCAUSE Affiliate. As we stated last month, according to the [CUMREC website](#), "the purpose of CUMREC is to provide a forum for higher education professionals to share their expertise and experiences with computer systems in our ever-changing world of technology. The CUMREC Annual Conference, founded in 1956, is the longest running continuing conference devoted to promoting the understanding and use of information technology in higher education."

CUMREC has sent out a call for proposals, reproduced below.

Play an active part in one of higher education's leading IT events—submit a [presentation proposal](#) for [CUMREC 2005](#), May 15–18 in Keystone, Colorado. The deadline for submissions is **December 6, 2004**.

The program will follow six tracks (view [full descriptions](#)):

- Enterprise Solutions, Policies, and Partnerships
- Leadership, Management, and Collaboration
- New Horizons in Application Development
- Security and Technical Infrastructure
- Web Design and Development
- Corporate Presentations

Submit your proposal online!

Benefits of Presenting

As a presenter, you'll not only help create an innovative and informative program, you'll also:

- Gain recognition
- Make valuable contacts

- Hone your public speaking skills
- Build confidence and self-esteem
- Facilitate progress in the academic community

Related Opportunities

- If your proposal addresses an effective technology-related practice or solution implemented on your campus, share it with colleagues by submitting your presentation content to the [Resource Center](#).
- Consider submitting your material for publication in *EDUCAUSE Quarterly*. EQ authors receive full editorial support and gain valuable exposure and recognition in a very visible professional forum. View [author testimonials](#) and [publication guidelines](#).
- Find out about other [EDUCAUSE events](#).

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Today's Cartoon

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www.glasbergen.com



"I KNOW IT'S ILLEGAL TO DOWNLOAD MUSIC FROM THE INTERNET... BUT YOU SAID THE STUFF I LISTEN TO ISN'T MUSIC!"

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

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Network Connection

By [Dr. Philip Baczewski](#), Associate Director of Academic Computing

The View from 35,000 Feet (Literally)

With the rapid pace of change in technology, its sometimes useful to take a moment to assess what value (if any) that technology carries. We can easily get caught up in day to day details such as new passwords, unfamiliar interfaces, and even the necessity to use technology that was previously reserved for technical gurus or personal assistants. But sometimes, keeping technological change in perspective requires taking in a broader view of where that change is leading.

Information and network technology has had an impact on all facets of American Society, but has greatly affected institutions of higher education. Part of the reason for this is that the Internet was born in higher education. We were early adopters and developers of that technology. It's not surprising that technology is now intrinsic to all functions of a major university, from administration to classroom instruction. Those who find the technology intrusive should remember that institutions of higher learning were first to adopt another world-changing technology: the book.

So, how do we get a better perspective on technology in our professional lives? I'd suggest a start by reviewing Baczewski's number one axiom of information technology (at least the number one axiom for today):

Institutional Information technology is not necessarily intended to increase your personal productivity.

Institutional Information technology is intended to increase an organization's productivity, with sometimes negative results for your personal productivity. However, information technology can increase your personal productivity if you embrace it and abandon less efficient technologies.

Yes, you may prefer writing with a pencil and a yellow pad of paper, but a bit of practice with typing will let you record the same words directly in electronic format. The benefit to you is that editing becomes much easier once you understand how to use the technology to move text around and even catch those misspellings that are endemic to a language like English. The benefit to the organization is that you no longer require the services of someone to transcribe what you wrote on the yellow pad to a format that is useful to others.

A corollary to the axiom above is that information technology does not always save money, but it is a benefit if it increases institutional productivity. This raises the question of what exactly is productivity in higher education? I think that measure can be made in a number of ways, but in public higher education, I'd suggest that one measure is the range of people to which we can extend learning opportunities.

This latter rationale applies directly to UNT's ongoing project to implement new information systems. It is an institutional goal to extend higher education to some who would ordinarily not have access. The Internet provides a conduit for making that extension possible. But, we can't accomplish this goal without also having a way to communicate and operate our business over the Internet.

So it comes down to whether technology is an imposition or an opportunity. As a technologist, I'm inclined to argue on the side of opportunity. I see a benefit to being able to update my contact information with Human Resources any time I need to via a web interface, rather than having to wait for the paper form to be sent out once a year. I see a benefit to being able to communicate in a number of ways and time frames.

