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Talon HPC Cluster Ribbon Cutting

By Dr. Philip Baczewski, Director of Academic Computing and User Services

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SC 2009: The International Conference for High Performance Computing

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By Gabe Marshall, CITC Information Security Analyst

The holiday season is currently in full swing and it's likely that information security is one of the last things on your mind. If you still have last minute shopping to do and are planning to make purchases

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Winter Break Hours

By Claudia Lynch, *Benchmarks   Online* Editor

By the Numbers

Primary Data Centers (Updated):

GAB 560

7,100 sq ft
Staffed 24 hrs/day X 365 days/yr

614 servers

231 TB enterprise storage (431 TB including the Talon HPC).

Discovery Park E268

1,675 sq ft

"Lights out" (no staffing)

189 servers

199 TB storage

Winter is here, the fall semester is over; time to rest, relax, catch up on things that were put aside, and generally take a break from what had become your routine these past few months. The following information should help you plan your activities if you need/want to access campus computing facilities over the break.

Read more

Statistics and Adaptive Software Updates

By Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Assistant Director - Academic Computing and User Services

The Technical Services area of CITC Academic Computing and User Services (otherwise known as Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner and Patrick McLeod) has prepared this list of supported software to assist network managers and other technical personnel in their spring machine imaging projects.

Read more

JAWS 11 Has Arrived!

By Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Assistant Director - Academic Computing and User Services

JAWS 11 has been released and is available for installation.

Read more

EDUCAUSE Southwest Regional Conference 2010

Click on the graphic below to register for the upcoming conference:

EDUCAUSE | PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
2010 SOUTHWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE
AUSTIN | FEB 17-19

Today's Cartoon

Click on the link above for an information age laugh.

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Talon HPC Cluster Ribbon Cutting

By Dr. Philip Baczewski, Director of Academic Computing and User Services

The newly-acquired Talon High Performance Computing Cluster received its ceremonial debut during ribbon cutting event on November 19, 2009. In attendance were members of the UNT Board of Regents, UNT Chancellor Lee Jackson, the Presidents of the UNT system intitutions, UNT administrators and faculty, and other guests. Presiding over the ceremony was Dr. Gretchen Bataille, UNT President who introduced the various guests and thanked the many people at UNT who worked to acquire and install the Talon HPC system and upgrade the UNT CITC machine room in order to support it.


Dr. Bataille: "We've named the Talon HPC cluster in recognition of its important role in helping the Eagles fly higher"

In commenting on the name of the new compute cluster, Dr. Bataille state, "we've named the Talon HPC cluster in recognition of its important role in helping the Eagles fly higher." Following remarks by Dr. Bataille, Dr. Vish Prasad, Vice President for Research and Economic Development, and Dr. Maurice Leatherbury, Acting Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, Dr. Prasad and Dr. Leatherbury jointly cut a green and white ribbon to mark the official opening of the new HPC facility. After the ribbon cutting, guests were invited to take a tour of the CITC machine room and see the Talon system.

Dr. Prasad and Dr. Leatherbury cut the Ribbon - pictured (l to r) Regent Brint Ryan, Laurea Donahoe, Chancellor Lee Jackson, Regent Steve Mitchell, Regent Al Silva, Regent Jack A. Wall, Regent C. Dan Smith, Vice President Maurice Leathurbury, Vice President Vish Prasad, UNT Provost Wendy Wilkins, and UNT President Gretchen Bataille.
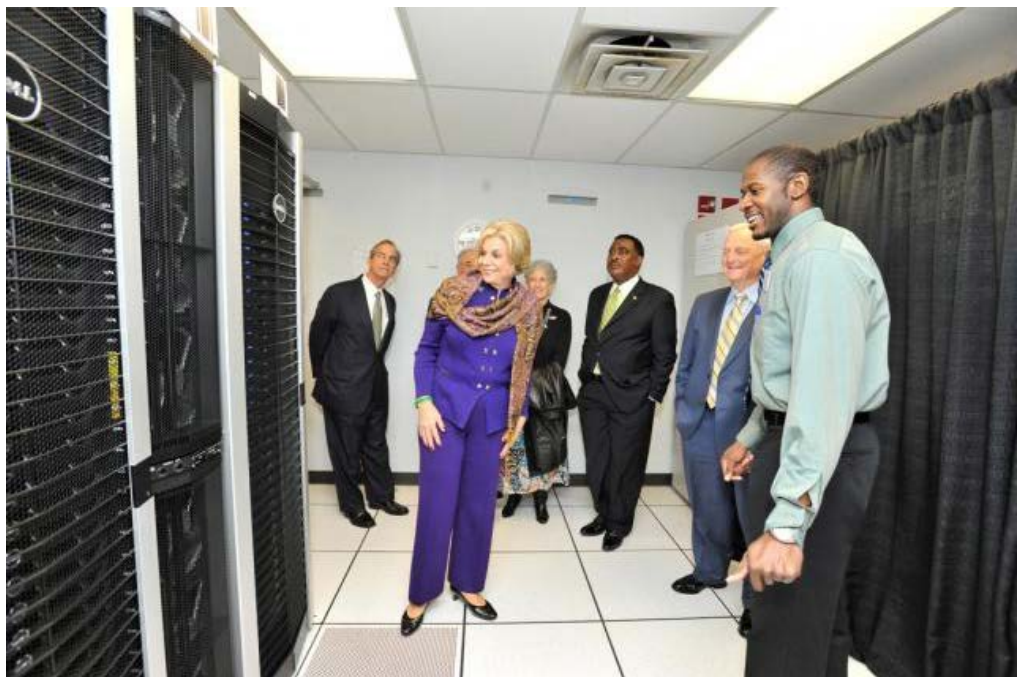
Lee Jackson, Jack Wall, Wendy Wilkins, John Price (UNT Dallas), C. Dan Smith, and Gretchen Bataille are shown the Talon cluster by UNT Academic Computing and User Services HPC specialist DaMiri Young.