This doesn't mean that I think that computing and information technology is always easy to use and is always more efficient than an older method. Often it is not. But it is up to a number of us to make that technology more efficient to use as it matures and becomes an increasing part of our work life. Sometimes that process can only be accomplished with experience - the experience of individuals and the experience of the institution as it employs new technology.

I guess you could argue that it is an imposition that I am writing this column on an airplane as I fly to an academic conference in Seattle. Shouldn't I have this time to relax and enjoy the view? Perhaps, but I feel that having access to this technology makes me more productive and, more importantly, lets me manage my time more productively. I suppose I could be doing this with a yellow pad instead of a laptop, but with this method, there's a lot less eraser dust. And while I love my view of campus from my office window, the view from 35,000 feet can sometimes be spectacular.

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

UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS FACILITIES

Did you know that the Physical Plant is now called Facilities? Along with a new name they have a new website with all sorts of helpful features including online forms and information about utility outages. Check it out:
<http://www.facilities.unt.edu/index.cfm>

According to a recent E-mail:

Facilities Maintenance has scheduled periodic maintenance on the campus electrical switching equipment over the Christmas holidays in order to maintain this level of reliability. The UNT electrical distribution system has both primary and alternate connections, and the majority of this work – if not all - will be accomplished without power interruption. If planned outages become necessary, advance notice will be issued through Groupwise and on the Facilities website:
<http://www.facilities.unt.edu/index.cfm>

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IRC News



Minutes provided by Sue Ellen Richey,
Recording Secretary*

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: PHILIP TURNER, ELIZABETH HINKLE-TURNER, LOU ANN BRADLEY, COY HOGGARD (for JONEEL HARRIS), JIM CURRY, PATRICK PLUSCHT, ROBERT NIMOCKS, JON NELSON, SANDRA TERRELL, RAMU MUTHIAH, BRUCE HUNTER, JUDITH ADKISON, SCOTT JOYCE (for CHUCK FULLER) **NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** SUE ELLEN RICHEY (Recording Secretary) **MEMBERS ABSENT:** JONEEL HARRIS, JOE ADAMO, MAURICE LEATHERBURY, MARGARET AMBUEHL, KATHY SWIGGER, MAX KAZEMZADEH, DON GROSE, ABRAHAM JOHN, CENGIZ CAPAN, JOHN PRICE, RICHARD HARRIS, KENN MOFFITT, CHRISTY CRUTSINGER, DOUG MAINS, BOBBY CARTER, CHUCK FULLER **GUESTS:** JENNIFER LAFLEUR

October 19, 2004

The minutes of the September 21, 2004 meeting were approved as distributed.

E-mail Retention Policy and Procedures

The Chair reported that at the last meeting of the President's Council he and Richard Harris presented the E-mail Retention Policy and Procedures; however, they had a very short time for discussion so he plans to bring up the issue again at the next meeting of the Council. Dr. Turner stated that he believes that the Vice Presidents need more information on this matter.

Learning Enhancement Planning Group

Patrick Pluscht reported that the Learning Enhancement Planning Group has not yet met, explaining that there are several dual appointments on this group and on the Distance Learning Steering Committee, which is the policy-making body. He plans to call a meeting of the Planning Group after the Steering Committee meets in November. Patrick distributed an announcement of future seminars on distance learning and asked the group for suggestions on how to best publicize such events. Several suggestions were offered, including posting the event on the EIS My Training module, using the Television display, and email.

Patrick also announced a call for proposals for Learning Enhancement grants totaling \$150,000 offered by the Provost, stating that the proposals could be for inter- or multi-disciplinary instruction, or use of technology to improve the students' educational experience. The deadline for submission is November 1, 2004, and the awards will be made by mid-December. To obtain more information regarding these grants, one can go to the Center for Distributed Learning web page and look up Learning Enhancement Grants.

EIS Planning Group

Coy Hoggard reported for the EIS Planning Group that they have been taking a close look at a concern expressed to them that too many people have access to sensitive information in the system. He clarified that not everyone has access to all information. Social Security numbers are no longer used as identifiers, but social security numbers are still in the system, and is part of the information available for secondary confirmation of identification, if needed. They have received a patch to the software that offers a way of masking all but the last 4 digits of the social security number, in an effort to add more security, and they are making sure that only the most appropriate people have access to this information.

The group is also working to improve reporting procedures. They have engaged PeopleSoft services to provide assistance with the RDS project which will assist with extracting information from the transaction database and put it in a more reporting-friendly database.

In addition, they are proceeding with the implementation of the Budget Module, which is part of EPM (Enterprise Performance Measurement), and which they hope to have completed this Fall. This will replace the current reporting system.

In response to a question about slow processing speed, Coy stated that they continue to tune the system, and have borrowed equipment from Sun to boost processing power. He believes that processing speeds have improved since early September.

Student Computing Planning Committee

Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner reported that the Student Computing Planning Committee has not met, but that General Access Lab Managers have been working with Facilities to get better signage and a map showing where all the general access labs are. They plan to post the map at all of the labs. Elizabeth has been exploring computer-based training possibilities, and integrating this into the EIS system. Use of the EIS MyTraining Module will be a good way to publicize training or assigning specific training to people.

EPro purchasing system

Sandy Shelton, Director of Purchasing and Payment Services, by invitation of the Chair, spoke to the Council regarding the new EPro purchasing system and the procedure for processing legal contracts through the Purchasing system. Sandy explained that because of EIS there have been a lot of changes in Purchasing procedures and a reorganization of the PPS office. They have dedicated a full-time position to Contracts Administration, and are trying to fill that position presently. She also announced that there is a new University Attorney, Alan Stucky, who will be dedicated to handling contracts for UNT. PPS is currently working with the Attorney to establish a working procedure for handling contracts that are associated with purchase orders. Sandy stated that she is aware that the handling of legal contracts associated with purchase orders has been a problem area in the past. She explained that any EPro requisition that is submitted, and which involves a legal contract, should have that contract attached to the requisition.

Sandy also confirmed that the dollar limit for a requisition with three quotes has been raised from \$10,000 to \$25,000 per order. She stated that the revised dollar limit and the legal contract procedure will be addressed in the next issue of the *Spreadsheet*. Sandy fielded several questions from the group regarding turnaround time for orders, and how to track requisitions through the system.

WebCT Vista problems

Dr. Turner announced that there would be discussion at the next IRC meeting regarding WebCT Vista problems and their resolution. He announced briefly that a private hotfix from Vista had been installed and that Vista has pulled people to work only on the UNT implementation.

* For a list of IRC Regular and Ex-officio Members click [here](#).

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. All meetings of the IRC, its program groups, and other committees, are open to all faculty, staff, and students.

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Research and Statistical Support University of North Texas

RSS Matters

Link to the last RSS article here: [Two User Interfaces to the R Statistical System: Rcgi and R Commander](#) - Ed.

The Ins(heet) and Outs(heet) of Importing and Exporting non-Stata Formatted Data

By [Patrick McLeod](#), Research and Statistical Support Services Consultant

One common thread that most fields of social science share is that our data is found or arrives in a bewildering array of different formats: Delimited text, CSV (Comma Separated Values), Excel spreadsheets, or whatever other statistical package is in use in your field that you do not use for research. This article will discuss how to import some of the more common file formats into Stata (CSV, Excel, and fixed-format data) and argue for Stata users (and all users of statistical software) to save data in a platform independent, standardized format.

Copy and Paste

The easiest way to import Excel data into Stata 8 is to open Stata 8, then open the Data Editor (the button to the left of the Data Browser button (the spreadsheet with the magnifying glass on it)). Open your Excel spreadsheet and highlight what data you wish to import into Stata. Right click (if you have a 2 button mouse; otherwise select the "copy" function) and copy your selection. Either click on the first cell in the empty Data Editor or highlight a range of cells appropriate to your copied selection and select "paste."

Insheet

The most-invoked data importation command in my Stata experience has been -insheet-. This command reads most spreadsheet and database generated data into Stata. From the description of -insheet-:

insheet reads into memory a disk dataset that is not in Stata format. insheet is intended for reading files created by spreadsheet or database programs. Regardless of the creator of the file, insheet reads text (ASCII) files where there

is one observation per line and the values are separated by tabs or commas. In addition, the first line of the file may contain the variable names.