The Talon HPC system represents a dramatic increase in research computing capacity at the University of North Texas. As Dr. Bataille stated, "This growth is important to attracting and keeping the brightest students as well as bringing in more of our nation's top faculty to join our ranks. And, it helps strengthen our university's reputation and improves the quality and value of every UNT degree." To find out more about the Talon system and other centrally-supported HPC resources, go to http://citc.unt.edu/hpc.

Photos credited to Michael Clements, UNT URCM.

Interested in high performance computing? Check out the article SC 2009: The International Conference for High Performance Computing in this issue. -- Ed.

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SC 2009: The International Conference for High Performance Computing

By Trent Geerdes , ACUS HPC Systems Administrator

The annual Supercomputing conference was held in Portland, Oregon on November 14-20 this year and I was fortunate enough to attend. An estimated 11,000 people from 70 countries attended the _The International Conference for High Performance Computing, Networking, Storage, and Analysis_. It's an eye opening experience seeing the level of interest and investment internationally in high performance computing related technology. The 131,650 sq. ft. exhibit space was almost overwhelming and easy to get lost in. Vendors and researchers from all corners of the globe were presenting their products, research, and technology. Major industry announcements were made such as Jaguar, the Cray XT5 at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, being upgraded and upsetting IBM's Roadrunner as the fastest computer in the world at running the high performance Linpack benchmark. Intel announced new 6 core Nehalem EX Xeon processors tuned specifically for HPC use. More announcements came from SGI, Cray, Nvidia, PGI, Mellanox, NextIO, and a seemingly endless list of vendors.

Sessions and Papers

SC 2009was a great opportunity to learn from from some of the brightest people at the root of technological innovation. I attended several highly technical tutorial sessions on hybrid MPI/OpenMP, parallel file systems, and OpenCL. The atmosphere was buzzing despite the dry nature of some of the subject matter due to the expert credentials of the presenters and the open format of the presentations. I attended a couple of sessions related to the Lustre file system that were very useful and was able to interface directly with Sun engineers. A huge benefit of attending SC were the opportunities to talk Lustre with individuals in the room from New Zealand, Australia, England, Canada, and around the US. Most enjoyable and impressive to me was the OpenCL session presented by individuals from Khronos group members AMD, Nvidia, and Intel. Many papers on recent GPU based performance achievements were presented along with energy efficiency and data visualization playing increasing roles at the conference. Clearly GPU acceleration is making big waves in HPC circles as China's GPU-CPU Tianhe-1 hit number five in the Top 500 during the conference. Industry players like PGI also announced GPU compilers. Most of the GPU cluster activity isn't yet happening on production systems but it seems that may change over the next year or two. SC is a unique environment to network with and learn from other people in highly specialized fields and I predict it will continue to grow.

Back at Home

The HPC (High Performance Computing) Team has been hard at work the last few months readying the new 224 node Talon cluster. It is a massive increase in computational resource from what UNT has been able to offer historically. In 2006 Dr. Philip Baczewski wrote about the usage of available HPC resources and in 2005 about 28.5 CPU years were used. The Talon cluster has ample resources that if utilized, could surpass that on a monthly basis. We have been working with several research faculty to iron out some last production environment details and are now days away from being ready to let our talented researchers begin utilizing this resource (see the HPC Ribbon Cutting article in this issue for pictures). We are excited to be helping to achieve new levels of computational research and to further UNT's research.

Questions or comments can be sent to Trent Geerdes, HPC Systems Administrator, CITC ACUS.

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Safeguard Your Holiday Season

By Gabe Marshall, CITC Information Security Analyst

The holiday season is currently in full swing and it's likely that information security is one of the last things on your mind. If you still have last minute shopping to do and are planning to make purchases online, please take a minute and read our article from last year entitled Stay Secure During the Holidays. The only addition to last year's article is to remember you should never send your financial information through email to make your purchases. Sending confidential data via email greatly increases your exposure to being the victim of an identity theft crime.