To save yourself some valuable time and, more importantly, some sanity, I suggest saving your Excel files as *.csv (Comma Separated Values) files before you attempt to import them into Stata using `–insheet–`. If you attempt to import an Excel spreadsheet into Stata, you will usually get the following result:

```
. insheet using E:\exampledata.xls
```

```
(1 var, 0 obs)
```

If you save the file “exampledata.xls” as “exampledata.csv” before you issue the `–insheet–` command (“File” – “Save As” – “Save As Type” – “CSV (Comma delimited) *.csv”), you will get the following successful result:

```
. insheet using E:\exampledata.csv
```

```
(71 vars, 889 obs)
```

On a wider note, I maintain that working with data in CSV format is the easiest way to manage data across platforms. All major statistical packages easily handle importing CSV formatted data and all major statistical packages easily handle exporting data to CSV format. An example of how you would do this in Stata follows (assuming we have the dataset above in memory and that we are exporting it to the A: drive):

```
. outsheet using A:\exampledata.csv, comma
```

Issuing this command will export your current Stata data to the file path as a CSV file that can be read into Stata, read into another platform or worked with in Excel.

Infix

The `–infix–` command is used for reading fixed-format ASCII text data into Stata. Data can either be read into Stata by assignment within the `–infix–` statement:

```
. infix rate 1-4 speed 6-7 acc 9-11 using E:\highway.dat
```

Fixed format data can also be read into Stata using `–infix–` by specifying a dictionary file that defines the data within the `–infix–` statement:

```
. infix using E:\highway.dct
```

As in the `–insheet–` command, the Stata user can write whatever data he or she is working with in Stata to a fixed-format file for output. To export to a raw data file the command would be:

```
. outfile using E:\highway.dat
```

Exporting to raw data with a dictionary file (a dictionary file in Stata format) would look like:

. outfile using E:\highwaydct, dictionary

Conclusions

Using conventional highlight-copy-and-paste and the `–insheet-` and `–infix-` commands will solve most platform independent data importation into Stata. For the importation of data from proprietary platforms (such as SPSS, SAS, S-Plus, or EViews) into Stata, the best solution is to save the data in the particular platform in CSV format, or if you do not have access to the platform, to use a program such as Stat/Transfer to convert the data into CSV or Stata format.

I advocate for all data being in a standard, easily readable and easily writeable format. In my experiences, that is comma separated values format: All major statistical packages easily read and write out to CSV format, and it is easily read and written to in Excel, making it an ideal format for saving data for replication purposes or for shipping data between researchers using different platforms on the same project.

Export your data to CSV format when possible! Your fellow researchers, current graduate students and future graduate students will thank you for it!

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mod_auth_ldap: Migration and Configuration

By [Shannon Eric Peevey](#), UNT Central Web Support

In this month's article, I am going to discuss the recent migration from our long-time friends Apache::AuthNetLDAP, to the built-in C modules, mod_ldap and mod_auth_ldap. We have been using Apache::AuthNetLDAP since 1999-2000, when Mark Wilcox, the former web administrator for UNT, wrote the module. It has worked well, and is still being used on the www farm as the authentication mechanism. But, on web2, we had been noticing some extreme delays in authentication for publishing, and I, personally, had been noticing connectivity issues with the campus LDAP servers.

As I am implementing LDAP groups to replace the htgroup files of yore, I have become even more aware of these issues. Because I had discovered that this publishing problem directly related to the connections to the LDAP server, I knew that we would need to implement caching to cache the users credentials on the web server, to limit the number of times that the web server would need to query the LDAP server for authentication and authorization. (HTTP is stateless, so for the web server to know if you are allowed to see each item you are requesting, it needs to query the LDAP server for each item that is sent to the browser. (ie images, included files, etc.)).

As you may guess, this could be a substantial number of requests. In the case of publishing, some webDAV clients, such as web folders, touch each file to get a directory listing for the remote folder. This could send thousands of bind requests to the LDAP server, and in the past, was believed to have caused some instability in our directory services here on campus. Since we needed caching, my first thought was to find a mod_perl module that would cache these connections. Enter Apache::AuthenCache... Oops... No, exit Apache::AuthenCache. Apache::AuthenCache does not support mod_perl2, which is the version that we use on web2, therefore, this was not an option. (There have been attempts to get the author to port the module, and there are developers that have contacted me about uploading their ported versions, but we haven't succeeded in this endeavor yet ;().

mod_ldap and mod_auth_ldap

Ok, now enter mod_ldap and mod_auth_ldap. These are new modules that have been added to the Apache2 base, allowing us to take advantage of the C implementations for LDAP authentication.

First, to enable LDAP authentication with these modules, you need to use the following flags when configuring Apache:

```
./configure --with-ldap --enable-ldap --enable-auth-ldap
```

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO HAVE --with-ldap in this list, as it is not documented anywhere obvious. (Only in httpd_install_dir/modules/experimental/README.ldap)

Second, enable caching on your server, but adding the following lines to the httpd.conf.

```

LDAPSharedCacheSize 200000

LDAPCacheEntries 1024

LDAPCacheTTL 600

LDAPOpCacheEntries 1024

LDAPOpCacheTTL 600

LDAPTrustedCA /location/of/your/ca.crt

LDAPTrustedCAType BASE64_FILE

####End of LDAP Conf

#

# This should be changed to whatever you set DocumentRoot to.

#

<Directory /your/webroot>

```

I just used the default that is found on: http://httpd.apache.org/docs-2.0/mod/mod_ldap.html with the addition of the LDAPTrustedCA and LDAPTrustedCAType directives. Use these two directives only if you want to connect to the LDAP server over a secure connection, (specifically, ldaps). The options for LDAPTrustedCAType are:

```

DER_FILE - file in binary DER format
BASE64_FILE - file in Base64 format
CERT7_DB_PATH - Netscape certificate database file

```

Third, we need to set the configuration for mod_auth_ldap.

```

# include for the vHost conf

Include conf/webroot.conf

<Directory /your/web>

##### Beginning of mod_auth #####

AuthAuthoritative Off

AuthUserFile /location/to/password/file

AuthGroupFile /location/to/group/file

##### End of mod_auth #####

##### Beginning mod_auth_ldap #####

AuthType Basic

AuthName "coolsite"

AuthLDAPEnabled on

AuthLDAPURL ldaps://your.ldap.server:636/o=base?uid

```

```

AuthLDAPBindDN "ldapuser"

AuthLDAPBindPassword "ldapuserpassword"

##### End mod_auth_ldap #####

</Directory>

```

This configuration posed some interesting problems. First, I wanted Apache to check LDAP, and then fail to basic Apache authentication if the user was not able to bind to the LDAP server. Well, this was a wrong assumption on my part. Basic Apache authentication is actually the first authentication mechanism that is checked, then if that fails, it hands off authentication to mod_auth_ldap. This is not that much of a problem, but you need to make sure that you clear all usernames from the password file that have a duplicate username in LDAP. For example:

```

htpasswd

shannon:!@#$3485asfd

LDAP server

uid=shannon,o=base

```

If I login to the Apache using 'shannon' as my login name, then Apache will check basic Apache authentication, (mod_auth), and see that 'shannon' is indeed a user which should be authenticated at the mod_auth level. This will return an error. Once you remove the 'shannon' username from the htpasswd file, then mod_auth will pass the authentication handling down to mod_auth_ldap, just as we wanted.

Another important note: if you want mod_auth to pass authentication to another authentication module, then you need to set the directive:

```
AuthAuthoritative Off
```

in the httpd.conf file. If you don't, then mod_auth will simply fail the user, and never check LDAP.

Finally, I believe that we found a bug in mod_auth_ldap... You will notice that I am including conf files for the virtual hosts. I do this for administrative reasons, as well as making the config files much easier to read. Though the directives:

```

##### Beginning of mod_auth #####

AuthAuthoritative Off

AuthUserFile /location/to/password/file

AuthGroupFile /location/to/group/file

##### End of mod_auth #####

```

can be used in the .htaccess file, or httpd.conf file, the directives need to appear together. For example, I wanted to set AuthAuthoritative to Off for all virtual hosts, but have each virtual host use a different AuthUserFile and AuthGroupFile. To do this, I placed AuthAuthoritative Off in the httpd.conf file, then placed the Auth*File directives in each virtual host.conf file that was later included into the main httpd.conf file. This configuration would never fail, or DECLINE, to mod_auth_ldap, so I ran Apache through the debugger, and realized that AuthAuthoritative was being set to Off, when Apache was started, but then every time a request was sent to Apache, mod_auth would re-initialize AuthAuthoritative to On... My current work-around is to include all of these directives in a <Directory> container in the main httpd.conf file. For more information, check out:

http://www.issociate.de/board/post/128389/interesting_problem_with_mod_auth/AuthAuthoritative.html