The New Year Brings Continued Threats

The saying "The future is made of the same stuff as the present" relates perfectly to the information security industry. The threats we're seeing now are very likely to remain similar but only become worse as time goes on. A very dangerous attack that is frequently seen across the Internet is referred to as a "drive-by attack". Drive-by attacks are executed when a user visits a website that is either intentionally malicious, has been hacked and therefore contains malicious code, or a website that allows individuals to post their own materials (such as a blog that allows comments, a forum, etc).

These drive-by attacks target vulnerabilities found in programs that enable special functionality in websites, for instance those that use Java or Flash technology. Both are required in many websites for legitimate reasons (Ex: Java is required to use the UNT Blackboard system). The key to remember is to always keep your software up to date, and simply be careful of the websites you visit. During the holidays, Hackers frequently send out spam containing links to malicious flash based e-cards, occasionally even pretending to be a relative or friend. If you do receive an e-card from what looks to be a friend or relative, make sure it is coming from a well known website such as Hallmark or BlueMountain and that your Flash is up to date. If you are unsure about the legitimacy of a URL you receive in an email, try typing it into google or siteadvisor.com before you click the link. SiteAdvisor will notify you if they have discovered the website to be malicious, while Google will likely show reports or complaints from other users who have visited the website before.
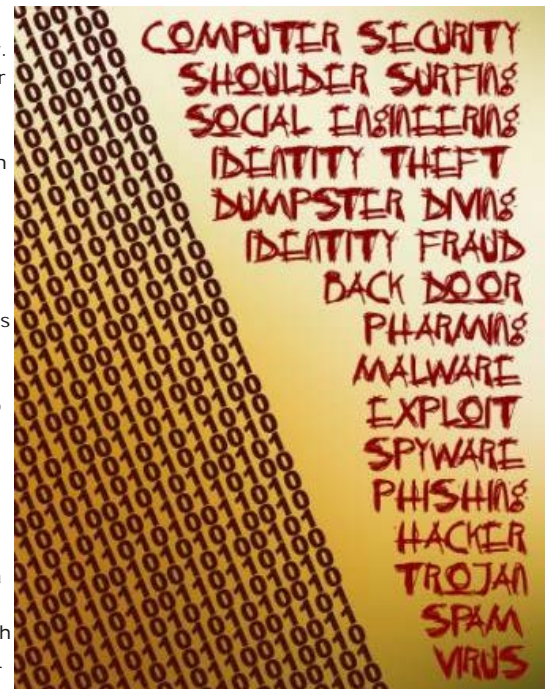
When in doubt ...

There is still another bit of advice to keep in mind to ensure your safety during the holidays and throughout the year. Use your best judgment. If you're unsure about a URL or anything of the sort, then most likely there is reason behind your intuition. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you're concerned about the security of your data or your workstation at UNT.

Last but not least, *Happy Holidays!*

CITC Information Assurance can be contacted by either emailing security@unt.edu or dialing 369-7800,

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Winter Break Hours

By Claudia Lynch, *Benchmarks Online* Editor

Winter is here, the fall semester is over; time to rest, relax, catch up on things that were put aside, and generally take a break from what had become your routine these past few months. The following information should help you plan your activities if you need/want to access campus computing facilities over the break.

The Helpdesk will maintain normal hours through most of the break. Staff will be answering the phones and email from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 24 and December 31, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on January 1. **The lobby will be closed December 24 - January 4**. The University is **officially closed** December 24, 2009 - January 3, 2010 for Winter Break and Monday, January 18 for MLK Day, but some areas will have abreviated hours during that time.

The University of North Texas closes December 24, 2009 through January 3, 2010 for

Winter Break.

Campus reopens at 8 am on January 4, 2010.

- **Data Management Services** will be **closed** over the Winter Break.

- The **ACS General Access/Adaptive Lab** (ISB 104):

  Closed: Sunday, December 20
  Open: 9 a.m. - 5:45 p.m. January 21 - January 23
  Closed: Thursday, December 24 - Sunday, January 3
  Open: 9 a.m. - 5:45 p.m. January 4 - 8
  Closed: Saturday, January 9 & Sunday, January 10
  Open: 9 a.m. - 5:45 p.m. January 11 & 12
  Closed: Wednesday, January 13 & Thursday, January 14
  Open: 9 a.m. - 5:45 p.m. Friday, January 15 & Saturday, January 16
  Open: 1 p.m. - 9:45 p.m. Sunday, January 17
  Open: 8 a.m. - 5:45 p.m. Monday, January 18
  Open: 8 a.m. Tuesday, January 19; resume normal hours

Hours for Other Campus Facilities

Check out the UNT Shuttle Winter Break Schedule here: http://www.unt.edu/transit/routes_sched.html

General Access Labs

- WILLIS:

Close: 5:50 p.m. Friday, December 18
Open: 9 a.m.-5:50 p.m. Saturday, December 19
Closed: Sunday, December 20
Open: 8 a.m.-5:50 p.m. Monday, December 21 - Wednesday, December 23
Closed: December 24 - January 3
Open: 8 a.m.-5:50 p.m. Monday, January 11 - Thursday, January 14
Closed: Friday, January 15
Open: 8 a.m.-5:50 p.m. Saturday, January 16
Open: 1 p.m.-9:50 p.m. Sunday, January 17
Open: 8 a.m.-5:50 p.m. Monday, January 18
Open: 7 a.m. Tuesday, January 19; resume 24hr schedule

- [College of Information General Access Computer Lab (CI-GACLab)](#) (B205):

   Closed: Friday, December 18 - Monday January 18
   Reopen: 8 a.m. Tuesday, January 19; resume normal hours

- [MUSIC](#):

   Hours unavailable at this time

- [PACS Computing Center](#) (Chilton Hall):

   Close: 6 p.m. Friday, December 18
   Reopen: 7 a.m. Tuesday, January 19; resume normal hours

- **CVAD** (formerly SOVA):

   Hours unavailable at this time

- [COE](#):

   Close: 5 p.m. Friday, December 18
   Reopen: 7 a.m. Monday, January 18; resume normal hours

- [COBA](#):

   Close: 4 p.m. Friday, December 18
   Reopen: 8 a.m. Tuesday, January 19; resume normal hours

- [CAS](#):

   GAB 330

   Closed: Saturday, December 19 - Monday, January 18

   GAB 550

   Closed: Saturday, December 19 - Monday, January 18

   Terrill 220

   Closed: Saturday, December 19 - Monday, January 18

   Wooten 120

   Closed: Saturday, December 19 - Monday, January 18

- **UNT [Dallas Campus](#) - 155A**

   Open: 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday, December 21 - Wednesday, December 23
   Closed: Thursday, December 24 - Saturday, January 2
   Reopen: Monday, January 4; resume normal hours

- **[Engineering](#) General Access Lab (englab@unt.edu, Discovery Park, B129, 891-6733)**

Close: Noon on Friday, December 18

Reopen: Tuesday, January 19; resume normal hours

Remember:

Get your alerts fast in case of inclement weather

Visit the Emergency Management **website**

City of Denton Residents, sign up for the CodeRED
Emergency Notification System

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Fax: 940-565-4060

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By Dr. Philip Baczewski, Director of Academic Computing and User Services

What's Google up to?

The Google steam roller just keeps going. The company that started out by providing a better Internet search engine seems to want to take over our entire Internet experience. Google has since provided us with maps, mail, the Earth, shopping, and much more. They've acquired YouTube to host our videos and Picasa to store and share our pictures.

You may have heard of the Chrome web browser, and maybe even of the Chrome OS. Some new cell phones are running the Android OS from Google, and now Google seems to be ready to market it's own brand of phone. Mac OS 10.6, Windows 7, and iPhone 3G notwithstanding, the Google steam roller just keeps on going, or perhaps it's the Google snowball, since it just seems to be getting bigger and bigger as it rolls along.

The latest acretion to the Google mass, is a new Domain Name Service (DNS). In case you don't know, DNS is one of those things that is fundamental to the workings of the Internet. It is a system to translate the human language URLs, like www.unt.edu into the numeric addresses like 129.120.188.44 that are understood by computers and Internet routers. DNS service is typically provided by your Internet service provider (ISP). If DNS is "down" or unavailable, it appears that the entire Internet is broken.

DNS is also one of the oldest technologies used on the Internet. It hasn't changed much since it was first invented in 1983, and depending upon the implementation, may be the slowest link in your Internet browsing experience. That little bit of lag time between when you click on a link and when the page begins to load is usually due to your browser having to request that the URL be translated to a numeric address. Most DNS services cache the lookups that have been done by others, so popular sites (like Google) will usually load pretty quickly. Sites not visited frequently by others may take a noticable amount time before loading.

Google's stated reasons for getting into the DNS business are to provide a service that is generally faster, more secure, and more valid, that is without redirects of a mistyped address to what may be a related commercial site. They don't intend to replace the root DNS servers that form the organizational basis for the Internet and are overseen by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICAAN).

The idea of an alternate DNS service is not original to Google. OpenDNS offers a free DNS service that claims to "make the Internet safer through integrated Web content filtering, anti-phishing and DNS." A similar service, DNSAdvantage, predates Google's offering and claims to provide "more reliable, faster, and safer" DNS services.

Cui   bono?

It's nice of Google to want to make our Internet experience even better, but I still wonder what Google's real reason is for getting into the DNS business. Maybe they are just being nice, but somehow I doubt it. Google is a corporation with stock holders and like other corporations are expected to make money and lots of it.