The final step in our configuration is to change our <Limit> container, (in the .htaccess file, or <Directory> container), to require groups. (The other types of 'requires' are well documented at:

http://httpd.apache.org/docs-2.0/mod/mod_auth_ldap.html#requiredirectives

Our old <Limit> container looked like:

```
<Limit PUT DELETE>
require group speeves admin
</Limit>
```

This only allowed the groups 'speeves' and 'admin' to PUT or DELETE after authenticating. The new <Limit> should be changed to reflect the Distinguished Name of the group that holds your user membership. For example:

```
<Limit PUT DELETE>
require group cn=speeves,ou=webgroups,o=base
require group cn=admin,ou=webgroups,o=base
</Limit>
```

What appears to be another bug, is that we need to place multiple groups on separate lines. For some reason, the space between multiple groups on the same line causes issues with mod_auth_ldap reading in multiple entries from the require directive. Therefore, my work-around was to put them on separate lines. Very simple.

In Conclusion

Thank you for hanging in there with me through this month's article. I am pleased with the ease with which this transition was made, and, from the feedback, you are as well. If you have any questions about this article, please, feel free to contact me at speeves@unt.edu, or if you have general questions about web development here at UNT, you can send those to untwebdev@unt.edu.

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Short Courses

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

The fall Short Courses are just about over. Surf over to the [Short Courses](#) page to see the classes that remain and information about registration. We plan to offer similar classes next semester.

Customized Short Courses

Faculty members can request customized short courses from ACS, geared to their class needs. Other groups can request special courses also. Contact ACS for more information (ISB 119, 565-4068, lynch@unt.edu).

Especially for Faculty and Staff Members

In addition to the [ACS Short Courses](#), which are available to students, faculty and staff, staff and faculty members can take courses offered through the [Human Resources](#) Department, the [Center for Distributed Learning](#), and the UNT Libraries' [Multimedia Development Lab](#). Additionally, the Center for Continuing Education and Conference Management offers a variety of [courses](#) to both UNT and the general community, usually for a small fee.

EIS Training

Electronic Procurement (ePro) Training Classes

The following dates have been set for training. Note there are two classes given on each date - an Approver's class and an ePro Coordinator's class. Please e-mail Tina Koenig, tinak@unt.edu, indicating the date you plan to attend and for which class. *We'll attempt to hold classes every Tuesday, unless otherwise advised.*

Approvers:

2:00 PM to 3:00 PM,
3:00 PM to 4:00 PM,
4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Coordinators

8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Note: If you have not submitted an ePro DeptID Holder Information Form or an ePro Coordinators Information Form, please print out the forms attached and bring the applicable form with you to the training class or fill the form out on-line and attach it to your email requesting registration. This is necessary in order to establish security for your

use of the system.

Timekeeper Training

All Timekeeper Training sessions are held in ESSC 152 from 9:00am-Noon. You can register online (<https://home.unt.edu/hr/training/treg.htm>) or by calling (940) 565-4246.

Timekeeper Session Dates

- Wednesday, Dec 1

Purchasing and Payment Services 3 - Part Training

Presented by the PPS Team, these sessions will lead participants through the Policies and Laws effecting Procurement including Contracts, Bid Requirements, Independent Contractors and the utilization of HUB vendors. Sessions also include information concerning Travel, Check Requests, Tracking Inventory and use of the Purchasing Card.

Our new and improved training is beneficial to all UNT employees who do purchasing, inventory, process travel, or utilize a purchasing card. All classes will be held in Marquis Hall, Room 118:

- Thursday, Nov 18, 2004 - 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

Contact mbetterson@unt.edu for registration.

Student Records Level I Training

The Registrar's Office has announced EIS Student Records Level I Training for the fall. Please review the training schedule below for available times and dates.

STUDENT RECORDS LEVEL I TRAINING: Level I Student Records Training is a hands-on training session that concentrates on basic view access in EIS. In addition to discussions on basic EIS academic structure the users will view student personal information, FERPA status, residency status, registration eligibility, study lists (schedules), grades, enrollment requests, programs/plans, service indicators (blocks) and print unofficial transcripts. Users will also learn how to search for classes and rooms, view class rosters and look up instructor schedules and view the my.unt.edu student portal.

TO REGISTER: Email Sara Akers at sara@acad.admin.unt.edu with your preferred training time. Please include your EUID, full email address and position at UNT. If you do not know your EUID please go to: <https://ams.unt.edu/whatsmyeuid.php>

Dates for Level I training in ESSC 152 lab:

- Dec 8, 8:30-11 a.m.

Faculty Grading in EIS

Training sessions concerning how to assign grades via the EIS Grade Roster are now available. To Register contact Sara Akers at sara@acad.admin.unt.edu. She must have the following information: NAME, EUID, Email Address, Registration Date and Time.

Grade Roster Training Description: The Grade Roster Training Session will offer an overview of the entire grade reporting process in EIS. Items discussed will include logging into my.unt.edu for the purpose of assigning grades on the faculty grade roster, how to assign all grades in EIS and recording notes for "I's" (incomplete). The session will also explain how to complete the grading process for all courses through approval of the final roster and the grade posting process.

Detailed training documentation is available at <http://essc.unt.edu/eis/faculty.htm> for instructors who would prefer to review procedures via this method. If you have any questions contact [Ben Dearman](#), Assistant Registrar. The schedule is as follows:

November 17	9:00 am – 11:00am	ESSC 152 Computer Lab
	12:30 pm – 2:30pm	ESSC 152 Computer Lab
	3:00 pm. – 5:00pm	ESSC 152 Computer Lab
November 18	12:30pm – 2:30pm	ESSC 152 Computer Lab
	3:00pm – 5:00pm	ESSC 152 Computer Lab
November 19	9:00 am – 11:00am	ESSC 152 Computer Lab
	12:30 pm – 2:30pm	ESSC 152 Computer Lab
	3:00 pm. – 5:00pm	ESSC 152 Computer Lab
November 22	9:00 am – 11:00 am	ESSC 152 Computer Lab
	12:30 pm – 2:30pm	ESSC 152 Computer Lab
	3:00 pm. – 5:00pm	ESSC 152 Computer Lab

GroupWise Training

Information about GroupWise training can be found at the GroupWise course [site](#).

If you missed the class, the handout for the GroupWise 6.5 JunkMail Class is online at http://basicgroupwise.unt.edu/downloads/PDF/Dealing_with_SPAM.pdf.

Basic GroupWise 6.5 Class 3

This class shows you how to use the GroupWise client to check other email accounts you might have (i.e. aol, charter, eaglemail, etc.) using POP3 and IMAP protocols. GroupWise can now be your one stop place for all your email accounts. Also covered is saving your email messages as MS Word documents, and setting the default fonts in GroupWise.

In Chapter 12 we cover setting up multi-user calendars, where you have visual side-by-side access to yours and others GroupWise calendars. In addition we will cover busy searches, and auto-dating appointments.

Questions on any GroupWise topic will also be entertained. If there is something that you missed or would like to go over from the first two classes, please come.

You may signup online at <http://basicgroupwise.unt.edu/register/> OR you may call Melanie Betterson in Human Resources at x4246. This class is offered on:

November 16th *or* 18th, 2004

10:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m. (There is a 10 minute break at 10:50.)

If you would like to have a Basic GroupWise seminar for your area, please contact Jason Gutierrez, Network Computing Services, jasong@unt.edu.

Center for Distributed Learning

The Center for Distributed Learning offers courses especially for Faculty Members. A list of topics and further information can be found at

http://www.unt.edu/cdl/training_events/index.htm

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

Technical Training

Technical Training for campus network managers is available, from time to time, through the Network Computing Services (NCS) division of the Computing and Information Technology Center. Check the NCS [site](#) to see if and when they are offering any training.

UNT Mini-Courses

There are a variety of courses offered, for a fee, to UNT faculty, staff and students as well as the general public. For additional information surf over to

<http://www.pware.com/index.cfm?clientid=2694a>

Alternate Forms of Training

Many of the [General Access Labs](#) around campus have tutorials installed on their computers. For example, the College of Education has Macromedia Tutorials for DreamWeaver 4.0, Flash 5.0 and Fireworks 4.0.