Google makes money by attracting eyeballs to advertising. The reason you use Google's search engine is because it works so well in steering to you the information or service you seek on the Internet. It works well because they are watching a lot of people's searches and finding patterns that will predict the best result for your query. I can see a similar advantage to watching the URL names and addresses that people are directing not just their browsing traffic, but also their e-mail and other Internet traffic. The more data you have, the better predictions you can make.

What does Google's DNS activity imply for Internet privacy? Google claims that they will only keep a record of your computer's activity for 1 to 2 days after it happens. But if you use Google DNS, that means that Google will have a

record of all your Internet activity for 1 to 2 days. Of course, your ISP or workplace network, if not an ISP, has a record of all of your Internet activity from home or work, but if they keep DNS logs, it is more likely for technical and not for data mining reasons.

Trust us, we're Google!

So, maybe we can just trust Google to do the right thing with all the information that they potentially can collect about our online activities, but recent criticism and past commentary in this column would suggest otherwise. Trust in Google was not bolstered by recent comments by Google CEO Eric Schmidt who stated, "If you have something that you don't want anyone to know, maybe you shouldn't be doing it in the first place." Maybe I just don't want big brother Eric looking over my shoulder all the time.

So now you can use your Google phone or your netbook with your Google OS, to run your Google browser, using Google DNS, to do Google searches, and read your Google mail, or watch your Google videos, or edit your Google documents. And all Microsoft can do is watch while their empire gradually crumbles around them as they face the onslaught of the Google Wave (literally). It seems that Google wants to attract users, AKA customers, by reshaping the Internet in their own image. I'm not saying it's a bad image, but you *can* get too much of a good thing.

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CALL
CENTER FOR ACHIEVEMENT & LIFELONG LEARNING

The **Center for Achievement and Lifelong Learning**, according to their website, "offers extensive services and programs, ranging from workforce development courses, conferences and event management, to a diverse assortment of continuing education opportunities." Their goal "is to provide quality learning events for all ages." To find out more about CALL's services and programs, visit their newly re-designed website:

http://call.unt.edu/

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Helpdesk FYI

By Jonathan "Mac" Edwards, Assistant Manager of the CITC Helpdesk

Preparing   Outlook   for   Christmas

With Christmas around the corner many of us will be forced to step away from the desk, take a few days off, and possibly relax. During this time you may even be tempted to step away from your work email for days at a time. Unfortunately, just because you stop checking your email, doesn't mean it will stop arriving.

Fortunately, Outlook has the **Out of Office Assistant** that helps you easily set up your Out of Office auto-replies. To access the assistant:
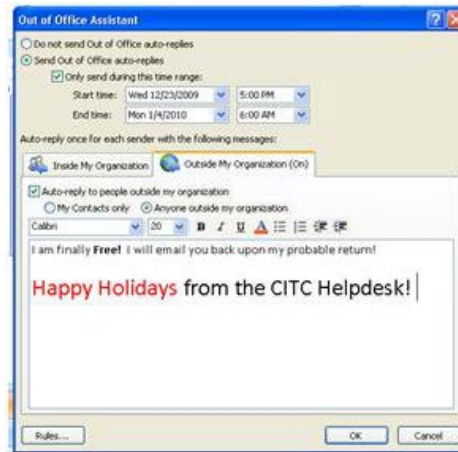
- go to Tools > Out of Office Assistant.

- Click on "Send out of Office auto-replies," and "Only send during this time range."

- Next Set the date ranges when you will be out of the office. (If you are planning on an extended vacation, or fear you may get snowed in on your Ski trip, you can skip this step and turn off the auto-reply when you are back in the office.)

Next you can set up your Auto-reply for groups either Inside or Outside of UNT:

- Inside My Organization will include mail from all Exchange accounts, but will not include EagleConnect accounts.

- Outside My Organization will include all other Email accounts, including EagleConnect.

   This way you can set your **Inside auto-reply** to something representing your hardworking nature; "Due to the University being closed for the Holidays I am unfortunately away from the office. I would much rather be there to answer your email." Your **Outside auto-reply** on the other-hand could reflect your relief to be away from the office for a week, "Due to the University being closed for the Holidays I am finally free from them for a week! I am so glad I don't have to answer these emails!" *Disclaimer your boss may email you from an Outside account:

- Once you have everything completed, added your own style (custom text, fonts, etc), and made sure you didn't mix up your Inside and Outside auto replies, click **OK**. You are now ready for your Christmas Vacation!