The [Training](#) Web site has all sorts of information about alternate forms of training. Computer Based Training (CBT) is one of the alternatives offered.

For further information on CBT at UNT, [Check Out the CBT Website for all Your Online Training Needs](#) in the July issue of *Benchmarks Online*.

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Staff Activities

Transitions

New Employees:

- **Glenn Thorpe**, now full-time on Information Security Team (he was formerly an hourly employee on that team).
- **Kathy McDuffie**, University Information Operator.

No longer working in the Computing and Information Technology Center:

- **Subhransu Mishra**, EIS Programmer Analyst, ADM.
- **Leesa Garcia**, University Information Operator.

Awards, Recognition, Publications, etc.

Richard Harris has announced his plans to retire from his position as Associate Vice President for Computing and Chief Technology Officer in March of 2005. Phil Diebel, Vice President for Finance & Business Affairs, made the following announcement on November 3, 2004:

I am pleased to inform you that Dr. Maurice Leatherbury has agreed to accept the position of Associate Vice President for Computing and Chief Technology Officer. This appointment will be effective January 1, 2005. I know all of you join me in wishing Maurice the best and look forward to working with him. And I should also add that we owe an incredible amount of gratitude to Richard Harris for his 40+ years of exemplary service to the university. He will be greatly missed!

Dr. Maurice Leatherbury currently holds the position of Executive Director of Information Technology and Academic Computing.

Also retiring soon are **Steve Minnis**, Director of Enterprise Systems Technical Services, **George Williams**, General Data Systems Team Leader, and **Don Swatloski**, Database/Central Programming Support Team Leader. They are all retiring effective 12/31/04. Expect to see changes in the organizational structure of the Computing and Information Technology Center in 2005.

New Baby

Congratulations to **Dan Strange**, Network Computing Services, and his wife Carol on the birth of their son Jonathan Daniel on September 28.

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Don't Forget Our Monthly Columns!

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

In addition to our feature articles, *Benchmarks Online* publishes monthly columns that are focused on specific aspects of computing here at UNT (and beyond, in some cases). Check out what is waiting for you this month:

- [RSS Matters](#) - "RSS Matters" is the monthly column written by the Research and Statistical Support [Group](#) in Academic Computing Services. Their articles focus on topics of a statistical and/or research methods nature. **This month's article is by Patrick McLeod and is titled "The Ins(heet) and Outs(heet) of Importing and Exporting non-Static Formatted Data."**
- [The Network Connection](#) - "The Network Connection" may well be the longest running column in computer publishing history. Certainly in University of North Texas computer [publishing history](#).

This month Dr. Baczewski gives you his take on "The View from 35,000 Feet (Literally)."

- [Link of the Month](#) - As it says on the top of the "Link of the Month" page, "each month we highlight an Internet, USENET Special Interest Group (SIG), or similar mailing list(s) or Website(s)." Lately we have been confining ourselves to featuring UNT specific sites. **This month learn about the new Facilities website.**
- [WWW@UNT.EDU](#) - "WWW@UNT.EDU" is a monthly column written by the Central Web Support [Group](#) in Academic Computing Services. The topics usually focus, in some way, on World-Wide-Web-related issues. **This month, Shannon Peevey discusses "the recent migration from our long-time friends Apache::AuthNetLDAP, to the built-in C modules, mod_ldap and mod_auth_ldap" in the article "mod_auth_ldap: Migration and Configuration."**
- [Short Courses](#) - Every semester, Academic Computing Services (ACS) offers short courses on computer-related topics, many of them having to do with statistical research. This column keeps you up-to-date on what is being offered and when as well as other training opportunities. Fall Short Courses are winding down, but there is still training in other areas available and listed on this page.
- [IRC News](#) - As their Webpage [says](#), "the IRC is an advisory and oversight body created to foster communication and cooperation between and among UNT information resources providers and users." We publish the

minutes of the IRC meetings each month, when they are available. This month's minutes are from the October 19, 2004 meeting.

- [Staff Activities](#) - This column focuses on new employees, people who are no longer employed at the Computing and Information Technology Center, awards and recognitions and other items of interest featured here.

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