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Have questions on content or technical issues? Please contact us.
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IRC News

Minutes provided by Susan Richroath Recording Secretary*

The IRC -- unofficially now known as the INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL (ITC) -- is currently undergoing a reorganization, see the May 20, 2008 minutes for more information.**>

September 15, 2009

Members present: Joe Adamo, Philip Baczewski, Lou Ann Bradley, Warren Burggren (chair), Jim Byford, Cengiz Capan, Tim Christian, Renee Drabier, Katy Gallahan, Noreen Goggin, Jane Himmel, Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, John Hooper, Bruce Hunter , Maurice Leatherbury, Frances May, William Moen, Ramu Muthiah, Patrick Pluscht, Wil Clark for John Price, Susan Richroath (secretary), Charlotte Russell, Joey Saxon, and Will Senn **Members absent**: Judith Adkison, Joel Arredondo, Jim Curry, Kelly Donahue-Wallace, Yunfei Du, Kevin Eades, Melissa Jackson, Abraham John, Troy Johnson, Alan Livingston, Jon Nelson, and Zheng Xiang **Guests**: Richard Anderson

The minutes of the previous ITC meeting, July 6, 2009, were approved with no recommended corrections.

Reorganization of IT at the campus level

Maurice Leatherbury provided a briefing on the reorganization of IT at the campus level.   The University is conducting a national search for a chief information officer at a vice president level for IT. Maurice Leatherbury has been named the acting CIO until the position is filled.

UNTNET infrastructure upgrades

Joe Adamo provided a Power Point presentation regarding UNTNET infrastructure upgrades, building switch upgrades, and wireless upgrades. The new infrastructure design will increase capacity and allow for redundant connections. Juniper is the new hardware vendor. The installation schedule is: add new core July-August 2009, add new distribution routers Fall 2009-Spring 2010, and add second core Spring 2010-Summer 2010. There is a partnership with Denton ISD for fiber connections with the Discovery Park.

National Science Foundation meeting

Warren Burggren shared information from a recent National Science Foundation meeting he attended regarding national trends in scientific data collection and limited storage. He suggested we invite Vish Prasad to a future meeting to discuss data storage.

Pandemic preparedness

There was brief discussion regarding pandemic preparedness. Risk Management is heading the charge of this issue and is still discussing how the University would handle any type of closure and distant learning possibilities.

Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2009 at 2 p.m. in GAB 210.

Meeting adjourned.

*For a list of IRC Regular and Ex-officio Members click here (last updated 12/12/08). Warren Burggren is now the Chair.

**DCSMT Minutes can be found here.

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RSS Matters

Research and Statistical Support
University of North Texas

Splus 8.1 and Stata 11 are now available

Link to the last RSS article here: *Farewell* *- Ed.*

By Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Assistant Director - Academic Computing and User Services

TIBCO Spotfire S+ 8.1 (otherwise known as Splus 8.1) and Stata 11 are now available. Both applications are located on the acslicense2 server in the statapps directory. To find out more about the new features of Splus go here. This site also contains downloadable documentation about the product. To learn about the new features in Stata 11, go here.

Network Manager Alert!

It is important for network managers to be aware that Splus 8.1 and Stata 11 both have had significant changes in how they are licensed. Splus used to be licensed via Flexnet. Splus 8.1 is now metered via SofTrack (which actually makes it much easier to install and license than previously - no more environment variables!). Stata has always been metered via SofTrack but this newest version of Stata has a different path to the executable and so a new global license variable has been created for it. All documentation and instructions on how to install the SofTrack clients on workstations (if you do not have them installed already) and how to set up new global variables for Splus and Stata 11 (if you are running your own SofTrack server) are thoroughly discussed and documented in the SOFTRACK_METERING directory found in the statapps directory of acslicense2.

If you have any questions about these two new applications, accessing the applications, and using and metering them via SofTrack please contact either Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner or Patrick McLeod.

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Short Courses

The fall Short Courses are over. Surf over to the Short Courses page to see the classes that were offered and will likely be offered in the future. Spring classes will most likely start in February.

Special classes can always be arranged with the RSS staff. See "Customized Short Courses" below for further information. Also, you can *always* contact the RSS staff for one-on-one consultation. **Please read the FAQ before requesting an appointment though.**

Especially for Faculty and Staff Members

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

EIS training is available. Questions or comments relating to EIS training should be sent to EIStrn@unt.edu.

Microsoft E-Learning

Microsoft E-Learning courses are now available for *faculty and staff* via our UNT-Microsoft Campus Agreement. Please contact Claudia Lynch at lynch@unt.edu for instructions on accessing this training.

Microsoft Outlook Training and more

The Messaging Systems Group has all sorts of useful information on their website, including training information.

Central Web Support

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

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

CLEAR (was Center for Distributed Learning)

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

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 CLEAR Website.

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.unt.edu/minicourses/

Information Security Awareness

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

For more information, or if you would like to request a customized course to be taught for your department, contact Gabe Marshall at x4062, or at security@unt.edu.

Also, Information Security Training is now available through Blackboard Vista (formerly known as WebCT).

Alternate Forms of Training

Many of the General Access Labs around campus have tutorials installed on their computers. See http://www.gal.unt.edu/ for a list of labs and their locations. The Willis Library, for example, has a list of Tutorials and Software Support.

The Training Website has all sorts of information about alternate forms of training. Computer Based Training (CBT) and Web-based training are some of the alternatives offered, although due to the rising costs of training, shrinking budgets and changing technology, computer-based training at UNT is in a state of transition. For up-to-date information on CBT at UNT, see the CBT website.

Gartner Research Services

Way back in 2006 we announced *Gartner Core Research Services Now Available to the UNT Community*. Our subscription for Gartner services has always included **all** UNT faculty, students, and staff. All you need to do to access the subscription is to log into the UNT Gartner portal page at https://gartner.unt.edu/. Gartner is now offering "Webinar Wednesdays." To view all the offerings see: http://my.gartner.com/portal/server.pt?tbb=webinarcalendar You can also listen to Gartner podcasts here: http://www.gartner.com/it/products/podcasting/asset_137461_2616.jsp.

State of Texas Department of Information Resources

Another possible source of training for staff and, perhaps, faculty members is the Texas Department of Information Resources. A look at their Education and Training website reveals some interesting possibilities. For example, under Conferences, Briefings, and Events is a "Microsoft Training Series" described as "free training classes ... delivered by Microsoft and hosted by DIR as part of the Technology Today Series (TTS)."

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Transitions

New Employees:

- **Daphne Fernander**, Business Analyst, Finance and Admin. Business Analyst Team (AIS).

- **Victoria Holmes**, Student Assistant, Disaster Recovery (part-time).

- **Kala Chevli**, IT Programmer Analyst, Financial Aid & Scholarships Systems (AIS) (transferred back from the Budget Office).

- **Kevin Treadwell**, Communications Specialist, Infrastructure Engineering & Installation, Communications Services.

- **Gbenga Olatilewa Abiodune**, IT Programmer Analyst, EIS Tools Support (AIS).

No longer working in the Computing and Information Technology Center:

- **Anne Ngo**, Programmer Analyst, Student Records Systems Development (AIS).

- **Chantel Taylor**, Computer Operator, Computer Operations (Admin & Compliance), (part-time).

- **Lawana Robinson**, Computer Systems Manager, Computer Operations (Admin & Compliance), is **retiring** at the end of the month after **25+ years** of service to UNT. We wish her the best but she *will* be missed!

- **Don Butler**, Student Services Assistant Director (AIS), is **retiring** at the end of the month after **35+ years** of service to UNT. We wish him the best also but he *will* certainly be missed!

Changes, Awards, Recognition, Publications, etc.

Congratulations to the graduates!

- **Supaluk Joy Aswalap**, Programmer/Analyst, Financial Info. Systems (AIS) received her **Doctor of Philosophy (Information Science**). The title of her dissertation is: Tsunami disaster response: A case analysis of the information society in Thailand.

- **Matthew Bishop**, Computer Equipment Operator, Computer Operations, graduated with a **Bachelors of Science in Computer Engineering**.

Service to UNT

Jay Maxwell, Programmer Analyst, Contributor Relations (AIS) was recognized in the December 6 *InHouse* for his **10**

years of service to the University. Congratulations Jay!

Soaring Eagles

The following people (and one department, **Academic Computing and User Services**) were recognized as Soaring Eagles in the September/October issue of *HR Connections*, the Human Resources Newsletter. They were alsol honored at President's Staff Sack Lunch on October 20.

Jonathan Edwards	Jacob Flores	Mikal Hensarling	Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner
Marc Knight	Trayton Oakes	Robert Ritz	Richard Sanzone

Star Performers

The following people were recognized as Star Performers in the September/October issue of *HR Connections*, the Human Resources Newsletter. They were alsol honored at President's Staff Sack Lunch on October 20.

Richard Anderson	Virginia Richards	Benjamin Barkin-Wilkins	Claudia Lynch
Adrian Rollett	Danja Franklin	Krysta Berry	Curry Searle
Virginia Brooks	Andy Novak	Lynne Sinclair	Barbara Heffley
Brenda Cates	Sam Cook	Rhonda Holmes	Jana Crews
Billy Huber	Marsha Parr	Jonathan Edwards	

Fun Fact Winners

Continuing the CITC tradition, another "Fun Fact Winner." Congratulations to **Saeid Parivash**, Programmer Analyst was a winner in the November 18 *InHouse* prize giveaway.

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http://it.unt.edu/benchmarks/issues/2009/12/staff-activities[4/28/16, 11:46:36 AM]

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Statistics and Adaptive Software Updates

By Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Assistant Director - Academic Computing and User Services

The Technical Services area of CITC Academic Computing and User Services (otherwise known as Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner and Patrick McLeod) has prepared this list of supported software to assist network managers and other technical personnel in their spring machine imaging projects. All questions about adaptive technology cited here can be directed to Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner. All other queries (statistics applications, licensing etc.) should be directed to Patrick McLeod, our ACUS systems administrator, and cc-d to Elizabeth.

The applications listed here are available (unless otherwise specified) on the **acslicense2 STATAPPS** volume. Access to this volume is provided via an Active Directory group. New group membership requests should be sent to Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, the ACUS Active Directory administrator. Instructions on how to install the applications and configure them for proper metering and license management are available on the server in the corresponding application directories.

The following is a rundown of the information we think the UNT community needs for a successful spring roll-out, however, please do not hesitate to contact us if we have missed anything:

SPSS for Windows: The currently supported version of SPSS for Windows is version 17 with the 17.0.3 patch. The currently supported version of SPSS for Windows for Spring 2010 will continue to be SPSS 17.0.3. SPSS 17 is licensed via Sentinel LM on the acslicense3 server. We have received our SPSS 18 for Windows media but are still in the process of vetting it before a campus-wide rollout. SPSS 18 for Windows is available on request.

SPSS for Mac: The currently supported version of SPSS for Mac is version 18. As many of our Mac users know, SPSS 18 is the only version that will run on the latest Mac operating system, Snow Leopard (OS X 10.6). SPSS 18 for Macintosh is available on request.

SAS for Windows: We currently support two versions of SAS for Windows: 9.1.3 Service Pack 4 and 9.2. We do have SAS 9.2 for Windows available on request but due to the substantial differences between versions 9.1.3 and 9.2, we will need to coordinate a campus-wide rollout of SAS 9.2. SAS is metered via SofTrack.

Stata for Windows: The currently supported version of Stata for Windows is version 10.2. While we will continue to support version 10.2 in Spring 2010, our official network version of Stata will change from 10.2 to 11 for Spring 2010. Stata is metered via SofTrack.

SPLUS for Windows: The currently supported version of SPLUS for Windows is version 8.0. For Spring 2010, the currently supported version of SPLUS will be 8.1. After Insightful Corporation's acquisition by TIBCO, TIBCO removed the Flexnet license management from SPLUS, so SPLUS 8.1 will be substantially easier to roll out and administer. SPLUS 8.1 is now metered via SofTrack.

R, an open source statistical package, is also available on the STATAPPS volume. There are no installation restrictions nor licensing restrictions on the use of R. R is built on the S language, the same statistical programming language used by SPLUS. You can find out more about R at the following location: http://www.r-project.org/.

LISREL for Windows: The currently supported version of LISREL for Windows is 8.8. The version supported in Spring 2010 will continue to be 8.8. LISREL is metered via SofTrack.

MATLAB for Windows, Linux, and Mac: The currently supported version of MATLAB for Windows, Linux, and Mac is R2009B. Due to the robustness of the MATLAB platform, we will add R2010A to our supported versions for Spring 2010. MATLAB requires individual installation on workstations and laptops. The machine(s) where MATLAB is being installed must have an active network connection during the installation process for software activation.

EViews for Windows: The currently supported version of EViews for Windows is version 6 with the 12/10/2009 patch applied. EViews 6 will be the supported version for Spring 2010. Eviews 6 is metered via Eviews LM on the acslicense3 server. For all information and settings for Eviews licensing see the document, "license_server_settings_for_eviews6.html" located in the Eviews 6 folder of the Eviews directory on the STATAPPS volume.

JAWS for Windows: We support JAWS software versions 9, 10 and 11. JAWS 11 was recently released and is the version specifically designed for Windows 7 (but runs on XP as well). All versions of JAWS are licensed via Sentinel LM.

MAGic for Windows: We support MAGic software version 11 which has been out for some time now. Folks still using MAGic 10.x are fine as well but we do not have the 10.x installation media available any longer on acslicense2 (media is still available upon request). All versions of MAGic are licensed via Sentinel LM.

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Home » issues » 2009-12 » JAWS 11 Has Arrived!

JAWS 11 Has Arrived!

By Dr. Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, Assistant Director - Academic Computing and User Services

JAWS 11 has been released and is available for installation. Installation media can be found in the JAWS directory of the STATAPPS volume on acslicense2. The instructions for installing JAWS 11 have not changed from previous versions of JAWS and all licensing configuration still applies.

JAWS 11 offers some new features which are outlined here, however, keeping JAWS 10 on machines for awhile should not be a problem for your users. The most important aspect of JAWS 11 is that it is the only JAWS version officially designed for Windows 7 (it works fine on older OS's as well). So if you are migrating your system(s) to Windows 7, this version of JAWS is the one you will want to install. JAWS 11 has been thoroughly tested with Windows 7 (and XP) in the ACUS/Adaptive computer lab and it works great!

Our other product from Freedom Scientific, MAGic 11, has NOT been upgraded as of yet. However, MAGic 11 DOES work with 32-bit and 64-bit versions of Windows 7 already just like JAWS 11. So simply remember to have JAWS 11 and MAGic 11 on your Windows 7 machines and you will be 'all good to go.'

Network managers and/or users who have any questions about JAWS or MAGic 11 can contact me at ehinkle@unt.edu.

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EDUCAUSE Southwest Regional Conference 2010

Click on the graphic below to register for the upcoming conference:

EDUCAUSE | PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
2010 SOUTHWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE
AUSTIN | FEB 17-19

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